

triangle, placed in the centre towards the rising of the sun; chequered with the *opus greecanicum*, circumscribed with scroll work, permeating through the Sephiroth, and graduating to a perfect heptad.

"There! Let the cowan digest that, and I will then impart some further instruction to edify his mind. He may think these are terrors of diablerie and ghost-raising. But I assure him they are not. It is true, an ancient objection against the Order was, that the Freemasons, in their lodges, 'raise the devil in a circle, and when they have done with him, they lay him again with a noise or a hush, as they please.' Others diverted themselves with the story of an old woman between the rounds of a Ladder; or with the cook's red hot iron or Salamander for making the indelible character on the new made Mason, in order to give him the faculty of taciturnity. I once initiated a Welsh Rector, who was full of the Horatian urbanity as he could hold. Alas! he is gone to the world of spirits, and a better man does not occupy his place. He told me, before he was *made*, in his off hand way, that, being desirous of a private interview with his Satanic majesty, he sought initiation as the most probable method of attaining his point; for he understood that he was generally found in *propria persona* at our meetings, and amused the brethren by beating a tattoo on the board with his hoof!!! Many a laugh have we had together after his admission, when he knew what the true tendency of Masonry was, and the real causes of any extraordinary sounds which might be easily misconstrued.

"These, then, constitute some of the absurd conjectures of those unquiet spirits who are ever restless in their search after facts which constantly elude their grasp; and they are as far from enlightenment on the abstruse principles of the Order as were their forefathers, the cowans of the eighteenth century, whose pretended revelations were fated, each in its turn, to disbelief and rejection from all right-minded men. One half the time and talent which they bestow upon the acquisition of illegal knowledge, where their toil cannot fail to be fruitless, would, if they had received initiation, like my friend the Rector, and their enquiries had been directed into a legitimate channel, have converted them into good and worthy brothers, and given them an insight into the poetry and philosophy of Masonry. This would have secured a permanent satisfaction to their own minds, and conferred upon them the approbation of the Fraternity.

A DEFENCE OF MASONRY.

THE Rev. G. E. Thrall, who is not a Mason, is the editor of the *Church Union*, a religious paper published in New York. A few months ago he obtained possession of Brother Albert Pike's "Morals and Dogmas," and read the work for the purpose of obtaining some knowledge of the ancient history of Freemasonry. On October 17th, he published an able article on Masonry, suggested by what he had read. From this article we select the following paragraphs, as showing the conclusions to which an intelligent scholar and a Christian divine has been brought by his reflections on this much vexed question of Freemasonry.

In the commencement of the article, Mr. Thrall says:

We are not Masons, and never expect to be. The Church is our Catharine de Borar, and we intend no other alliance. But we have long felt anxious to know what the Fraternity meant. We have heard it abused without measure. Some of our exchanges now lying on our table, speak of it as the Synagogue of Satan, and we remember the bitterness excited against it in the public mind when Wm. H. Seward first sprung into notice. But that we knew to be all froth. The father of the writer has been a Mason for half a century, and his uncle was Grand Master of Ohio for years. The character of these men satisfied us that the Order was not unchristian. And then, over in Morristown, New Jersey, is the very room still existing where George Washington became an initiate of the Fraternity; that satisfied us as to the charge of its being un-American.

But on the other hand, the arguments commonly used in its favor were provokingly mysterious and inconclusive. The fact of its charities to the sick, and its advocacy of good morals never explained to us its existence; the Order of Odd Fellows was founded on the one and the Order of the Sons of Temperance on the other, but both have risen and fallen in our own day. We knew there was something more than this in a Fraternity which, avoiding rather than seeking the popular favor, which, hardly taking the trouble to reply to its defamers, is building the costliest temples in the land, and which, reaching back into the ages, antedates every empire and dynasty and institution on the earth, excepting alone the imperishable Church of God.

He concludes his essay in the following words, which we heartily commend to the close attention of all the vituperators of Masonry, from *Pius the Ninth* to the editor of the *Cynosure*.