

hour,—productive of more harm to ourselves than to the wiser multitude who stand without? Why, the lesson that runs like a golden thread through all our ceremonies and ritual, impressed on the candidate when he enters our portals, and still lingering on his ears as he departs, is an unanswerable refutation of so foul a charge. Some, it is true, have fallen by the wayside. We do not excuse the erring, for they sinned in the full light of moral suasion and teaching. But we would say to the censorious cavalier, in the words of one who knew no sin, but could feel sympathy for those less perfect, "first cast the beam out of thine own eye and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote of thy brother's eye."

To the great and good members of our fraternity, and their name is legion, men whom the world has delighted to honor, whose many virtues and noble deeds have won for them a crown of immortality, we turn with pride and pleasure. They are the true exponents of what Masonry has done and will do. But there is a day coming, the time and the hour knoweth no man, when "every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low," when every lofty aspiration shall be satisfied, every sordid desire forever cease. For the advent of this glorious day, Masonry is working; "making straight in the desert a highway for our God," preparing the ground for the sowing of the seed, which shall bring forth golden and immortal fruit. Her voice is heard clear as the voice of a trumpet, giving no uncertain sound: "Lift up your eyes on high and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number, and calleth them by their names, by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power, not one faileth." "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Should

not the thought that we are co-workers in this great and glorious cause awaken to full life and activity every power which the Almighty has bestowed? Our field is the world; wherever the white sails of commerce are spread to the winds,—wherever the indomitable energy of man has discovered a new pathway to wealth and fame, there Masonry is found, and will continue to stand forth, the gentle minister of good.—*Er.*

OBJECTIONS TO FREEMASONRY.

First, its secrecy consists in nothing more than methods by which the members are enabled to recognize each other; and in certain doctrines, symbols, or instructions, which can be obtained only after a process of initiation, and under a promise that they shall be made known to none who have not submitted to the same initiation, but which, with the exception of these particulars, have no reservations from the public; and secondly, of those societies which, in addition to their secret modes of recognition and secret doctrines, add an entire secrecy as to the object of their association, the time of their meetings, and even the very names of their members. To the first of these classes belong all those moral or religious secret societies which have existed from the earliest times. Such are the Ancient Mysteries, whose object was by their initiation to cultivate a purer worship than the popular one; such, too, the schools of the old philosophers like Pythagoras and Plato, who in their exoteric instructions taught a higher doctrine than that which they communicated to their exoteric scholars. Such, too, are the modern secret societies which have adopted an exclusive form, only that they may restrict the social enjoyment which it is their object to cultivate, or the system of benevolence for which they are organized to the persons who are united with them by the tie of a common covenant and