

"Knowledge is Power," and prompted by higher desires, eagerly presses forward, believing in a nobler destiny and aspiring after a brighter record; it is the Master's duty to assist him in his research—it is his high privilege to "pour the balm of instruction o'er the mind," to fill it with light, to stir up its powers, and to raise it to its proper supremacy over matter. It is for him to bestow upon the neophyte—if he finds him worthy and qualified—not only wealth but power also; not the *wealth* that corrupts its owner, nor the *power* which enslaves its dependent, but the ennobling *wealth* of wisdom and the enduring *power* of knowledge. [The means of acquiring Masonic knowledge have now, by the indomitable perseverance of our distinguished Brother Robert Morris, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, been placed within the reach of all. His Masonic Library, which embraces several valuable volumes, contributed by himself, should appear not only in every Lodge Room, but in the house of every intelligent Mason, as it embodies nearly all that is valuable in Masonic literature.] The Financial affairs of the Lodge are managed by such a Master with prudence and economy—he regards debts due either by or to his Lodge peculiarly as debts of honor, and takes care to have them promptly arranged—the Brethren, loving the man and respecting his authority, submit to his decision with cheerfulness and alacrity, and are ready at all times to aid him in his efforts to advance the interests of the Order. The cement with which he has bound the Brethren together is not confined to the Lodge Room, but is carried out into the world, and practical illustrations of friendship and brotherly love are daily exemplified. Time will not now permit me to enlarge upon the various qualities and virtues which adorn the model Master. I must therefore leave the subject for the present, and conclude by remarking, that I feel proud and happy in being enabled to say that, I believe, we have among us many Masters and Past Masters of Lodges who are an honor to the Fraternity and the Order—many, who are not only Masters of *men* but also of *work*, and who are indeed entitled to the proud distinction of being regarded as the *cream of the Craft*.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

The science of Freemasonry is peculiar in its character, and we care not at what age a candidate may become an initiate, nor how large or how small his mental attainments may be, there is still opened to his physical and mental vision, through the influence of the mysteries of our craft, a new and fascinating view of historic and legendary lore, and a fruitful theme for thought and investigation. In theology, so far as the word is applied to religious bodies, there are certain fixed dogmas which are accepted in each as governing principles, and investigation and doubt as to their correctness are prohibited by inflexible rules, and faith is made the solely legalized basis of belief. It is assumed that the wisdom of ages has settled upon the existence of certain facts, including the minute as well as those of a general character, which it would be rank heresy to question. This language applies to every sect, to a greater or lesser extent, and although the code of morals of each presents but little of dissimilarity to the others, still they

all differ widely as to forms, ceremonies and observances, and still more widely as to the character and attributes—and to some extent as to the unwritten laws—of that great being whom we reverently and truly call the Great Architect of the Universe. Freemasonry, on the contrary, is a unit, and although a theocracy, leaves no room for doubts, differences of opinion, or speculations on the questions referred to, but still does not prohibit either; for mysteries and rites which are jealously guarded against the touch of analysis and the probe of thought, are liable to be looked upon with doubt, if not suspicion. It is so broad and catholic in its views that men of all religious sects and opinions, except the atheist, can sacrifice at a common altar, follow world-widely accepted forms and ceremonies, and although meeting as distantly apart as the poles, never differ as to the attributes and behests of deity. While these things can be done, and they are our boast and pride, the newly received brother is placed under no restrictions of thought, but is told to break down all barriers which ignorance, superstition or priestcraft of any sect, may have erected against the attainment of knowledge, and to press on in search of light. Hence there is placed before the young Masonic student a new field of history and previously unknown series of traditions, extending away beyond the mediæval ages and back into dimness and obscurity which are but partially lighted up by the ancient historians. He finds his path in study illuminated by the delightful works of Oliver and Preston, in which are gathered and happily preserved from the destructive hand of Time many mementoes of our ancient craft, the authenticity of which is sustained by the Sacred Writings. We have said that Freemasonry was a science: it has also been aptly called a "system of morality taught by symbols." Its moral teachings are all known; but as a science, like that of astronomy, it can still be studied with profit and delight. To this study it is the duty of every craftsman to yield his thoughts. More flowers than thorns will be found on the paths which lead to knowledge, and the results of his labors are for the common good. Every science of importance in all countries has its recognized organ, through which the delving student into mysteries speaks to the world and to his fellows of the jewels which he has patiently toiled to find, and has at last exultingly brought to light; jewels which are set in the brilliant crown that Science and Art unite to place upon the brow of Knowledge. These are things that make the true greatness of nations more than war or conquest, and the name of Galileo is thus made to outlive that of the sovereign pontiff who condemned him to a prison cell; that of Newton to be bright on the pages of history when the name of the monarch under whom he was born shall have faded; that of Herschell will be venerated so long as the beautiful science of the stars shall have a worshipper, and when the name of Prussia's present first minister shall be forgotten or dimly seen from the far off future, that of Humboldt will still be his country's pride and the glory of science.—*M. W. Bro. Holmes.*

The lamps of architecture are said to be seven—the lamp of sacrifice, the lamp of truth, the lamp of power, the lamp of beauty, the lamp of life, the lamp of memory and the lamp of obedience.