

ST. JOHN CHAP. XXI. 7.

"THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED."

This day is the day set apart by our Church for perpetuating the memory of St. John the Evangelist; the loving and beloved disciple of our blessed Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. But it is chiefly as Masons that we assemble here to day, to keep the solemn festival, which Masons are accustomed to set apart, to commemorate the anniversary of the great patron of their order, this very same St. John the Evangelist. One, whose name and teachings, have, it is said, for eighteen centuries, been inseparably interwoven with the Masonic institution, and become domesticated as it were, in the Masonic family. To his memory, and that of St. John the Baptist, Masons professing Christianity, have for a long period of time consecrated their Lodges. This fact is, of course, familiar to the mind of every brother, however inexperienced; but the especial object of such a dedication, the causes which lead to it, and particularly, the importance of its bearing upon the nature, designs, and dignity of Freemasonry, is perhaps not so clearly seen, nor so highly studied and appreciated, even with the bright and best of us, as it might be. To the sincere and intelligent Mason the memory and life of the "Holy Evangelist" are eloquent with solemn admonitions, and stand forth as imperishable records of the duties and responsibilities of each of us. They indicate with unerring light the leading features of our society,—illustrate the purposes we are engaged to accomplish,—and shed wherever the sound of the "gavel is heard," the lustre of his benign character upon the rituals and ceremonies of our order. And although that "loved disciple," upon "the burthen of whose every discourse," as has been beautifully remarked, "there is personified the embodiment, and poured out, the very soul of Masonry," has long since passed away from the scenes of his Christian battlefields, and the floor of his Masonic Temples, yet he still symbolically remains amongst us; the echo of his voice still lingers around our varied emblems, allegories, and