

every evil thought and unruly passion. This is the more noble and glorious purpose of the use of the gavel alluded to in the monitor, and this is the divesting of the heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life which fits Masons as living stones for that spiritual building referred to very often by anti-Masons, and which few of them are likely to obtain. Indeed, temple building—in the spiritual sense—is the sublime idea of Masonry, and all the implements of the Craft are subordinated to this grand work; are symbols of what must go on in the soul under the overseeing of the Supreme Architect, and, therefore, in fight against them, or rather against God, and this is precisely what anti-Masons are daily doing and glorying in. Where, then, is salvation for them? —*John W. Brown, in Masonic Constellation.*

THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER.

John B. Gough relates a little incident that is so pertinent to Masonry at the present time that it is recalled here. There lived in England one time a man who was noted as a Biblical scholar. Indeed so familiar had this man become with the scriptures that he knew them by heart from Genesis to Revelation. If given a text of scripture this man could tell the exact place where it was found and give both the chapter and verse. Likewise if given the chapter and verse he could quote the exact language there found. Now, Mr. Gough did not believe that such a man existed and further doubted his ability to do all that was claimed for him. He therefore hunted him up and said, I understand that you know the Bible from beginning to end, and I would like to test your knowledge of the book.

Mr. Gough then proceeded to quote certain passages of scripture and the man told him exactly where they were found. He then proceeded to name certain chapters and the number of the verse and the man told him the exact

language there found. Mr. Gough then thought he would test the man a little further and quoted the following from Shakespeare: "The undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns," etc., and asked him where it was found. Now the man knew that the words quoted were not found in the Bible and he turned upon Mr. Gough with such a flood of profanity that he fled from his presence.

This man knew the letter of the law perfectly, but had never mastered the spirit. There are lots of Masons who are like the English Biblical scholar. They know the letter of Masonry perfectly, but have never mastered the spirit. They can say the ritual forwards and backwards, but do not manifest the spirit of Masonry in every day life. This is one of the evil tendencies of the times. Everything has run to perfect ritualism until a man's standing in our ancient Craft is based largely upon his ritualistic reputation. The practical lessons which are inculcated are lost sight of in the strife for greater perfection in word and movement. Even expressive work is sacrificed to a mere rehearsal of words and movements and the average worker is so concerned for fear of an error that the idea of making a candidate feel the lesson inculcated is lost sight of. Let us, therefore, lay less stress upon the letter of the law and more on the spirit. Let us issue commissions to those who are found proficient as exponents of the great principles of Freemasonry as well as to those who are faultless in ritual.—*Illinois Mason.*

TRUE BROTHERHOOD.

The two fundamental principles of Freemasonry are the universal fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man. Upon these rest the beautiful tenets of our profession, brotherly love, relief and truth. These doctrines are so familiar to all Masons, so often repeated in the work of the Lodge, that we treat them far too