

with a man, no Freemason can refuse to fellowship.

It is sometimes said that Masonry is antagonistic to the Church of Rome. If that were so, I should not be addressing you. There may be organizations whose objects or one of whose objects can fairly be said to be opposition to Roman Catholicism. Masonry is not one of these. She has no antipathy to the Catholic. She opens her doors wide to the Catholic. She ignores the opposition of the Church of Rome and refuses to allow herself to be placed in a false position. It may be that from the point of view of his Church, no Catholic can become a Freemason and remain a Catholic. I do not know,—that depends upon the rules of the Church with which I am not familiar; but from the point of view of his Order, a Freemason may become a Catholic and remain a Freemason—that depends upon the laws of Freemasonry, with which I am.

To return to our subject. As a necessary consequence of the Prussian theory, when the State composed of supermen desires anything, it must have it. No bargain previously made can be considered binding. Every treaty becomes a scrap of paper when it seems profitable for the State of supermen so to consider it. A Belgium standing in the way of a successful drive by Prussia is trodden under foot, ravaged, destroyed, its people tortured and butchered. The command "the innocent and righteous slay thou not" is laughed to scorn, and the unutterable meanness is perpetrated and gloried in, of blackening the character of the innocent that some sort of justification may be made to appear for all this devilishness. It needs not that I should remind Masons of the sanctity with which their institution clothes a promise, the tenderness it teaches towards the weak, the imperative command it gives to protect the innocent. No

true Freemason could have perpetrated the awful infamy of Belgium—an infamy which will stain the escutcheon of Germany till time shall be no more and which will weigh her down to the hell of the oppressor, the liar, the thief and the murderer.

And what of the conduct of Britain? Even Germany admitted at first, that Britain did all that she could to prevent the outbreak of war; until Germany saw that Britain would not play the part of the contract-breaker, would not assent to the infamous propositions of Germany, even Germany gave Britain high praise, and justly so. Of course, when the full extent of German treachery and ambition was disclosed and Britain took her stand for the right, the tune was changed and Germany tried to throw upon her some part if not the whole of the blame for the war. No one believes Germany—except a few Germans at home or abroad, if even they. Britain did all that was humanly possible, all that Germany would permit her to do to avoid this fearful conflict—but in vain. And when the voice of wronged Belgium came across the channel, imploring the fulfilment of the promise of assistance, Britain sprang to arms as one man to defend the innocent and succor the unfortunate.

With which cause does Masonry sympathize? With the "blond beast," trampling all in his way, sparing nor old nor young, nor man nor woman, nor priest nor layman—laying waste and destroying garden and field and church and cottage—levying a toll of blood and agony and death and worse than death—or the new St. George against fearful odds rushing to defend the innocent and destroy the monster? To ask the question is to answer it. And if actions speak louder than words, let the tens of thousands of dollars sent by the Masons of the Grand Register of Canada in this one