

class of society prior to the middle ages. The existence of this monument entirely refutes the assertions of the enemies of the Craft, that Masonry did not exist as such, prior to 1700.—*Boston World.*

THAT prince of good fellows Sir Knight James A. Rich, who devotes so much of his time to furthering the interests of Palestine Commandery, No. 18, New York City, has placed us under another obligation to him, in sending us an invitation to attend the Eighth Annual Reception of Palestine Commandery, our only regret being that we cannot possibly attend. The invitation cards and programmes are perfect gems, and a marvel of the printer's and lithographer's art. Everything connected with the Reception is managed by Sir Knight Rich in the most able manner, and such a gathering must be a grand sight. Cappa's band, 110 pieces, furnish the music.

WHAT IS MASONRY?—Alphonso de Lamartine, the distinguished French poet, orator, and statesman, once asked:—"What is Masonry?" and answered himself thus:—"I see only in the secrets of the lodges a veil of modesty thrown upon truth and charity to heighten their beauty. You are, in my opinion, the great eclectics of the modern world. You cull from all time, all countries, all systems, all philosophies, the evident, eternal, and immutable principles of universal morality, and you blend them into an infallible and unanimously accepted dogma of fraternity. You reject everything that divides minds, and profess everything that unites hearts. You are manufacturers of concord. With your trowels you spread the cement of virtue about the foundation of society. Your symbols are but figures. If I am not mistaken in this interpretation of your dogmas, the curtain of your mysteries might be drawn without fear of revealing anything but services rendered to humanity."

So MORE IT BE.—We love this quaint old response. To us it means unity born of harmony, which is the key to heavenly enjoyment. It says we have sat together on the Level, and profit has been its fruit; that we are better men for so doing, and as little things make up our natural Temple, so these meetings, from time to time, build up our spiritual. It should be our aim to make these words golden. Let them be an echo from the heart. They are a benediction born of a charity which has its sustenance from a world unseen by mortal eyes,—the source of all inspiration. For more than a century has this Masonic saying been borne heavenward as incense. We trust, as the years roll by, they will be dearer, as the sun of that land of rest begins to shed its lustre over the mountain peaks which look upon a landscape where a weary footfall is never heard, and tears and sighs are aliens. Amen. So mote it be.—*Portland Masonic Journal.*

THE London *Freemason* in its very interesting account of the doings of the Craft for 1885, is unfortunate in making the following reference to the so-called Mark Lodge in Quebec:—"We may go so far as to suggest as yet another indication of Mark prosperity that its Grand Lodge has been, and indeed still is, engaged in a battle royal with the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Quebec, though we believe we are right in stating that for the time, at all events, the difference between the two supreme authorities is in a position of suspended animation. However, we will not press this suggestion too earnestly, or our friends may charge us with being careless and irreverent." The "battle royal" must be going on in the mind of our contemporary. No one in this country pays any attention to the Mark Masons made in Montreal by the Lodges of the so-called Grand Mark Lodge of England. These "Mark" Masons form a little mutual admiration society of their own, but have no recognition outside of that charmed circle.