

led him beyond the limits of prudence. Such was the religion of our forefathers for nearly four thousand years. This barbaric intercourse between the All-wise and the created, was gradually ceasing. The era of Christianity then dawned upon the Jewish nation, and the benign teaching of the gentle Nazarene cleared the clouds from the blackened horizon. Critics may refuse to believe it was the religion of Emmanuel that alone did that; that point we do not discuss. The progressionist may declare it the mere advance of the intellectual mind of the world; the Christian calls it the atonement so long demanded by an All-wise Being. The fact, however, remains the same; no longer was the brutal maxim of a tooth for a tooth demanded, nor an eye for an eye exacted. He taught love and peace. The priesthood, however, still ruled. Fifteen hundred years later, a schism occurred in the Church; a vast revolution broke out; whole countries threw off the supremacy of Rome. The Printing Press was discovered, and liberality in thought and expression was the result. Was this the work of man or the fulfilment of the theory of the Creator?

Note the fact, Protestantism without the printing press was a failure, with it, a success. Years passed by and the absurd idea of the divine right of kings was cast aside. Despotisms, to a great extent, ceased to exist and a Corsican Corporal became the Emperor of the world. Was this chance? Was it destiny? Or, was it the progressive march of the intellect of nations? It was not chance; it was not destiny; it was the maturing of ten thousand thoughts that for a thousand years had been incubating, until, at last, they burst forth from their shell that had so long confined them.

But, what has Freemasonry to do with all this? The question is easily answered. The Masonic Fraternity, consisting as it does of nearly two million men, the picked and chosen of the earth, is either fighting the battle of progress or else retreating before our opponents. Which is it? We must either progress or retrogress. The history of man as portrayed in the Bible itself, without reference to the theological doctrines therein contained, but simply viewing it as the outline of the various sparks of human events, clearly and forcibly shows that the mind, the genius, the intellect of the human race advances. To lower us to the illiterate dogmas of our forefathers is to curb the reason of the present age. Every man is part and parcel of a vast assemblage, an immense body, that writhes and throes in endless revolution. Then what is Modern Freemasonry? Is it the Masonry that some call Ancient Craft Masonry, which a high authority insinuates was taught by the Deity to Adam, by Adam to Enoch *et hoc omne genus*? Certainly not. If such a system of allegory, &c., did in some shape or form exist thousands of years ago, it resembled the religion of that age as followed under the Mosaic Dispensation. It was crude—a mere outline of principles without the development of facts. There may have been, let us admit for argument sake there were, certain signs, tokens,