

hesitation in saying that it could only be found in the spread and increased influence of the principles of Freemasonry. They need not be surprised at greater results arising from less promising causes. Let them recollect that the fate of the world had been changed by a faith which began from still smaller numbers. Eighteen hundred years ago, principles were preached on the shores of Galilee, which then had the most unpromising of all appearances; for they were surrounded by hostility on every side. Where were these principles now, and where were the powers which endeavored to oppose them? The principles of Freemasonry were the principles of loving their neighbors as themselves—the principles of the Gospel. Having laid Freemasonry on that foundation, he left it there to take its chance in all future ages. There was another circumstance which he thought he should bring under their notice on this occasion, as commemorating an event of unprecedented importance and interest which had occurred within these few months. By the patriotic efforts of English merchants, aided by the skill and talent of English philosophers—among whom he was happy to say their friend and countryman, Sir William Thomson, bore a high place—they saw a cable laid betwixt Great Britain and America. They saw, as it were, two nations separated by 3,000 miles of ocean shaking hands at the bottom of the great sea. They might well be astonished at such an event, and to observe how human ingenuity and perseverance and talent acquired such a marvellous power over the most evanescent and the most ephemeral power of nature. We saw that these powers of nature gave way to the effects of human perseverance. So rapid was the progress of science in these respects, and so wonderful the changes made, that he did not despair, if he lived a few years longer, of being able at this annual festival to send a message to New York at the commencement of the proceedings and to get an answer in return before they separated. There was one peculiarity of this which was even more extraordinary. It was, that the researches made to discover the lost cable had shown that the bottom of the Atlantic was composed of a white blanket or covering of powder, which stretched over the surface 1,500 miles in length and 1,300 miles in breadth. In this soft bed the Atlantic cable was lying, and the power of the electricity was every day acquiring additional force, so that it was found the lost cable, which had lain in this white bed, had an electric power far greater than that sent in by the hands of the workmen. Here, then, was this provision of a snowy bed for the Atlantic cable by the hands of nature; and by whom was it made? Was it made by the giants who were said to have once inhabited the earth? No. Was it made by the conquerors who had brought to bear on it the powers of empires? No. It was made by little creatures, so small that they were quite invisible to the naked eye, and could be detected only by the power of a microscope, and 10,000 of which could be put into a walnut shell. Was it possible to conceive of anything so extraordinary as that a substance of this description should have been spread over such a surface from time immemorial, and done by living agents like these, and that it was by means of their agency that the great problem of uniting Great Britain and America—he trusted in perpetual bonds—had been accomplished? This was a most extra-

ordinary proof of the Divine prescience; and if any man, after seeing that, and how it had come about, did not believe in the existence and superintendence of a Supreme Power, he would not be converted though one rose from the dead. But there was more in that than this. This powder lying at the bottom of the ocean was made of limestone, a most fertilising ingredient. Now, observe what has been going on. By the operation of these little impalpable creatures, while the world had been fighting and struggling on the shore, why the creation of a new continent had been going on, not under our eyes, but almost under our feet. The Atlantic was stored with vegetable matter, and also with the remains of fishes, and there was also this white powder made by these little labourers which was of this essentially fertilizing character. Down below in the bowels of the earth there was an enormous mass of perpetual fire. It was not generally known, but it had been ascertained that at the distance of 35 miles below the earth where we stood, the heat was so intense that not only would it melt any metal, but hold the very rocks of granite themselves in solution. What was the purpose of nature in covering so large a part of the earth with the waves of the ocean? The object he apprehended was—it was a speculation of interest, but he could not avoid mentioning it—that the Atlantic ocean was the great workshop in which Nature was preparing additional land for the use of man. The time would come when the superabundant earth would expand, when the ocean would be raised up, and a new earth would rise out of the bottom of the Atlantic. Thus, should the old world become choked up with inhabitants and new space be required for the human race, this space would be found provided in this new continent created by the little laborers, and from the animal remains at the bottom of the ocean. Should that time ever come, they might feel assured of one thing—that the new earth for man would be as well adapted to his necessities and to promote his happiness as that which we now inhabit. They might be sure that the earth would be inhabited by a happy, industrious, and prosperous race, and they might be sure that the labour of man would overcome all obstacles. And when that time came the voice of praise, he trusted, would ascend from the temple, the song of birds be heard in the fields, and the principles of Freemasonry overspread the earth as the waters cover the sea. The learned and eloquent baronet concluded with these lines—

"Then shall the flocks on thymy pastures stray,  
And Shepherds dance at summer's opening day.  
Each wandering Genius of the lonely glen  
Shall start to view the glittering haunts of men,  
And silence mark on woodland heights around  
The village curfew, as it tolls profound."

MASONRY has lived in every civilized country and clime. History bears honorable record of its advancement and its march. It carried its shining lights to bigoted Egypt in the darkest days of its idolatry—it shrank not from the threatened tortures of the Crusaders. They carried no terror in their brawny arm to hush the Masonic teachings of a Pythagoras, or a Thales—and the plains of Chaldea, and the mountains of Judea—the deserts of India, and the valley of the Nile, were cheered by its presence and enlivened by its song.