

ADDRESS,  
BY ALFIO DE GRASSI,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
DEDICATION OF THE NEW MASONIC HALL, AURORA.

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BRETHREN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

The occasion and the presence of so large an assemblage affords a proper and an interesting opportunity for asserting the dignity and respectability of our Institution, and to repel the slander, obloquy and reproach, which ignorance and prejudice are disposed to cast upon it. Misguided popular opinion has at all times confounded our fraternity with the Illuminees of Germany, the Jacobins of France, and the Carbonari of Italy, and has ascribed with fertile ingenuity, views, plans, and practices, which are wholly repugnant to our professions, and abhorrent to our feelings.

To remove this unfavourable impression from the public mind, it is only necessary to advert to the antiquity of our venerable Order, and to review in historical detail the progress of our Art in the different ages of the world, under the auspices of the *great* and the *good* who have engaged in the work.

This would be a pleasing task, did time permit me to enter on so wide a field; now, however, I can only detain you with a few examples and hints on so vast a subject.

The great principles of Masonry exist in the essential attributes of the glorious Architect of the Universe, and are illustrated in the work of Creation, by which order was brought out of confusion, and *symmetry, regularity and beauty* stamped upon chaos.

The Divine *Master* said, Let there be *light*: and there *was light*. He appointed the "Firmament:" and *it was so*." He separated the waters from the dry land, and saw that "*it was good*." He commanded the earth to bring forth grass, and the tree, yielding fruit. He formed the moon and the stars; and spoke into existence the animate world. He made man in his own image, and implanted in his soul a delight of harmony, proportion, brotherly love, morality, and religion; and after erecting this stupendous fabric of physical and moral being, He rested from His work.