

The splendid *Hymn to the Trinity* was then sung with great effect, which closed the religious exercises. Miss Jessie Read presided at the melodeon with much taste and ability during the service, and was ably assisted by an efficient choir.

THE MASONIC CEREMONY.

The Masonic Ceremony was then begun by the Acting G. M. delivering the following appropriate introductory address :

"Men, women, and children, here assembled to-day, know all of you that we are lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, and established of old, with peace and honor in most countries, to do good to our Brethren and fellow-creatures, to assist in the erection of buildings, and to fear God, who is the G. A. of all things. It is alleged by the uncharitable that we have secrets, which is true ; but as these are lawful and honorable, they should be so regarded, and not treated as a reproach against us. Every human association has secrets, —yea, even private families and individuals ; and these secrets they are equally careful in concealing. To the worthy who seek admission to our portals, our secrets are cheerfully confided. They have only to knock, and the door is opened unto them. But to the unworthy, the secrets of Masonry are too pure and holy to be revealed ; hence many knock in vain. It is also urged that bad men creep into our fold, which we cannot gainsay. But this being so is no argument against our ancient Order, whose great light is the Holy Bible ; whose teachings inculcate piety and virtue, mingled with the ennobling principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth ; and whose records from time immemorial show that the commands of the G. A. O. T. U., thundered from Mount Sinai, have no more devout observers over the face of the earth than faithful Freemasons, who

"Meet upon the Level and act upon the Square,
And Plumb their deeds to keep in view
God's laws and gems most rare."

Were this otherwise, the prince and the potentate, the philosopher and the sage, would not be enrolled amongst our