

proud, and justly proud, of his ancestry.

Sweetness and light. Let us honor and love them. They are our heritage as Freemasons. We need no Master Arnold to introduce them to us. In our fraternity there is no conflict between light and darkness; there is in the world. Brotherly love and truth are the corner stones of our institution, and as long as it rests upon them, so long will it endure and prosper.—*Keystone.*

THE BIBLE IN OHIO FREEMASONRY.

At the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, in October last, the Grand Master in his address referred to the Bible in Freemasonry, and that the brethren might understand the matter more clearly he reviewed the subject as follows:—

That you may see the position the Grand Lodge of Ohio has taken in relation to the Bible question in all her past history, allow me to call your careful attention to the following quotations from her printed proceedings:—

In the year 1817 (see print, vol. 1, page 85), I find "A circular from the Grand Lodge of Ohio to the subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction." In this circular occurs the following language:

"The celebrity and unity of Masons depends not on the number, but on the purity and uprightness of its votaries. Therefore, in every admission, a strict observance of the three Great Lights of Masonry is solemnly requested and enjoined. A satisfactory belief in the infallible rule of our faith and practice is ever to be required as an essential pre-requisite for initiation, nothing short of which can possibly warrant an expectation that its influence will be duly realized."

The same sentiment runs through the entire circular. In the year 1844 these declarations were substantially

repeated, as you will remember, the entire report of the committee being published in printed proceedings of 1880. In 1852, extracts were published from the correspondence of W. B. Hubbard, then Grand Master. I suppose no better authority need be produced, at least to Ohio Masons, than William B. Hubbard. The following decision received the hearty approval of the Grand Lodge:—

"Belief in God. Ancient Masonry required a belief in God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, a God of spirit (not of stone, wood, or any other specimen of idolatry), one that was from everlasting to everlasting, supremely wise, good, and powerful. The fraternity from time immemorial were taught to regard the 'Book of the Law' as the rule and guide of their (not faith, but) conduct. A member denying the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures (or, Book of the Law) should be dealt with, and reprimanded, suspended or expelled, according to the nature and circumstances of the case."

In the year 1868, at the session held in the city of Dayton, a case came up on appeal, from Erie Lodge, 239. The committee on grievances, of whom Bro. J. Kelly O'Neill was one, made the following report:—

"Your committee on grievances, to whom was referred the appeal of H. N. Shipman, from the action of Erie Lodge, No. 239, suspending him indefinitely from the privileges of Masonry, for un-Masonic conduct, after a careful examination of the proceedings of the lodge, and the testimony on file, find that Bro. Shipman has been guilty of denying, in open lodge, the authenticity of the Sacred Scriptures, and ridiculing the same, and asserting the same as in no way essential to Masonry. Your committee are of the opinion that such disregard for and disrespect of the great Light in Masonry should not be tolerated in any organized body of the craft; and while your committee think the sentence a severe one, they