

the heaven of heavens. It is the star of eternal hope, whose brilliant rays come twinkling to this nether world; erring man's guide to wisdom, virtue and holiness. The Bible is the great and incomparable Book of books, its letters are brilliant sapphires, its words sparkling diamonds, its chapters pearls of luminous light; its whole the living splendor of a glorified humanity. "In comparison, Byron loses his fire, Milton his soarings, Gray his beauties, and Homer his grandeur; no human soul ever reasoned like sainted Job's; no poet ever sung like Israel's Shepherd King, and God never made a man more wise than Solomon. The promises of the Bible are pictures on the golden walls of immortality, dew-drops from the evergreen trees of eternity, pearls from the deep sea of God's love. As the moaning shell whispers of the caverns of the deep, deep sea, so the Bible breathes of endless life in heaven." Oh! that more of its blessed precepts were bound about our hearts, and we had the wisdom to make them the mottoes of our lives.—*Bro. Woodward Abrahams.*

#### BLESSINGS OF THE LODGE.

At the dedication of the new apartments of a lodge in his jurisdiction, Most Worshipful Abraham H. Howland, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, delivered the subjoined beautiful portrayal of the Blessings of the Lodge:—

"These apartments, worthy of the craft, should be occupied by those who strive to walk uprightly, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men. From this altar should go forth such as are not only imbued with loyalty to country, and such as are strong in the principles of freedom and equality, but such as are imbued with loyalty to truth; such as are strong in the permanent and hopeful principles of our

Constitutions; and such as realize the opportunities to affect the universal good by striving for the physical, mental, and moral welfare, of the entire people. 'The world is the field.' Upon you rests the great responsibility of bearing the radiance of our Great Lights into the business, pleasure, and struggle of life. Yours it is to exemplify those tenets which have survived the centuries, and which have ever tended to the peace, progress, and happiness of our race. Yours it is, walking fearlessly in the path of duty, to seek humanity's good, which is one of the principal objects of our Order. Let the light of the United Brethren shine in making others happy; in shunning hate, vengeance, vice, and crime; in respecting wisdom, virtue, and innocence; in sharing other's adversity, sorrow, and defeat, and in avoiding all things that dishonor the body, and stain the soul. \* \* \*

"The opportunity of renewed interest is now presented, and upon you, brethren, rests the responsibility of recognizing and discharging it. Excepting your own true and priceless homes, what place has more tender bonds and associations? Where are we brought more directly to consider present duty and present responsibility? Where is the jar of the world less felt, and the voice of temptation less audible? Tired with the business whirl and ceaseless warfare, would you rest? Are you desirous of communing with wisdom, truth, love, and friends? This very place is consecrated to all these, and urges you to share its blessings.

"The opportunity is now presented of frequent fraternal concourse of renewed works in behalf of the deserving brother, his widow or orphans, of listening to a service that has charmed an innumerable company, and of teaching, by symbols, those truths upon which the present and future welfare of mankind depends. Let not such opportunities pass unheeded, but seize them with true Masonic