

worthy candidates would be rejected, but in many cases gentlemen would be excluded to whom the privileges of Masonry are nothing short of unnecessary extravagance, for, from the point of view at present occupied, Freemasonry must be considered as a luxury only available for those who can afford to patronize it. Its teachings, it is true, are intended alike for the rich and poor, but its obligations—if properly understood—are of such a character as to make it a measure exclusive for those who cannot afford to pay a good price for their amusement and instruction.

Our American brethren follow up their idea as to primary responsibility, with some instructive and well meant rules as to the action of a lodge towards a strange brother, and the liability of a brother's mother lodge for any aid rendered by others, all of which appears to be opposed to English ideas, and yet we could hope that it was not only otherwise, but that it was really the system under which our Freemasonry was worked; although we know it is practically impossible for such ever to be the case, as there are so many obstacles to prevent it, first and foremost being the feeling that any extension of Masonic benefits in the direction intimated, would open the door too wide for imposition. When we consider that it would be possible for any one to seek admission to Freemasonry so as to secure for himself and his family certainty of subsistence in years to come, we see how impossible it would be to practically carry out the obligations to which Freemasons are morally bound.—*Freemasons' Journal*.

If a man is not a better man for being a Mason, then he is not a good Mason.

THE foundation-stone of Freemasonry, and consequently its strength, is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF MASONRY.

There is a beautiful harmony between the laws of the land and the laws of Masonry, and notwithstanding our enemies have said that we are banded together for the purpose of defeating or overthrowing the government and its laws, nothing could be wider from the truth. There is no law in the country which we are commanded to obey, that is not rendered more obligatory upon us by the ties of Masonry; this fact is well known and understood by every just and upright member of the institution, and to argue otherwise is but to argue the exception, and not the rule. That there are those in the Masonic fraternity who violate laws, and forget the vows which are upon them, is to assert that Masons are but men, and that in this, as in all other institutions, the church not excepted, there are those who disregard the pure and elevated precepts which these institutions teach.

The edicts of the country in which we live, require us to obey the laws which are enacted for the government of our moral character, in order that public confidence may be maintained, and that the affairs of life may pass along quietly and smoothly, and execute their legitimate purpose in contributing to the happiness and general good of all. This law finds an echo in the Masonic institution, and he who has been adorned with the square, and armed with the emblem of authority, can never forget the time when this lesson was impressed upon his memory.

When the tocsin of war sounded in our ears, and the blades of the valiant and loyal leaped from their scabbards to repel the effects of the plots and conspiracies which had been formed against the government, with what force must the remembrance of the obligation of loyalty have come home to the minds of those who had so solemnly pledged themselves to avoid all such plots and conspiracies, and