

have expunged the name of Christ and God from their ritual, and you also know that all the mysteries of Masonry are borrowed from paganism. And you know that your Grand Master, Hiram Abiff, is a pagan god. Then you must of necessity be a servant or slave, or both, of a pagan god. You know you have in your lodge a column which represents Baal-peor of the Moabites, called Thallas. You also know that the Masons of New York two years ago last June passed a number of their children before or through the fire to their Masonic Moloch, which is said in the Bible to be an abomination even for pagans to practise. And yet you have the face to stand up in a Christian church and plead for it. Shame!

Yours truly,

R.

There is hardly a single truth uttered in this letter. (Applause) Indeed, I do not know anything that is more blasphemous than some of his utterances, and yet it no doubt arises from ignorance. Of course none of the New York Masons ever passed their children through the fire! Masonic rules obligate upon us those graces and virtues that make us live peaceably with all men, and that makes us loyal to our Queen, and our Country. (Loud cheers) And a man cannot be a Mason and a stirrer up of strife, and an inciter of rebellion, or disloyal to his Queen. I say again to the writer of that letter, who is present to-night, you are *greatly* mistaken, my friend. Can you believe me when I vouch with my very life that you have not a streak of truth in your whole letter? (Cheers) Some no doubt will tell you the opposite, but I tell you *what I know*. We may be defective as Masons in the practice of the virtues imposed upon us, for we are like all men and organizations in that we are imperfect. I say positively to you that Masonry is *not* atheistical, and a man atheistically inclined could not become or remain a Mason unless he were very hypocritical. Masonry is *not* unchristian; it is not opposed to Christianity or Christian organizations; on the contrary we fraternize with them; but *we are not sectarian*. That is the point where we receive the greatest amount of criticism. We are *not* Congregationalists or Baptists or Methodists, but we *are* Masons. It is because we are not