

THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.

In a recent number of the *Contemporary Review*, we find the following remarks on the Temple at Jerusalem :

It is, probably no exaggeration to say that more has been written regarding the Temple at Jerusalem than in respect to any other building in the known world, and unfortunately, it may be added, more that is wild and utterly untenable ; this last peculiarity arises from several causes : First, because all the earlier restorers were entirely ignorant of the ground on which the Temple stood, and of the local circumstances that governed its construction. It was not, indeed, till the spot was surveyed by the late Mr. Catherwood, in 1833, and his plan published on a sufficient scale in 1862, that restorers had such a map of the ground as would allow them to adjust measurements to a locality with anything like certainty. Though that plan was wonderfully perfect, considering the circumstances under which it was made, it has since been superseded by that made under direction of Capt. (now Major) Wilson, R.E., in 1864-5, which leaves nothing to be desired in this respect. It can be depended upon almost by inches, and has been engraved on a scale sufficiently large for all topographical, if not quite for all architectural purposes. A second cause of the wildness of the restorations hitherto attempted is, that the Temple at Jerusalem was quite unique. Not only had the Jews only this one Temple, but so far as we know, it was entirely of their own invention, and utterly unlike the Temples of any of the nations around them. It certainly, at all events, was quite unlike the Temples of the Egyptians or Greeks. It may have had affinities with those of the Babylonians and Assyrians ; but notwithstanding all that has been done of late years, we know so very little of what the Temples of Mesopotamia were, that these hardly help us, even at this day, and the assumption that this might be so was of no use whatever to earlier restorers. Having thus no analogies to guide them, and, as it is literally and absolutely true that not one stone remains on another of the Temple, properly so called, it is not to be wondered that early restorers failed to realize the truth, and indulged in fancies which were utterly untenable. In nine cases out of ten their object was to produce a building that would be worthy of Solomon in all his glory, rather than a sober reproduction of the very moderate building described in the Bible.

MASONRY.

FREEMASONRY has its history—a history full of noble deeds, well worthy to be preserved and cherished through ages to come. She has survived the vicissitudes, the wars and revolutions of nearly thirty centuries ; has witnessed the rise and growth of all the civilized nations on the face of the globe.

The principles of our order inculcate honor, probity, justice, self-abnegation : they denounce, they condemn dishonor, falsehood, injustice and presumption. They teach mankind to live together as one great family, loving, cheering, true to one another as God, who is our Father, is true to us.

A man is never too old to practice brotherly love, relief, and never too old to bring a ripened judgment, a holy and consistent life to bear upon his younger brethren.

Masonry has ever been loyal to its own principles, characteristics and aims ; it has sought to do no work but its own.

Amid all the strife which has Sundered communities and drenched the world in blood, Freemasonry has been in the enjoyment of tranquil repose. It has been for all who were under the tongue of good report. Had it not been so, our affections would have turned from us as dishonoring to that Creator who kindled the splendid fireside of the sun, and who poured the mighty floods from the hollow of his hand.

Masonry wears upon its forehead the gathered scars and wrinkles of a thousand years, and yet it is as vigorous to-day, as resolute of moral purpose, as if it bore upon its frontal only the glittering dew of youth. The world is wide and the demand is great enough to employ the energies of all ; but Masonry leads the column of that great army which followed the Church of Christ up and down, and to and fro, in the earth, conquering peace and fraternity among men.

Proverbs xi. 14 ; xviii. 17 ; xvii. 28.

Masonry is a fountain of charity, whose streams go out to invigorate and gladden the sorrowful, to bear relief to famished poverty, to meander by the widow's cottage, and lave the feet of the orphan. Its crystal waters cool the fever of partisan passion, and baptize men of conflicting views into a great brotherhood of mercy.—*Corner Stone.*