

place to remind you that the name of your illustrious Patron, the Prince of Wales, ("hear, hear," and applause), is a sure guarantee that loyalty to the Sovereign is our true and sterling watchword, (cheers); and we have the experience of 3,000 years to know that charity to mankind and love to the brethren are and have been the leading and guiding principles of our noble Craft, and the great and ultimate aims of our Association. ("Hear, hear," and applause). Brethren, I thank you again most truly and most gratefully for the honor you have conferred upon me, as well as for the most cordial and flattering reception which you have given me."

His Grace re-instated Bro. Shekleton as Deputy Grand Master; and the Marquis of Headfort having been installed Senior Grand Warden, and Lord Dunboyne, Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Lodge was closed with the usual form.—*London Times*.

QUALIFICATIONS AND MORALS.

THE question is often asked, "What are the necessary qualifications to be made a Mason?" We all should remember that it is the internal and not the external qualifications which render us worthy to be made Masons; and yet, by a strange inconsistency, we say and legislate far more upon the external than the internal qualifications. My answer has been substantially, "Ability to conform to the ritual, earn an honest living, and be a useful member of society." There is no doubt that in ancient times Masonry was a labor association of builders only; hence none could be admitted to membership that were incapacitated for physical labor, and rightly so. It taught the doctrine of the one God and the sciences, especially architecture, instruction being given orally, for the art of printing was unknown. The college, academy, and other institutions of learning, have, in a great degree, superseded the Masonic institution in this respect, while, as an operative or labor association, it has been entirely changed, and men of trades, professions and callings, are admitted to its ranks, and we now teach faith in God, hope in immortality, and human Brotherhood, using as symbols the implements which the Craft in former days used as laborers. We labor in the moral field only, and build the temple of the inner life; and this brings us to the question of physical qualifications. I confess, I am unable to see how a man who is compelled to wear glasses, or a truss, or has lost a finger, or toe, or even a hand or foot for that matter, is incapacitated from laboring in the moral field. Physical perfection is very rare, as we found in war times; were all required to be Apollos, our Lodges and membership would be fewer than in the dark days, I fear. Had the strict letter of the ancient law been enforced, not only myself, but several who have preceded me in this office would have been kept out forever, because our disabilities were incurred before we were old enough to be made Masons. It is safe to say, that no one desires to be disabled, (for the war is over), and all would be sound men if they could. There are in our State good men, grand men, men who fear God and regard man, and are glorious workers in all efforts to make humanity wiser and better; but we are told that they are not qualified to labor in the moral field with Masons, although they can fill any office, from town constable to president of the United States, with credit and honor. The Great Teacher held a poor opinion of those who made much of forms and ceremonies alone, and hurled his fiercest denunciations at those who kept the outside clean, while inside was filth and moral nastiness. Let us be careful that we do not fall under the same condemnation. I confess that I had rather see the emblem of virtue worn by a one-armed or one-legged man in a procession than by one, though a model of physical perfection, who spends his days and nights in places of low resort, of shame and corruption. I am not a grumbler or scold, but I confess that when I see a person displaying an ostentatious badge, and is dealing out the "maddening bowl" which de-thrones reason and destroys manhood, meanwhile pouring forth a volume of ribaldry, obscenity and profanity, I am deeply stirred. It is a sad fact that we have far too many in our Lodges who, by licentiousness, drunkenness, gambling, terrible profanity, and loose living, are every day bringing disgrace upon our good name. The evil of intemperance—the greatest of the day—has carried to the grave some whom we once considered our noblest and best, and to-day numbers amongst its victims one who has wielded the gavel as Grand Master. I would that all were, like myself, total abstainers, but do not expect it; but we have a right to expect a decent regard for common morality. No institution teaches a severer morality, and the name of Mason should be synonymous with pure and lofty manhood. Brethren, many of you are Masters of Lodges, and on you rests a great responsibility in this matter. I well know that it is an unpleasant duty, and requires moral courage; but surely, if you could storm a battery or face a blazing cannon, as I know some of you have done, you can muster courage enough to whisper good counsel into the ear of your brother, admonish and advise him, and if that is of no avail, bring it before the Lodge, and if a reformation