

ago that we have not the least means of knowing when it was, the human race made a great movement upward when it learned to melt copper and tin together, and so form tools of bronze. And when it learned how to smelt iron, another vast step was taken. Each new discovery consisted in reading another page from the inside of the Book of Nature.

Nature is a medium through which God comes to us. In all its vast variety and its majestic unity, in its perpetual movement and its unchanging order, it transmits to us the Divine life. Sun, air, ocean, the changing seasons, the beauty and charm of the vegetable world, arouse the faculties of man and unfold his powers. Thousands of secrets are hidden in nature to awaken his curiosity and stimulate his intellect. It was a belief of the Jewish nation, which appears in several places in the Bible, that the law of Moses was given by the mediation of angels. The laws of nature are also angelic; not dead laws, but instinct with a spiritual life. We may well imagine that angelic and super-angelic beings watch and aid in the working of the majestic phenomena of the universe, and see in them a Divine presence and a Divine power.

The outside of the book of nature is very legible; we see everywhere beauty and use. The sun rises and sets, the stars shine from the depths of night; seasons come and go; men build cities, cross the ocean, cover a continent with wide rolling seas of grain. But behind and within this outward surface of appearance and change, behind the world of sensible phenomena, there is a world of hidden laws and forces, the source of all we see. From this mysterious hidden world of spiritual reality comes the outward world of action.

If you go back to the very beginnings of life, and examine with your most powerful microscope the protoplasm in the minutest cell of vegetable or animal organisms, you come no nearer than you were before to this

mystery of spirit. There is a vital force there which no microscopist can observe and no chemist analyze. It belongs to the hidden world of causation, the book which is written within. Into this world we must go to meet God. He is the source of all things, the life of all life, the substance of all being.—*James Freeman Clarke.*

A MASONIC ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

It does not seem to be generally known or appreciated, that one of the outcomes of the reading-room in Masonic Temple, is the nucleus of a Masonic Museum of Curiosities. The extent to which this may, and we hope and believe will grow, can only be imagined. The incentive was given at the last meeting of the reading-room committee, and is largely the emanation of the brain of Grand Master F. B. Lawrence. The object will be not so much to gratify the curiosity, although that proves an excellent instructor, as to gather in one common centre Masonic relics which will enable those so inclined to trace out facts in our local as well as general history, which are now unfortunately buried, and will bring to light valuables from the musty old closets at our homes. Charters, diplomas, jewels, medals, charms, and even letters and old books of rare value will be constantly turning up for the benefit of scholars and Masonic history.

These relics need not be gifts to the library, but loans from those who possess them, for which receipts will be given while the goods remain on exhibition.

We hope every Mason will give thoughtful attention to this opening project, and to the best of his ability assist in a work of so much importance. The full purposes and benefits of the reading-room are as yet only in their infancy. Our attentive Librarian and his assistants are always ready to receive contributions.—*Hebrew Leader.*