

wherever it is known. It has a history, yet who can give it in full previous to its transformation from operative to speculative Masonry in 1717. It has a literature that is well worth the attention of any mind. It has laws for its government that equal in importance any civil law. It has its customs and usages that are full of good intents. It has stood the tests, and will stand for ages to come, if the brethren will be true to themselves and its principles.

To put into practice the principles that Masonry inculcates, is not for to-day, but for all time. The forms and ceremonies of Masonry are solemn and impressive ones, containing not one word of mockery or defamation of religion, or of the Word of God.

The Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masonry, is open upon every Masonic altar; it is the guide of our faith and the rule of our conduct. Masonry eschews all religions, political or social questions, in its lodge rooms; yet it teaches each of its members to be true to God, his country, his neighbor, and himself. Such, in part, is Masonry.

If any brother is possessed with the erroneous idea that there is nothing to learn of Masonry, let him spend a few hours time in the library of any Masonic student, and unless his egotism overbalances everything else, he will soon find that there is something to learn, and that he is one of the most ignorant of Masons.

Yes, my brethren, there is everything to learn in Masonry. Then let us set about learning it; let us study its history, literature, and laws; let us be proficient in the ritualistic work; but, above all, let us put into practice those noble principles which teach friendship, morality, and brotherly love; let us not only speak but act with relief, truth, and charity; let us try to be learned Masons, and to the best of our ability, to be Masons in deed and fact, as well as in name.—
Masonic Chronicle.

WHAT IS MOST NEEDED.

Freemasonry is admitted by all to be the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It has come down from one generation to another through a succession of ages until its origin has been lost in the remote past of prehistoric time. Founded upon the immortal rock of truth, it has stood immutable while all things else have changed or have been obliterated by decay. So far as pertains to outward forms and ceremonies, it can not be claimed that there has been no change in Freemasonry, nor that they are now universally the same. So widely extended into every country and among every race of people upon the face of the earth, these must necessarily be adapted, to a certain extent, to their habits and the facilities afforded to communicate and impress upon others the sublime mystery. But there is an universal language of Masonry that is readily recognized, although the words spoken may be in an unknown tongue. The Mason traveling around the world would never find himself where the talismanic sign would fail of recognition, or his Masonic appeal for assistance would be made in vain.

Freemasonry, thus possessing as it does, over all other institutions in the world, the prestige of age and universality; enrolling at the present day among its patrons nearly all of the crowned heads of the old world and the great statesmen of the new; carrying upon its roll of honored dead the names of heroes and patriots whose noble deeds will live throughout all time, and upon its roll of living the names of hundreds of thousands of good men and true; has within itself all the elements necessary to command respect, and to commend it to the good opinion of the world at large. It requires no other advertising or clap-trap inventions of any sort, to attract attention and bring to its doors for admission such men as would be an honor to the institution.