

sonry, E. R. Johnson is the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and I am his Deputy. Some Grand Lodges publish the name of every Mason under its jurisdiction. No meetings are held and kept secret from the other members. We do not promise to render implicit obedience to the dictates of our leaders, or anything of the kind. The Pope accuses us of inculcating every social vice, of trying to destroy the marriage tie, &c., &c. I suppose he must believe all this, or he would not say it. I will answer him with an argument from Archbishop Lynch. In the Archbishop's open letter to the Presbyterian Synod, he asks:—"If Roman Catholics were grovelling idolators would the Marquis of Ripon, some three hundred Protestant clergymen, so many of the nobility of England, and some of the leading citizens of the United States, have embraced it?" I ask:—If Masonry is all they say it is, would the princes and kings of England, thousands of the Protestant clergymen, the majority of England's nobility, and when we come to the United States, such men as Washington, Franklin and Garfield, have embraced it, not only embraced it, but taken a leading position in it. (Hear, hear.) Hear what Washington says about Freemasonry:—"Being persuaded that the principles on which the Masonic society is founded must be productive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to assist the Order and be considered by them as a deserving brother." Washington laid the corner stone of the first capitol of the United States with Masonic honors. Washington, when taking the oath of office as President of the United States, sealed his obligation on the Holy Bible, taken from the altar of St. John's Lodge, New York. Prominent citizens of the United States! Why, over half a million of the best and truest citizens of this great nation are serving under our banner. A preacher in the church of the Gesu

is reported by the Montreal *Star* to have said:—"To be a Mason and a Christian, much less a Catholic, was as absurd as it was impossible. The Order of Masons, he would admit, boasted of religious tolerance, but this Catholics objected to because it ignored the supernatural. That he had as authority from one of the Order of Masons that symbolical and chapitral Masons were not Christians, but that the same could not be said of Knights Templar. They were simply instructed to regard everything from a natural standpoint, and to consider that all that is not so, as superstition and fanaticism. In a higher degree they were taught to learn the one dogma of the Order,—'Belief in the existence of a God.' A person might as well try to be a Protestant and a Catholic at the same time, and believe that each was the true religion." There could hardly be a greater misconception of what Freemasonry is than this. (Hear, hear.) Freemasonry is not a religion, but none are admitted into the Order who have not the one element of religion, "Belief in the existence of a God." So instead of this one dogma only being taught in a higher degree, it has to be acknowledged by the candidate before he can cross our threshold even in the lowest degree. It is from those already in possession of this belief that we make our selection. Who can have been the Rev. Father's Masonic authority, who said that symbolical and chapitral Masons were not Christians, but that Knights Templar were? The same authority would, no doubt, say that the members of the British Science Association were not Christians. Then what about the Rev. Fathers Perry and Kavanagh? We who are Christians believe that every truth wrested from nature will eventually confirm our belief, and that it is folly to say, that because some of our fellow Christians are attempting, with others who do not believe as they do, to read the book of nature which the Great