

handmaid to religion, inasmuch as brotherly love, relief, and truth, are its unchanging watchwords, and because, from first to last, from the hour of our initiation to our closing moments of work, it tells us in clear and touching tones of moral duty and moral living. Sending us to the best of books, the Bible, always open in our lodges, it urges us thereby and therefrom, to be good husbands, good fathers, good brothers, good sons, good members of society, loyal subjects, and peaceable citizens. More than once, in many a lecture, and many a portion of its mystic ritual, Freemasonry forcibly appeals to us, to follow all our worldly avocations, and to perform alike our public and private duties with freedom, fervency and zeal. For let us remember how idle is our profession of Freemasonry if we do not make obedience to the moral law, both the proof and the end of our Masonic profession. It is indeed idle to call ourselves Freemasons, idler still to disport ourselves in lodge, in all the external decorations of our excellent fraternity, if all the while our lives are a scandal to morality, and a discredit to our lodge, and the Craft at large.—*Woodford*.

MASONIC FETE IN IRELAND.

We find the following account of the annual Charity Feast in Dublin, in the *Masonic News* of the 1st June :

The anniversary Masonic Feast of Charity was celebrated on Wednesday night, 20th ult., in the Exhibition Palace, Dublin, with all the magnificence and splendour befitting the power and opulence of that illustrious and honored institution. His Grace the Duke of Leinster, Grand Master, presided; and, no doubt, "Hail to the Duke!" obtained fervent response in the breast of every one who witnessed that venerable and distinguished nobleman still able to discharge the functions of his exalted office, which he has filled with so much profit and honor to the craft during two generations of men. For the past sixty-three years he has been re-elected year after year, and he well deserves his trust. On more than one occasion, particularly on the introduction of the Illegal Oaths Bill into Parliament, when it was surreptitiously sought to injure Freemasonry, his grace, at great personal sacrifice, devoted his exclusive attention to the measure until he nobly succeeded in vindicating the integrity of the Order. Through his long career he has watched, with tender solicitude, over the fortunes of Freemasonry; and it is no wonder that, in his declining years, he should be beloved and revered. This brilliant re-union would have taken place earlier in the year, but that the Prince of Wales was expected to be present. His Royal Highness purposed coming over to preside at the meeting of the Grand Convent General, of which he is Grand Master. The many pressing demands on His Royal Highness' time—much as he had the interests of the Order at heart, as his Royal Grandsire had,—obliged him to forego his intended visit. It may be truly said that of all the fashionable events of the year, none more than this exercises the magic influence of assembling a vast multitude of the composite order, embracing as it does the various grades of society from the great middle classes to the very zenith of aristocracy; for here we have distinguished noblemen, the most eminent members of the learned professions, landed proprietors, city merchants of all degrees,—in short, every class and creed intermingled. Now, what is the attraction? It is, surely, that mystic tie which unites masons of every race and clime—it is friendship, which is the very essence of Masonry, inspiring every good deed. All were present in the name of Charity. Always has she exercised beneficial rule for the promotion of good offices and every social virtue. Freemasons have always distinguished themselves for their exertions in the promotion of peace and good-will among men, remarkable instances of which occurred during the late Reign of Terror in Paris. Those who know aught about Masonry acknowledge that it is, at present at least, what is described to be "a beautiful system of morality veiled in allegory." The attendance of brethren and ladies was as numerous and influential as ever before assembled in the palace, the number who passed through the turnstiles being about 7000. Want of space forbids us inserting the speeches and other news till our next issue, 15th inst.; the *Dublin Evening Mail*, however, has the following article on the event:—

The immense audience which filled the Exhibition Building in every part on Wednesday night, at the distribution of prizes to the children of the Masonic Orphan Schools, gave splendid answer to the calumnies which have been uttered in our city against the Masonic Order. It would have been sufficient to silence its bitterest enemy to bid him look around upon the composition and extent of the assembly, met in the cause of charity under Masonic auspices. He must, if candid, have been struck with the circumstance that the grave and wise were present, evincing the same enthusiasm that inspired the young and eager. There was abundant evidence that the Masonic tie is one which the more matured judgment decidedly approves. Experience had strength-