

opposition, till it has become a universal kingdom, drawing to itself the love and respect, the adoration and obedience of all good men.

And so, relatively, is it with the body of Freemasonry. We love and revere it because it is the oldest *human* society on the face of the globe; we love it for its work's sake; we revere it because, while it remains what it is, it will unmistakably show forth the immortality of the soul, the Fatherhood of God Almighty, the brotherhood of all mankind, and finally, the triumph of good over evil.

The Masonic Fraternity can justly then be described as a moral, intellectual, scientific and religious body, having the honor of God and the good and advancement of man as its chief object. She opposes vice, error, ignorance, fanaticism and persecution; she supports all that is good and true and noble, and scorns all that is impure or evil in any form or degree. Her motive power is Charity; to alleviate suffering, to raise the fallen, to bless and do good to others, is her chief tenet.

For all this we love her! Here, too, throughout the civilized world, under the banner of our Order, men are brought together who have no other tie of fellowship; and no matter how unequal their social positions, how diverse their religious faiths (so long as they believe in Almighty God and the Holy Scriptures), however discordant their political opinions, no matter what differences exist, here, for once at least, as it shall be in "the sweet bye and bye," they forget everything but the fraternal tie which binds them together in one solid and almost universal brotherhood.

"In faith and hope the world will disagree,
But all mankind's concern is charity."

Oh! that this tie could always exist, and always have its divine influence upon the hearts and actions of all the fraternity out of the lodge-room as well as in it! What discord, what trouble, what unhappiness would be avoided! But even as it is, one of the strongest ties known to man exists here with a universal influence. So strong are the ties of this Brotherhood, that let a Master Mason go to any part of the habitable globe, and if he uses the signs and words of the order aright, and there be another mason within hailing distance, he will find a friend and brother, be that other Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, a Chinese, a wild Arab, or an American savage! Let but one of these be admitted into fellowship by the mystic ties of Freemasonry, and a bond of union and brotherly love is welded that cannot easily be broken. These principles unite into one indissoluble bond of affection men of the most opposite character and nationality, so that the persecuting tyrant becomes at once the kind friend and brother, and by them, in every country, a mason may find a brother, and in every clime a home.

How often has the wounded enemy become the object of love and attention directly the mystic tie was recognized? How often have the famishing and languishing been relieved and comforted on account of this brotherhood of the