

the punishment of those who persistently violate their obligations, by thus grossly insulting their brethren, and everlastingly tramping under foot the commands of that God whom they have promised to love, honor, reverence and obey. A man would not wantonly disobey and cast opprobrium at his earthly parent; how can he then, how dare he then, day after day and hour after hour, insult Him to whom he owes his life, his health, his enjoyments here, and from whom he hopes to obtain endless happiness beyond the grave? Can we expect the Adonai to always forgive? What must he think of man, whom he has created "in his own image," if he listens to the millions of echoes of ribald oaths and foul-mouthed anathemas that are constantly ascending from earth to the very footstool of God?

As Masons, we should exert our influence to check this horrible curse that seems to overshadow the human race. We flee from the plague-stricken district, we shun the touch of the smallpox sufferer, but we allow ourselves, our children, and those we love, to associate with men who care so little for their own souls, that they hourly insult the Author of their being. We risk our souls' future by associating with those who, by their profanity, really deny the authority of the Most High God. Can Masons do this and be true to their vows? Masons have voluntarily sworn to obey the edicts of the Infinite. They have acknowledged Him before their brethren. They have avowed their belief in the immortality of the soul. They have recorded in high heaven that they are his servants and his children. Such being the case, let them prove

it by their mode of living, and by saving from the soul's contamination those whom they love and respect.

Men say, "Oh! it is only a habit; he doesn't mean anything by it." Did God mean anything by it when he declared, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"? It is nonsense to tell us it is a habit, and does not amount to anything. It amounts to simply this, that the man who constantly, on the most trivial occasions, defiles his lips with the sacred name of the Deity, can neither respect that Deity nor comprehend his greatness, goodness and power. He is little better than the infidel, and by his words proves himself but one step removed from the agnostic.

We want not such men amongst us. We should rid ourselves of those who persist in such a habit, and should refuse admission to any who indulge in the same. If we cannot get pure-minded men to enter our fold, we had better do without any. One cursing, swearing Mason may destroy a lodge and contaminate a number of brethren. We are supposed to be at least moral men. We are engaged in the most glorious work ever assigned to an army of laborers. We are erecting a spiritual temple to the Most High God—"a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." What kind of an ashlar does he make who constantly assails the power of the Almighty, and laughs at the commands of the Omnipotent, by hourly trampling underfoot the edict, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain"? Brethren, let us strive to check this growing evil, and thus render ourselves more worthy of the kindness and