

and, having seriously perused them, consider whether your natural disposition will incline you to be conformable to them. Next call for the roll, or list of members, where you may find the names of some of your most intimate and esteemed friends, or perhaps the names of such other of your acquaintances, as you would not choose to associate with."—*Freemason's Repository*.

MASONIC PORTRAIT—THE KNIGHT ERRANT.

THE following is thought to be a pen portrait of William James Huhan, the eminent English Masonic writer. His name is not mentioned, but the portrait is too perfect to be mistaken.

He who imagines that the spirit of chivalry has disappeared from society must be but a poor observer of men and manners. Men do not, indeed, in these days, don armour and roam over the world in search of adventures; no enthusiast in pursuance of a rash vow insists upon breaking a lance with every equal that chance throws in his way, nor do staid beings of the masculine gender make it their especial business to fight for the weak and helpless. Yet the spirit of chivalry remains in the midst of us. Many a man who does not wear golden spurs or knightly armour is fully entitled to take the rank with the glorious heroes of the past. The knight errant of these days, perhaps, might compare unfavorably with his ancient prototype in mere appearance. A suit of which the black frock of these modern days looks positively prosaic, if not barbarous. But, if we forget the mere paraphernalia of the knights of the past, and regard only the essentials of knighthood, we shall be inclined to think that many of the men around us would, in earlier and more warlike times, have shone in the lists and in the tented field. Courage, gentleness, simplicity, devotion to duty, unselfishness and perseverance, are attributes which are not so uncommon that we have to search far to find them united in the person of some plain, unpretending son of Adam.

Modern society, with its complex relations, affords a man who is inclined to be chivalrous ample scope to indulge his tactics and fancies. Although there are no giants to encounter, or dragons to be slain, nor indeed any necessity for the modern knight errant to carry a butchering tool on his thigh, there are yet evils to be remedied and wrongs to be righted—in short, work enough to engage the attention of a legion possessed of the calm courage of Amadis de Gaul, or the enthusiasm of Bayard. Let us grant, indeed, at once, that society, in its blind selfishness, usually regards the modern knight errant as a dreamer and enthusiast. The purer a man's motives may be, the less easy it is for grovelling natures to understand him. The vulgar theory that every man has his price, or, in other words, that men do not work for society without a selfish motive, is too commonly entertained by persons who would at once disclaim for themselves all thought of ministering to the wants of their fellows. Purity of heart, benevolence, and charity, these people do not understand; and if we were to introduce to their notice the Masonic knight errant, whose virtues have inspired the foregoing reflections, they would understand him as a little. Yet our knight has done valiant deeds, which fully entitled him to wear the golden spurs. His armor and shield, if we may be permitted the use of a figure of speech, bear marks of many a passage of arms in which he has gallantly upheld the cause of truth and Masonry. At this moment he is preparing to break a lance with doughty warriors on the other side of the Atlantic; the coming melee is, however, but a mere interlude in his busy life; and, between the episodes of lance-breaking, he finds time to continue those great labors which have made him famous throughout the Order. Our knight errant's most trusty weapon, we need scarcely say, is the pen. He has written and has edited many works, and is a diligent contributor to the Masonic press at home and abroad. His "Charges" and "Memorials" are widely known and appreciated. With the prosaic and practical portion of the Fraternity he might pass for a dreamer. He possesses, indeed, a poetic nature, though we are not aware that he has given any outward manifestation of it in verse. And the so-called dreamers and enthusiasts are essentially poetical. The half truth to a dull mind becomes to their mental vision a fully-developed and glorious reality, opening up vistas of distant fields of conquest or new ideas for study and reflection.

Our knight errant has turned over the musty pages of the past in search of antiquarian lore, and has written learnedly upon those abstruse historical questions in connection with Masonry which have exercised the minds of many of the brightest members of the Fraternity. He is a philanthropist in the widest acceptation of the term, and never speaks or writes without an eye to the ulterior object, which is the good of his fellow men. Although a controversialist by nature, no man with whom we are acquainted is