

COSMOPOLITAN FREEMASONRY.

With good reason, it is generally considered to be a Masonic "axiom" that nearly all which is intrinsically valuable and of univereal importance is contained in Craft and Capitular Masonry.

To mankind in general, the value of what is taught in the lodge and chapter degrees, has not been, is not now, and in our opinion, never can be over estimated.

Such considerations, however, should not be deemed sufficient reasons why those so inclined should not prosecute their researches further, nor proceed in other modes of Masonic thought and action. All cannot be, nor should they be, confined or circumscribed within the same limits of Masonic investigation.

To upbuild, extend, and perpetuate Cosmopolitan Freemasonry, is the first and greatest duty of genuine Craftsmen; but on the other hand, there are many true Freemasons in this and every other country, whose interest, inclination and duty, lead them earnestly and profitably to seek for more light in the Craft, the Preceptory, the Rose Croix, the Council, &c., and even in the occultism of the Orient.

Nor should there ever be aught but the most fraternal and generous rivalry amongst those who specially pursue their respective Masonic Rites while each and all should ever bear in mind that their greatest interest and highest duty should always find their chiefest embodiment in Ancient, Free, and Accepted or Cosmopolitan Freemasonry; and further, it should ever be an unchangeable decree that no Body should ever be deemed, held, or allowed to be, or become in any way "allied" to Freemasonry, whose principles, teachings and outcome, are not fully in accord with those of our ancient, honorable and universal fraternity, whose foundation cornerstone is the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

TO THE OFFICERS OF — LODGE!

When I last visited your Lodge, I was greatly pleased with your fraternal greetings, and I much enjoyed your many fraternal courtesies, during and after Lodge hours;—but I must in all brotherly good will, say that I was heartily ashamed of your "work"—or rather absence of "work,"—or in fact I should say—very "bad work."

Why you didn't open or close your Lodge creditably in either of the degrees,—and the way you conferred, or half conferred, that degree was shocking to me, as I presume it was even more so to the candidate, and after blundering through certain portions, you, W. Sir, gravely informed the candidate that there was a lecture belonging to the degree, which would be delivered on some *future* occasion! and I wondered if that *future* time would ever come! To my utter astonishment also, I saw something in the hands of some of your officers, which they were ever and anon mysteriously glancing at, and I greatly wondered what it could possibly be!

Now, I then and there made up my mind, that if I had been there on a visit as your D. D. G. M., I would straightway have notified you that unless within, say two months at the farthest, your "work" should be greatly improved,—I would have your charter arrested till the pleasure of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge were made known thereanent!

Such punishment would be only too light for so grave an offence! Why don't you, W. Sir, as is your bounden duty, forthwith, in the privacy of your own room, persistently set about the complete mastering of your work,—require your brother officers to do the same (or displace them by others who will),—then meet frequently in the Lodge room for united practice, and when you next