

"Your Special Committee, to whom you referred that portion of the Most Worshipful Grand Master's address, referring to certain pamphlets or books, written and promulgated by a certain Worshipful Master of this Grand Jurisdiction, in which the author denounces, in bold and defiant terms, the fundamental principles upon which our institution is planted, to wit: Faith in God, and a hope of a future state of reward.

"The said author also ridicules the teaching of the 'Book of the Law,' which Masonry proclaims to be the 'First Great Light' in our fraternity, and declares himself as holding no allegiance to the Bible or its God.

"For these reasons your committee denounces the holding and promulgation of such sentiments as high treason against Masonry, and totally subversive of all its teachings and foundation, and if permitted to pass unrebuked, would render us, as Masons, obnoxious to the charge of gross hypocrisy and dereliction of duty.

"Your committee feel deeply the magnitude and importance of responsibility resting on them, from the fact that a crime of such magnitude, charged against a Mason, as the denial of our 'Faith in God,' and hope of immortality, has never before come up before this Grand Lodge, and is unknown in this jurisdiction.

"In view of these facts, we feel a delicacy and hesitancy in recommending such punishment, as we believe should be inflicted, upon one so recreant to every principle of our loved fraternity.

"We would therefore respectfully refer the meed of punishment of so grave a crime, to the Grand Lodge for their infliction."

The brother was afterwards suspended from all rights, privileges and duties as Worshipful Master, and a committee appointed to prefer charges against him and bring him to trial.

—*Keystone.*

THE FIRST GREAT LIGHT.

It is the usage of the craft in all countries, at the present time, and has been from the remotest antiquity, that the Book of the Law, the Great Light, which is the Holy Bible, is always spread open upon the altar in every asylum; indeed, a Masonic body cannot be properly organized or opened for business without it. There is in this, as in everything else Masonic, an appropriate symbolism. The Book of the Law is the Great Light of Masonry. Every promise in the Bible is a pearl of inestimable value, of great price. Faith makes a chain of pearls out of the promises by which she graces her neck and secures her armor, but Masonry is a thread of gold running through the chain of pearls. To close the Bible, or to emasculate its promises, would interrupt the rays of divine light which emanate from it, and would leave the body in moral darkness.

As the Bible is the most luminous and profound of all the Masonic symbols, as well as the corner and keystone of the edifice, I am sure you will pardon me for including in this paper Rev. Dr. Dwight's eloquent apostrophe to the Great Light that lays on our altars, which for beauty of language, grandeur of thought, and elegance of expression, has no equal in all the range of human language. Dr. Dwight says:—"The Bible is a window in the prison of hope, through which we look into eternity. It contains more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, more pure morality, more important history, and finer strains of poetry and eloquence, than can be collected from all other books ever written, in all the ages, and all the languages, that have ever been invented." How thankful we as Masons ought to be for the Bible, the triangular and triune light that ever and always stands in front of the Masonic altar; it is God's purest and best gift to Masons, pointing them ever to that greater light, eternal in