

death in the very error of our ways, His eye pitied us and His heart heaved with compassion :

“ He saw, and oh, amazing love !
He flew to our relief.”

Satan lost his prize. Death was spoiled of his victory ; and the Lord of Life rose victorious over death, hell and the grave ; while heaven by God’s redeeming love was opened to every believer.

“ And was the ransom paid ? It was ; and paid,
What can exalt the bounty more for you ?
The sun beheld it—no ! the shocking scene
Drove back his chariot ; midnight veiled his face.
Sun, didst thou flee thy Maker’s pain ? or start
At that enormous load of human guilt
Which bow’d his blessed head, o’erwhelm’d his cross,
Made groan the centre, burst earth’s marble womb
With pangs ! strange pangs ! delivered of her dead ?
Hell howl’d, and heaven that hour let fall a tear.
Heaven wept, that man might smile !
Heaven bled, that man might never die.”

Yes, oh yes, God, as in original nature, is again revealed to us ; as in Creation and Providence, so in revelation of the gospel of His Son—the God of love ; love “ immense, unfathomed, unconfined.” Hence, he is King forever, even “ God over all, blessed for evermore,” and of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.

Again :
It is a kingdom wherein dwelleth righteousness. God is righteous, and with him there is no unrighteousness at all. Its subjects are righteous, their insignia is righteousness. Righteous in heart, in conversation, in life. Again :

It is a kingdom wherein dwelleth love. “ God is love.” We see this in all he does. Creation is radiant with the love of the Great Architect, Providence proclaims it, while redemption stands out as exponent of its unsearchable riches. It is loving in its subjects, brotherly love is their distinctive characteristic. They are built upon, upheld by, pervaded with love, and in all holy endeavors they seek to show it forth. Again,

In its sympathy, and in its honor this kingdom stands alone. Its subjects feel a brother’s care, bear each other’s burdens and so fulfil the laws of love and honor. In each of these points the reverend gentleman showed wherein Masonry was in harmony with the spirit and genius of the Christian religion, and made a very powerful appeal to his brethren to be faithful to God, faithful in the discharge of duty, faithful to each other.

MASONIC READING AND THE PRESS.

WHAT would be thought of any devoted member of a religious persuasion, or of a political party, moving among his brethren of the same ties without any definite information of current events concerning his associations ? A party or society or a man among them, without a newspaper or periodical, is an anomaly. This is proper ; for no man can judge wisely and act justly, understanding his relations to others without reading.

The Mason without his regular Masonic reading is selfish, illiberal, and oftentimes a disagreeable and annoying barrier in the way of human and Masonic progress. The Lodge is improved by his absence. Facts must be presented, error must be detected, exposed, and abandoned, and truth elicited, and thus become the victor. How much, then, is to be learned of this, the oldest institution now in existence, and after Judaism in its day, and Christianity in this day, and civil government, the most important ; an institution whose principles are those of Divine Revelation ; an institution which erected the first earthly temple to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, and has outlived the very marble of which it was built ; which has survived assaults, attacks, and slanders, and which has maintained its way against despotism and popular prejudice.

The earlier Freemasons, perhaps wisely, for a portion of that period put nothing to record ; hence Anglican Freemasonry traces no perfect list of the Grand Masters of England, in regular succession, further back than Austin the Monk, A. D. 597.

The earliest written collection of laws for the Craft which is authentic was “ gathered, arranged, and confirmed,” not created, by the Assembly of York, under Prince Edwin, Grand Master, A. D. 926. Little beyond was published, and much of patristic Masonry has been lost. How great the loss, as the noblest blood and talent, and the holiest men of England’s brilliant period, were Masonic patrons, when kings presided as Grand