

The more advanced Mason is under still greater obligation to maintain in its fullest splendor, this crown of the four cardinal virtues, Temperance; and there are amongst us multitudes who faithfully discharge this most important duty to themselves,—to others, and to the Great Ruler and Governor of all; but it is very sad to be compelled to acknowledge that there are those of our number, who, while commendably resisting many other temptations, suffer themselves to indulge in the excessive use of intoxicating drinks.

From this cause much injury is brought upon themselves and sorrow upon their families; others are led thereby into temptation, and great scandal is brought upon our beloved Fraternity.

It may not be practicable to say what, in this matter, is the exact rule of duty binding upon all men under all circumstances; but it may be safely asserted that he who indulges this and any other like appetite to the greatest moderation, is a prudent man and a good Freemason; and it is probably true that, for many men at least, the safest rule is totally to refrain from the use of all that intoxicates. Lodges, too, should carefully avoid all arrangements which tend in any way to intemperance and excess.

MASONIC LITERATURE.

It is the duty of every craftsman to devote his leisure hours more especially to the study of such of the liberal Arts and Sciences as may lie within the compass of his attainment, and, without neglecting the ordinary duties of his station, he is to consider himself called upon to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

No previous age afforded such ample facilities to enable the zealous Mason successfully to cultivate his intellectual and moral faculties, and thus enable him to show forth the glory of God, and render himself useful in promoting the happiness of mankind.

The inestimable blessings of the Printing Press are nowhere more apparent than in affording more light in Masonry. The rich and varied literature of the craft everywhere abounds. Proportionate to one's means, a well selected private library, is a necessity to the seeker after Masonic truth, and particularly to him who would fit himself acceptably to perform whatever official duties may be devolved upon him by the affection and favor of his brethren.

Nor can I forbear expressing my high appreciation of the value to the Craft, of the many excellent periodicals now published in almost every portion of the globe, and I beg to suggest to all, and especially to newly-made brethren, that next after having become possessors of copies of the constitution of the Grand Lodge, and the By-Laws of their own private Lodge, they should become permanent subscribers to one or more Masonic periodicals, as their means shall allow.

• FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTIANITY.

Although Freemasonry requires no defence from its votaries, yet in deference to the objections of many friendly non-Masons, who occasionally express their misgivings anent our fraternity because, as they allege, of its non-recognition of Christianity. I am constrained to depart so far from our ordinary rule of strict silence as to say, for the general information of such, that Freemasonry at present consists of at least three grand divisions, namely: Ancient Craft or Symbolic Masonry; Royal Arch, or Capitular Masonry; and Knights Templars-Chivalric, or Christian Masonry. Other more inclusive divisions need not here be alluded to. The first of these, the Ancient or Symbolic, is based upon these universal principals of true religion, the Fatherhood of God, the Great Architect and Ruler of Heaven and Earth, and the Brotherhood of Man, and its special Historic traditions extend from the earliest period to the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple; The Royal Arch or Capitular, is based upon the same great principles, more extensively elaborated and applied, and its historic traditions extend to the restoration of a chosen people from Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel; the third, or Templar Masonry, is of more modern origin, and is chiefly based upon the great principles and Historic facts of the Christian faith.

The objections, therefore, sometimes concientiously raised by non-Masons, that Masonry is non- or anti-Christian, is a generalization too sweeping in character, and springs from a want of knowledge of the great facts pertaining to our Fraternity.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

For the information of younger Brethren, and for other obvious reasons, I am induced briefly to enunciate the few following fundamental principles of Freemasonry anent the organization of Grand Lodges, and having especial reference to the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

In every distinct Territory, having a Legislature of its own, there exists the Masonic right to (form) an independant, sovereign Grand Lodge.