

"Certainly," said the watchful Brother, "you're all right. I should know that at a glance. By the way, that's a very handsome breastpin you have," said he, examining with great interest a huge gilt letter G, which the visitor had conspicuously displayed on his shirt bosom.

"Ya-as, that's a Masonic pin," replied the wearer, puffing out his breast.

"Indeed? Letter G? Well, now, what does that mean?"

"Letter G! Why, that stands for Jerusalem—a sorter headquarters for us Masons, you know."

The committee found their work had been performed, and used the letter G rather freely. They advised the visitor "to get up and git."

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### Belief.

From whence do we derive our knowledge of a God? Let any intelligent Brother Mason answer that question; such a God as an intelligent man would be willing to bow down to and worship, as he should do, as a Mason good and true. Where do you, as a F. C., find any authority for observing the Sabbath, except from divine authority in the G. L.? Where do you obtain the fundamental dogmas of the third degree, if not from the inspiration of Scripture? For, mark ye, if not by inspiration that these three principles are taught in the A. E., F. C., and M. M., then they are not worth a tuppence, and it is the most sublime tomfoolery for intelligent men to be frittering away their time in such child's play! Drop the inspiration of Scripture, and you knock the soul out of Masonry. Take, in the place of Scripture, a volume of Shakespeare, and open at any play, and let it remain on the altar as a better emblem than the Bible without its inspiration.

But it is not for us to make this a test question. We consider the test

all sufficient as it now is; and we also consider any man in this country as very simple or very *bad* who, upon examination of our ritual, and especially when he becomes a *teacher* or a Master of a Lodge, and inculcates the spiritualities of our ritual, and yet deny inspiration. It is inconceivable to us. We would as soon deny the sun as being the source of all light as to deny God as being the source of the Bible. Then, again, every one of those who have exposed this have fallen into the egregious error of charging our side of the question with sectarian views. Now, where under the *moon* do they find any sectarianism in the question? Is the Bible not the source of every shade of opinion of the innumerable sects? Does not the Old Testament alone give several sects among the Jews? Do not the several books of the New Testament form the ground-work of *every* Christian sect? Are there not Unitarians who deny Christ's divinity, who believe in inspiration? Where are the various shades among them? The Universalists of every branch all claim the inspiration of Scripture, and can any of them be offended by our views?

And now we answer as to the Jews, and we speak by the book, having brought this subject directly home to them personally; did not the prophets all predict that a Saviour was to come? Yes; they universally declare. Well, we only differ as to time. Christians say he has come; they say he will come, and are daily looking for him. Therefore, as they certainly claim the Hebrew Scriptures to be divine, they cannot object that we believe them to be also. We simply add the New Testament, and claim for it the same place. We are not offended at you for your *unbelief* in the New Testament; do not be offended at us for our belief in both the old and new. Let us all be liberal to one another, when we can stand upon the broad ground of a belief in the same God, Lord over us all, blessed for evermore.—W. R. Singleton.