

vailed? Was it not in the early days of the Republic, when the city's altars smoked with sacrifice and fervent prayers went up to God? Was it not men of strong faith who laid the foundations of

OUR GREAT ENGLISH CONSTITUTION and sowed theseed on Plymouth Rock of the great republic to the south? Faith in God, as revealed in His Word and the power of prayer and in the hereafter. if such were to be swept away with the besom of destruction I would not give our modern civilization, with all its boasted superiority, half a century to fall into ruin. Religion, then is over the portal of entrance to our Masonic lodges. Secondly, you know worship of the Most High is one of the most frequent duties inculcated upon us by the teaching of religion. The devout Masons bows in loyal reverence to his Father and his God, and is again and again called upon to join in the voice of that anthem of adoration which is ceaselessly roaring up, and worshipping at the entrance to the throne of the Eternal. Thirdly, the Mason is taught the necessity of love. Love is the very essence of religion. A man may shout the war cries of creed, but if he has no love to give to his fellow-man, burning with the sacred fire in his heart, his religion is a mocker and the highest corruption. Love is the very essence of the beautiful teachings of our ancient craft. The first element of

MASONIC LOVE IS TENDERNESS

for another's faults. We, as Masons, are taught to be tender towards the faults of an erring brother. Then there is another element in Masonic love. It is mutual help. We Masons are bound by mutual ties to keep shoulder to shoulder in the crush and strife of life and have made vows to practice daily this universal law of mutual help which elevates humanity ever higher and higher to the true ideal of progress and prosperity. I need not remind you that Freemasonry points to the Bible as the law of life and guide to the stumbl-

ing steps of weak and erring men. I have the sincerest conviction in my own heart that there is no human instrumentality outside religion itself that is better fitted to prepare the heart of man for entrance into the world of right than the teaching of this ancient craft of ours. Let us try by the presence and power of our Father, to reach the ideals which breathe for us in every word of our beautiful and ancient ceremonials, so that the world wide over, wherever the world-embracing dominion of our craft is found, Freemasonry shall become a name of honor and renown."

ROMANTIC MASONRY.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY.

One of the most interesting Masonic gatherings which has been held in Montreal for a long time was the meeting of Antiquity Lodge on Wednesday evening, 18th Dec. It was the annual meeting of the lodge and also the occasion of the official visit of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, accompanied by officers of Grand Lodge. The meeting derived its chief interest, however, from the fact that it was made the occasion of ceremonies commemorative of the early history of the lodge. This history reads like a romance. The lodge is the oldest in Canada, having been established May 4, 1752, with a travelling warrant obtained from the Grand Lodge of Ireland by masons in the old 46th regiment, now the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, then stationed in Ireland. It is claimed that George Washington was made a mason in this lodge, and there are perfectly authenticated records of the lodge regalia having been twice captured by enemies of the brave regiment in which it was fostered, first by the Americans and subsequently by the French.

As the lodge was a regimental one it accompanied the 46th through all its campaigns, and a history of the lodge