

this earthly pilgrimage, and to which they should in the end, return; the figure of the sun was at once a memorial of their divine origin, a badge of the religious faith they professed, and a monitor of those principles which should conduct and ensure their restoration. How soon, or to what extent, superstition and bigotry debased these emblems, is a research painful and unprofitable.

We Masons have adopted three particular characteristics, *secrecy, charity* and *brotherly love*, our sense of these great duties has been explained to us, and of what especial import they are to Masons, or to men who have separated themselves from the rest of mankind, and profess they are the servants of: *Him who ruleth in the midst of the heaven.*

If our ceremonies mean not the matter which has been expressed, if they imply not the moral and religious principles which this lecture has endeavoured to unveil: it may be asked of you, masons, what they do imply, import or indicate?

Brethren:—Claiming to be the children of light, like the Epoptes of the ancient mysteries, we as Masons have an equal right to be instructed in the mysteries of our venerable institution, as they were, in being made acquainted with the hidden mysteries of nature and science, which as we are informed were carefully concealed from the eyes of the vulgar. The instructions delivered in the secret and solemn convocations of the Pythagorean, the Eleusinian and other ancient societies, revealed to the initiated many of the causes of the wonders in nature and science; to them the veil,—which to the profane world obscured the real nature of matters and things and gave them a mysterious appearance,—was removed, the mystery ceased, for they saw matters and objects in their real nature; what was incomprehensible to the profane, became intelligible to the mind of the initiated, to those who had the privilege of listening to the lectures of Pythagoras, of the Hierophant or of the priests of the temple of Isis.

We as Masons propose a general desire of knowledge and a sincere wish to render ourselves more extensively serviceable to our fellow-creatures, and we are assured that after having acquainted ourselves with the principles of moral truth and virtue we are permitted to extend our researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science.

Prompted by such desires and encouraged by those privileges I have attempted to raise the veil which obscures matters that should be intelligible to us, and if by means of this lecture, I have been successful in removing from your minds any doubts respecting our secret rites and in showing to you the origin of our mysteries, ceremonies and symbols, my object has been accomplished and I shall feel fully compensated for the labor I have bestowed in compiling the same.

PARLIAMENTARY LAW, AS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MASONIC BODIES.

BY ALBERT G. MACKEY, M. D.

(From Mackey's *National Freemason*.)

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

Parliamentary Law, or the *Lex Parliamentaria*, is that code originally framed for the government of the Parliament of Great Britain in the transaction of its business, and subsequently adopted, with necessary modifications, by the Congress of the United States.