

need to be kept in view and most clearly illustrated. To this end the ritualistic work should be carefully rendered, great care being taken to make the sublime teachings of Masonry duly impressive. Masonic symbolism should be more attentively studied. But, most of all, the moral sentiments which underlie the entire system should be dwelt upon and enforced, that so brethren may better comprehend the character and aims of Masonry, and be pervaded with a nobler zeal to help it forward to glorious accomplishments. When there is such knowledge and zeal on the part of the members of a lodge there will most likely be a condition of prosperity and blessedness.—*Repository*.

### THE FIRE IN FREEMASONS' HALL.

The fire of Thursday night at Freemasons' Hall, of which a brief report appeared yesterday morning, was fortunately confined to the place in which it broke out, though the damage caused by it there is entirely irreparable, the "Throne-room," in which the Grand Lodge of England held their meetings, being almost entirely destroyed. It appears that the discovery was made by Mr. Sadler, the Grand Tyler of England, who resides on the premises, and whose attention was called at about a quarter to twelve to a smell of burning wood. He at once searched the immediately adjoining rooms, and found nothing, but on looking out of an upper window saw smoke coming apparently from the Great Hall of the Freemasons' Tavern next door. He ran down stairs, unlocked the doors between the two buildings, and gave the alarm, afterwards accompanying the firemen to the roof of the hotel. It was then found that the smoke was penetrating through the roof of the Masonic Hall in dense quantities, showing that there must be a large body of flame inside. Notwithstanding a plentiful

supply of water it was impossible to save the building, the roof at the upper end of which fell in within an hour of the outbreak. With this, however, all further fear of any spreading was at an end, as the firemen obtained complete mastery over the flames, which at one time threatened to destroy not only the whole block of buildings attached to the Hall, but also the adjoining hotel. When an investigation could be made it was found that the whole of the pictures, together with the furniture and the organ, were entirely burned, and what was left of the Grand Hall not scorched or charred was entirely spoiled by smoke or water. Upon the walls were portraits of the Grand Masters from the time the Hall was dedicated on May 23, 1775, to the present time (with the exception of the Marquis of Ripon). Those on the left side on entering the room were, George IV. (when Prince of Wales), the Dukes of Cumberland, Sussex, and Kent, and the late Earl of Zetland; while on the west were Lord Petre (Grand Master when the hall was dedicated, 108 years ago), the Duke of Manchester, the Earl of Moira, the Duke of Athole, and the present Grand Master, the Prince of Wales. At the upper end of the room, immediately in rear of the Throne, is a statue of the Duke of Sussex, which though a good deal blackened by smoke is not completely spoiled. At the top of the Hall the roof is off, and the whole of the flooring burned through to the vaulting of the wine cellars below, and the entire decorations of the walls and the grained and ornamental roof are utterly destroyed. Fortunately all the records of Grand Lodge are safe, as are also the three principal chairs used by George IV., which were fastened in a cupboard. Too much praise cannot be given to the firemen for the quickness, energy, and tact they displayed in their difficult work; and it is hardly saying too much that but for the excellent appliances at hand