

Masonry has ever been loyal to its own principles, characteristics, and aims; it has sought to do no work but its own.

Amid all the strife which has sundered communities and deluged the world in blood, Freemasonry has been in the enjoyment of tranquil repose. It has been for all who were under the tongue of good report. Had it not been so, our affections would have turned from it as dishonoring to that Creator who kindled the splendid fireside of the sun, and who poured the mighty floods from the hollow of His hand.

Masonry wears upon its forehead the gathered scars and wrinkles of a thousand years, and yet it is as vigorous to-day, as resolute of moral purpose as if it bore upon its frontal only the glittering dew of youth. The world is wide, and the demand is great enough to employ the energies of all; but Masonry leads the column of that great army which followed the Church of Christ up and down, to and fro, in the earth, conquering peace and fraternity among men.

Proverbs xi. 13; xviii. 17; xvii. 28.

Masonry is a fountain of charity, whose streams go out to invigorate and gladden the sorrowful, to bear relief to famished poverty, to meander by the widow's cottage, and lave the feet of the orphan. Its crystal waters cool the fever of partizan passion, and baptize men of conflicting views into a great brotherhood of mercy.—*Corner Stone*,

WHITE MASONRY.

THE last few months have witnessed the commencement of a new departure in Freemasonry. We allude to the holding of Lodges of what is styled White Masonry. We write under correction, but we believe that our French Brethren, especially those of Paris and its environs, were the first to take steps in this direction. In France the Craft labors under peculiar disadvantages; the mass of the people have been educated to see in the term *Freemason* only a synonym for Atheist and conspirator. We admit at once that in too many instances our French Brethren have been found ranged on the side of the enemies of religion. When, however, we consider the degraded type of the religion with which they are confronted and the intolerance of its apostles we cannot be surprised at the attitude of the great body of French Masons, although we must condemn the extremes to which some individuals have been driven. Under the circumstances the principal Lodges of the French Metropolis have deemed it their duty to disabuse the public mind as far as possible of its ignorant prejudices. For this purpose they have enlisted the services of eloquent and artistic brethren. At short intervals meetings free and open to the general public are held in the Lodges. Bright and attractive programmes are got up with music and singing, interchanged with addresses by prominent Masons on the objects and aims of the Fraternity. It is believed that the movement is doing a great deal to dissipate foolish prejudices of long standing, and it is hoped that in the near future the French people may see Freemasonry as it is—a society formed to inculcate Truth, to encourage Charity, to protect Virtue, and to combat Vice.

In South American Lodges a candidate for initiation must have his photograph affixed to the door of the Lodge for the usual interval. Brethren are thus enabled to know the candidate better and to vote more intelligently. If elected his photograph remains in the possession of the Lodge.