

## VERMONT.—1889.

THE Grand Lodge of Vermont met in its Ninety-sixth Annual Communication at Burlington, on June 12th and 13th, 1889, and the volume of its Proceedings at this Communication contains as a frontispiece a handsome steel-plate engraving of Grand Master ALFRED A. HALL, who is so well and so favourably known to nearly all the members of our own Grand Lodge, which he represents near his own with so much ability, fidelity and devotion.

There are many eloquent passages in the address of Bro. Hall, but none more so than the following, which occurs under the heading of "Faith and Reverence." :—

If there is anything real in Masonry, and we all know there is, it is a high moral and religious sentiment that gives character to every ceremony and lesson, from the petition to the conclusion of its sublime teachings. Faith and Reverence are a part of its warp and woof that mark the web like the red line in the canvas of the Royal Navy. When the Grand Orient of France dropped out of its requirements a belief in Deity, the Masonic world dropped the Grand Orient out of Masonry; and yet there are men in our organization who have freely and voluntarily subscribed to a belief in one "ever living and true God," who seem to forget that "to doubt is disloyal," and others who have been enjoined never to mention the sacred name of Deity "except with that reverential awe which is due from the creature to the Creator," who not only forget their duty to Him to whom they are under infinite obligations, but to their plighted vows, and in ordinary conversation, in passion and ribald jest, use the name more lightly than any other. Brothers, in this sceptical age, I commend to your careful study the great rule and guide to our faith. It is not laid upon our altar as a simple piece of furniture; it is the great text book of the ages; and when a Brother is found wandering in the fields of speculation and of doubt, or when the idle habit of blasphemy becomes fixed, in gentle whispers of advice call back his mind to the obligations taken upon it, and the lessons of instruction taught from it. To such an one the first and seventh commandments furnish a fitting text, and the whole ritual of Masonry an elaborate sermon, that should be read and re-read until true Masonic principle takes the place of sinful error.

The above is just the bold, manly, outspoken protest that was to have been expected on this subject from Bro. Hall.

Referring to the edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of England, issued on our account by the Grand Lodge of Vermont, and to the action of the Grand Lodge of Quebec in suspending its

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