

equivalent for *Jehovah* among the Egyptians, as *Jah* was among the Syrians, and *Bel* among the Chaldees. The modern Masonic corruption of this word into 'Lun' is sheer nonsense."

"Aum, Aun, or On. The Hindoo and Egyptian Chief Deity."

When Companion Mackey published the first edition of the work from which we have quoted, he had discovered that the practice of saying "Lun" was wrong and declared it to be "sheer nonsense."

Nevertheless, Companion Loring Chase, now living in Winchendon, Mass., who was exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason in a chapter in Bath, New Hampshire, upwards of fifty-one years ago, received the word and used it in that form; he afterwards removed to Danville, Vermont, and became a member of Zerubbabel Chapter, where it was pronounced in like manner; but no doubt Lun was a corruption of the word we now use.

In promoting his business interests in early life, Comparison Willis was for a time, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree; afterwards removing to New York, he was certified in that State as qualified to receive the Order of High Priesthood, September 25, 1820. He afterwards lived in Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and in March, 1849, was duly appointed as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry for the Grand Chapter of Scotland, he being then in Halifax, Nova Scotia; which office he held for four years, with so much credit to himself and satisfaction to the parent body, that he was reappointed, and continued to discharge its duties for many years. Perhaps no man in the British Dependencies is more thoroughly versed in the knowledge of the rituals in Scotch, Irish and English Royal Arch Masonry than he.

Nothing in the whole body of Masonry is more sensitive than its ritual; touch it, though it be ever so gently, in the spirit of change or innovation, and at once it becomes feverish with discontent: being non-aggressive itself, none are admitted to its privileges to make constant or occasional inroads upon its organic domain; conservative in character, charitable in opinion, generous in judgment, all its members are under the obligation which these qualities impose to protect, defend and transmit its traditions.

It is not given, therefore, to any man, or body of men, to find opportunities for change, as egotism, caprice or self interest may dictate.

If it was claimed a score of years ago that "Lun" should be eliminated, that might be justified on philological grounds, or by the light of History, which shows the variety of names under which Deity was worshipped by the Hindoos, Egyptians and Greeks; but to now eliminate On and its association is to abandon our traditions and to destroy the triliteral form and significance of the word, as well as to cut the line of descent by which we may trace the antiquity of our inheritance.

Doubtless it is, and will be, very interesting to know what Companions Mackey and Pike, in their great learning, may be pleased to write or say; but very unsafe, doubtful and dangerous to adopt their conclusions.

But let us examine the reasons given for the change. On, called by the Greeks Heliopolis, is a city in Egypt, and as such, is said to have no Masonic significance, and ought to be eliminated.

If this were true, it might be dignified by a serious consideration; but the statement is too narrow, and is not a sufficient reason for change, even if On had no other significance,