

Enoch taught and Noah exemplified by his faith in God—truths that David sang and Solomon typified by his temporal temple, and which the gentle Nazarene taught to the wondering Jews on the plains of Galilee. Masonry is not religion; it is a System of morality based on truth and fortified by Charity.

Freemasonry does not for one moment pretend to interfere with the rights of any man. All our teachings inculcate a belief in the great fatherhood of God and the grand brotherhood of man.

We enter not into the merits of the dogmas of religious belief—to do so would make us sectarian.

Freemasonry is universally Catholic. The God of the Christian, the God of the Musselman, and the God of the Hebrew are alike respected by us.

We worship the one great God.

We bow to the one Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent Deity; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. The Father of mankind.

So mote it be!

Why then should certain branches of the Christian Church attack us?

We interfere not with the religious dogmas of any man.

We believe every man has a right to worship his Creator according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Thousands of us have ranged ourselves under the banners of the Knights Templar and there pledged our faith in a trine God.

But the Templar asks not his brother in symbolic masonry to declare a faith in Immanuel.

The Israelite is true to his principles and the christian on his death bed feeds on the body and blood of Christ.

Why then, or how then, dare certain sects attack us?

The answer is that they are narrow-minded, bigoted and intolerant. Their ideas are cramped, their thoughts muzzled, and their brains centred in a certain channel.

When God breathed the breath of life

into man he inspired him with freedom. Liberty to judge, to act, to work. Masons impose no chains on their brethren, but kneel together, hand clasping hand, around their altars soliciting only Obedience to God and Brotherhood towards man.

So mote it be.

#### MARK DEGREE IN ENGLAND & ROYAL ARK MARINERS.

We regret to learn that the proposed treaty between the Grand Mark Lodge and Grand Ark Lodge of England has not come to any satisfactory termination. We think there are faults on both sides, but we confess we cannot see why the Supreme Grand Commander of Royal Ark Mariners, Most Worshipful Brother Morton Edwards, is to yield everything to the Grand Mark Lodge. We therefore, fully endorse his action in the premises, and concur with him in his recent action relative to the admission of Master Masons in good standing. The Grand Mark Lodge has no right to usurp the authority of the Grand Ark Lodge, and by thus ignoring that body the Grand Master of Ark Mariners has placed the matter in a proper light before the masonic world. The following is the letter to *The Freemason*, (London):

(To the Editor of the *Freemason*.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your impression of the 22nd July, a letter appears signed Frederick Binckes, in which that brother talks very learnedly about certain matters connected with the Order of Royal Ark Mariners. This, Sir, calls for no reply on my part other than as a matter of courtesy to your readers and for their benefit, I beg to state that Bro. Binckes is not fully acquainted with the working of the Order over which I have the honor to preside, and therefore I do not feel justified, it being of a very superior grade, and having privileges and immunities not enjoyed by the Mark degree, to reply to any questions propounded by those of inferior standing.

I will also state that the treaty signed