

"There is a *love* between men as tender, as pure, and as enduring as between the sexes, but it is too often overlooked in our Fraternity as a living and existing fact, hence much of the moral force of our institution is lost. It should be emphatically recognized. Then, indeed, what a band of brothers we would be! Because we love is why we forgive and forget. It is the noble part of human creation. All our symbolism teaches the love of God and love of man, and it will be a glorious era when the world shall exclaim in truth of Freemasonry, 'behold how they love one another!'

"Sir Corson has not done us fair justice in his review of our late controversy with a certain party, but we know it arose from the want of a full knowledge of all the facts, which he will learn some time or other; then when he shall first learn that our sword is sheathed forever here below, we know none will be more prompt to vindicate our motives or course. He is just and good by nature, as all Knights should be, hence we have no fear of the final judgment of our fellows."

There you have it, and it isn't the warm weather that makes our spectacles grow dim from moisture as we read these living, speaking throbs from a true heart. We love all men who love Freemasonry and earnestly labor for its good.

On very many points in Masonic matters Sir Frank and ourself hold diametrically opposite opinions. Yet we can say, as Moore (isn't it?) makes one of his characters exclaim,

"I know not, I care not, if guilts in thy heart,
I know that I love thee, whatever thou art."

Confound it! can't a man have a heart, even if he has knocked about in this world for nearly half a century, where there are so many disagreeable people as almost to shake one's faith in the divine origin of humanity.

He thus closes his report :

"Another year has rolled around and brought with it the fruit of the reports we have just reviewed. We have enjoyed them as annual testimonials of renewed friendship and fraternity. They speak but one language—the voice of 'Peace on earth, good will to mankind'—the noblest sentiment of a human heart.

"The spear and the shield, thank God, are buried in their own rust; naught remains to remind us of the warfare of angry passions except the sword, and it is only worn as the emblem of the warfare of truth against error: of virtue against vice; of common humanity against barbarous force. It is, therefore, bright—may it ever be kept so. This is the sentiment of Knighthood, to-day; it is the sentiment which gathers force with the march of civilization and education. The noblest Knight is he who makes allowances for the weakness of others, and when even his enemy is so weak that he is helpless, to extend to him the point of mercy. This principle is rapidly being wrought into practice, and the reports through which we have hurriedly passed all bear the impress of this nobility of nature upon them. It is pleasant to say so; it is more pleasant to know that it is true.

"Every evidence is furnished in these reports that the spirit of Masonic chivalry is growing every year. Where one Commandery five years ago was fully equipped for duty there are a hundred to-day. What a few years ago was a great curiosity, viz: A Templar parade, in full uniform, is to-day a common sight, and creates no surprise. The first fear of associate bodies of Masonry, that this rapid increase in Templar Masonry would eventually encroach upon their rights, dignities and prerogatives has disappeared before the palpable evidence that the Commandery is nothing without the Lodge, and that, so far as the heart is concerned, when it comes to a struggle to defend the Lodge, the Templar is the first to spring to the front. This is gratifying, because there should be no jealousy between those of a common blood—the heart's blood.

"This is the spirit of fraternity and love which comes like inspiration to the Correspondence Committee, as he passes through the thousands of pages of reports which have interested Knighthood throughout the United States and Europe since our last review."

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Sir John W. Simons presented a most admirable Report on Correspondence, in which genial humour, profound knowledge, knightly