

US, THEREFORE, EXERCISE THE GREAT PRINCIPLE OF OUR FRATERNITY, AND JUDGE WITH CHARITY THOSE WITH WHOM WE HAVE WORKED SO LONG, AND WHO HAVE CONSCIENTIOUSLY AND HONESTLY SOUGHT A SEPARATION FROM US.

---

MODERN FREEMASONRY

---

ART. No. 1.

---

We propose in the present series of articles, to give our views somewhat *in extenso* regarding Modern Freemasonry. The Masonic world heaves and tosses like "the Bark of Æneas in the tempestuous sea," but bravely fights against the storm; and, although assailed from within and without, drives fearlessly on to its glorious goal.

What is that Goal? Who dare utter it? Who dare write it? Is it not the enlightenment of the human race? The elevation of the human intellect; the shattering of human shackles; the shivering of human fetters from the hands of man, from the ankles of woman, from the souls of children? Such we believe to be the principles of Freemasonry.

Modern Freemasonry has so glorious a mission, that the Church itself can scarce surpass it in the nobility of its character; the holiness of its cause. Why then are we assailed? Why do many moral men differ from us? Why do some branches of the so-called Christian Church denounce us? Why do certain temporal powers restrict our actions? A thousand answers would scarce explain these apparently simple questions.

The learned Priest of the ancient Church of Rome; the ignorant and illiterate ranters of the way-side meeting-house; the rigid Puritan and grey-coated follower of Penn unite in opposing us. The strict and noble advocate of Total Abstinence has shaken hands with the degraded sot of the wine cup, in a crusade against our Holy Order. But to what does it amount? A million tongues throughout the world answer—NOTHING! Priestcraft, puritanism, bigotry, and rationalism alike stand dumb-founded before our Institution, and why? Fortunately, the answer this time is easy of solution. WE RECOGNIZE IN EVERY MAN A BROTHER, AND IN THE CREATOR A COMMON FATHER.

Again, our Fraternity is progressive in its character; man's nature is progressive; the whole world is progressive. Trace history from her very foundation, and what do we find? Take the Bible from a historical standpoint as our text-book, and note the changes that have taken place. View the crude, untutored belief of our first parents, whose acquaintance with the Infinite was so great that they walked with Him through the flowery paths of Eden. Note the drunkenness of Noah, the most favored of God's servants. Mark the course of Solomon, the wisest of men, whose passions