

brotherly love prevail; discord and confusion seem to have gained ground so fast that the whole world, we are told, was "filled with violence;" so that God, in just judgment, destroyed it with a flood of waters. However, there were some who were called the children of God, in these days; but many of them fell from their high character and calling, and Noah and part of his family only, were deserving of this appellation. It is not, however, from such general principles that I would deduce the antiquity of your order, or date its commencement. The hieroglyphick emblems used by you, are more convincing proofs to me, that your association existed before the flood. To prove this, it is necessary to trace the antiquity of letters. Much diversity of opinion, on this subject, exists among the learned: some have thought, that when Moses received the ten commandments from God, that he was the first ever taught the use of letters; but it is plain from the Book of Job, which is much older than the Decalogue, that writing was then known—for Job says: "O that my words were now written—O that they were printed in a book—that they were graven with an iron pen, and *lead* in the rock for ever."* But the sacred scriptures go much farther than the Book of Job. The apostle Jude takes particular notice of the prophecy of Enoch, the seventh from Adam, out of which he quotes this remarkable passage, not inapplicable to the present times:—"Behold," says he, "the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them, of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sin-

* Job, 19 chapter, 23, 24 verses.