

what all will confess—a daily cause for Christian lamentation. Is it to be wondered then, or is it any true stigma upon Masonry, that you may sometimes have known some Masons, who, like Jews and Christians, abusing a good profession, neither *love the Brotherhood*, fear God, nor honour the King.

Methinks there cannot be a mind in this congregation so illiberal, who, on reflection, is not ready to confess, that the ill-conduct of one, often, or of an hundred individuals, can be no true cause of stigma upon any profession or community—For instance, shall the church be stiled a brothel, or a nursery of covetousness and idleness, because many of its members, and even some clergymen, are sometimes to be found, who are loose in their morals, unholy in their lives, unclerical, covetous and lascivious? Surely not, surely candour, and mature reflection, will demand a far different judgment.

Shall Masonry then be condemned, despised and ridiculed, because some, professing themselves Masons, have practised a conduct unworthy their high calling and profession?—Surely no! rather let the order remain, as it ought to remain, unimpeached; and every defective member, either high or low, either rich or poor, as of every other profession, order and community, take much shame to himself, as being guilty of a threefold evil—of disgracing himself, bringing dishonour upon