

A FEW QUALIFICATIONS REQUISITE TO FORM A WORTHY MEMBER OF OUR ORDER.

BY A. BORNGASSER.

Lycurgus, Solon, Numa, and all other political legislators could not make their establishments durable; however wise their laws might have been, they could not extend them into every country and every age. As these laws had in view only victories and conquests, military violence, and the elevation of one people above another, they could not become universal, nor agree with the taste, the genius and the interests of every nation.

Philanthropy was not their Basis. The love of country, badly understood and carried to an excess, often destroyed in those warlike republics, the love of humanity in general. Men are not distinguished by the difference of the language they speak, the dresses they wear or the dignities with which they are invested. The whole world is but one great Empire, of which every nation is a family, and every particular person a child. To revive and spread abroad those ancient maxims drawn from the nature of man, is one of the ends of our glorious establishment. We wish to unite all men into one great brotherhood and enlightened understanding; not only by the love of the polite Arts but still more by the great principles of virtue; and from such a union the interest of the Fraternity becomes that of all mankind. From such, every nation may draw solid knowledge and the subjects of the various kingdoms may conspire without jealousy, live without discord, and mutually love one another, without renouncing their country.

Masonry instructs us in our duty to the S. A. O. T. W., to our neighbors and ourselves; it instructs us to be loyal to the civil powers, and never

to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the sovereign of the realm in which we reside; it teaches truth and peace, it bids us to listen to the cries of the unfortunate, and extend our hands to them with the cup of consolation. It shews us that we are all upon a level and that merit is the only just distinction; it directs us to live within the compass, and always to act upon the square with the world and with one another; it strongly objects to intemperance, but is by no means averse to innocent mirth and pleasure. In short, it is a superstructure fixed with solid firmness on the broad basis of moral and social virtue.

Sound, good, upright and moral men are required in our Society. Let man's religion be what it will, we do not exclude him from the benefits and advantages of our Order, provided he believes in the glorious Architect of heaven and earth, who rewards virtue and punishes vice. We are directed to expand our hearts with the most generous sentiments, to root out bigotry and arrest the cruel hand of persecution. We are enjoined to unite with virtues, men of the most distant countries and opposite opinions—to unite with them in the closest bond of fraternal love, to regard them with the truest affection.

We are in possession of a universal language so useful for a Mason which enables him to find amongst men of every nation kind friends—a home in every climate. We banish from our Lodges every dispute which may tend to alter the tranquility of the mind, or to destroy those sentiments of pure friendship and perfect harmony to be found only in the retrenching of all indecent excesses and discordant passions. The secrets entrusted to us compose a language sometimes mate, and sometimes very eloquent, and may be communicated at a distance, and to know a brother by, let his country or his language be what it will. Our Lodges have been established in, and are spread over, the whole world, and yet I venture to