

ry; I shall in the first place, lay before you the principles of Masonry as universally acknowledged.

In the second place, I shall give you a short account of the Ancient order of York Masons—and conclude with an exhortation to the Brethren of that order.

If we trace back Man to the first Rudiments of Nature, untutored, unsocial, without the Arts or knowledge of Living, we find him an inhabitant of the woods, and more savage than the beasts of the field left under the guidance of his own malignant passions. We see him without security, without comfort, aiming his fury chiefly against his own species; "The hand of every man is against him," and his against his fellow. By degrees almost imperceptible, he slowly emerges from barbarity, and adopts the plans of order, and improvement. The Divine Rays of knowledge still further illuminate him, and at last he learns the use of the kind interchange of the social Affections, and that universal Love which is to serve as the basis of his happiness. Hence we find him beginning to form the first bands of Society and surveying the works of Nature at large, and after the example of the great Architect of the world, pursuing his plans with Symmetry and Order—Cities rise—Associations form—And the first principles of Masonry expand themselves in the mind of man; prescribing a suitable action with those relations he stands in to his common humanity, his fellow-creatures.