

are known then shall we expect to have the question answered by Him of whom it was asked over eighteen hundred years ago.

Two of these great truths of Masonry referred to are, first, there is a God, a living, loving, active and just God, who governs not only the world at large, but also each individual creature of His hand, who over-rules all things, and who, by His mighty justice, shall cause truth to prevail, right and goodness to triumph in the end, and sin to be punished: all of which is beautifully brought out by degrees as the candidate wends his way along the path leading to light and fraternal greetings. The other is that fundamental doctrine of our holy religion, viz., the doctrine of the resurrection from the dead.

These two doctrines, or truths, or principles our order teaches so thoroughly by her symbolism that not a single Mason who is at all sensible of the teachings of symbolism can possibly fail to understand and appreciate them. Again, if we closely follow the candidate in his journeyings, we shall also follow very clearly the history of civilization, in condensed form, from its first risings in semi-barbarous times and manners, separating the sacred from the profane, ever advancing to new acquisitions of knowledge, well called light. The candidate learns in allegory that a good man and true fell in the discharge of his duty, and that his murderers did not escape punishment, but the signification of all this becomes to him a life-long lesson of the utmost weight and importance, viz., that there is an unceasing conflict ever going on between truth and error, light and darkness, beauty and deformity, virtue and vice, life and death, and that the former of each of these shall finally triumph, and the latter be surely defeated and destroyed. The law of eternal justice is revealed to him; the immortality of man is plainly taught; omnipotent truth is announced: in a word, he is thoroughly taught the universal truth, accepted by all great minds, that "Truth shall prevail."

Do we not find here, dear friends, reasons why we should "Love the Brotherhood?"

This is indeed a grand institution, and not too old yet to do good. Its mission is not yet accomplished, nor will it be till sorrow and suffering have left the world. We delight in its antiquity, because there is an irresistible enchantment about everything hoary-headed and aged. The good man whose head is silvered o'er with the frosts of many winters and whose body is curved by the weight of many years is more to be respected and honoured than at any former period of his life. The old battle-flag, pierced by the bullets of the foe, and torn in the struggle of war is revered and loved by every true soldier as he loves his country, his home, yea, his very life. The old arm-chair, the old family Bible, all scarred and torn, are treasured all the more because of those very scars and tears, their age and history.

So it is with our holy and beloved religion, which started approximately some six thousand years ago. It has grown and expanded and developed in spite of all