

stroyed ; and virtue would be banished from the dwellings of men. Evil would fully triumph. Man would become a monster of iniquity, an enemy to himself and to his species : and the population of the universe would be transformed into one vast assembly of malignant beings. Such a scene of moral desolation, selfishness and greed have a tendency to create, as far as their influence extends. But, as the power of attraction has never yet been completely suspended on this globe, so, the principle of love has never been entirely eradicated from the hearts of men. When the law of gravity is partially overcome, as in the cases of earthquakes and volcanos and in the working of explosives, the most destructive convulsions occur ; so, it happens in the moral world, when the law of love is even partially violated and trodden under foot.

The Divine Teacher has testified in the volume of the sacred-law to the supreme importance of this principle by his entreaties to us to cultivate it diligently. He says :—“Above all things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. Love suffereth long, and is kind, love envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.” Again—“Prophecies shall fail ; language shall cease ; earthly knowledge shall vanish away, but love never faileth.” “Love worketh no evil to his neighbour, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” The man, who claims to love a woman, and then kills her because she does not love him, can not possess even a fragment of the genuine article. He is merely the slave of unbridled passion.

The grand object, which love proposes to accomplish, is the extending of help and relief in times of distress and difficulty, and by these means, it communicates peace and happiness. In short, love, when ardent and genuine, is always particular about little things. It feels no burdens. It delights more in giving than in getting. It is unselfish ; and it will set itself in rigid opposition to every species of bigotry and intolerance and to the jealousies and animosities, which have so long distracted those, who should have been bound together in the closest ties of amity and concord. It will use every appropriate means to heal the dissensions among brethren and make every necessary sacrifice to promote this great object. Let me quote, by way of exhortation, a few lines from the *Masonic Sun* :—“Love thyself last. Look near, and behold thy duty to those, who walk beside thee down life’s road. Make glad their days by little acts of beauty : and help them bear the burden of life’s load. Love thyself last. Look far, and find the stranger, who staggers ’neath his load and his despair. Go lend a hand, and lead him out of danger to heights, where he may see, that the world is fair. Love thyself last, and oh ! such joys shall thrill thee, as never yet to selfish souls were given. Whate’er thy lot, a perfect peace shall fill thee ; and earth shall seem the ante-room of Heaven. Love thyself last ; and the world shall be made better by thee, if this brief motto forns thy creed. Go follow it in spirit and in letter. This is the kind of religion, that men need.”