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ESSAY BY BRO. DR. MILLMAN.

The following interesting essay was read by Bro. Dr. Millman at a recent regular communication of St. George's Lodge, No. 42, London. It is well worthy of perusal, and we cordially recommend it to our readers:—

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN,—
Being one of those who suggested that we should have recitations, songs, essays, &c., at our regular meetings, when there was not any other work to occupy our time, I felt it my duty to do something by way of an example, with the hope that it would stimulate others, much abler than myself, to present us with papers of interest and instruction. At the last regular communication I promised to prepare a short paper, but while doing so, I knew I was undertaking a task very difficult for me to carry out. Like many others I have devoted very little time to the study of Masonry,—have very seldom visited other lodges,—have had little opportunity of hearing Masonic addresses, and I have had only one or two Masonic works to which I could refer. My paper is merely, therefore, made up with a few ideas from these books, and the knowledge I have gained since I became a member, together with some points which have struck me in connection with the Order.

Masonry is defined to be a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. I con-

sider it more than this. It calls from us one of the greatest attributes man possesses, viz: faith. The questions a candidate is first asked are—Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being? Do you believe that that Supreme Being will punish vice and reward virtue? It is certainly gratifying to find our Order, which is so closely allied to Christianity, flourishing as strongly as ever, notwithstanding that infidels, agnostics, and other so called advanced thinkers, announce that Christianity is weakening.

We belong to an Order which is considered not only the most ancient, but the most moral institution that has ever existed, as every character, figure and emblem depicted in the lodge conveys a moral lesson and serves to inculcate the practice of virtue in all its genuine profession. Each of our lodges stand on holy ground, supported by three pillars,—Wisdom, Strength and Beauty; and in it is represented a ladder, reaching from earth to heaven, the principal staves of which are Faith, Hope and Charity; Faith in the Great Architect of the Universe, Hope in salvation, and to be in Charity with all men. Above all this, ladder rests on the volume of the Sacred Law, in which are taught the wise dispensations of Divine Providence, and which belief strengthens our Faith. It is in this Book that the Almighty has been pleased to reveal more of His Divine