

In one of the degrees especial stress is laid on the duty of improving the mind, and storing it with the fruits of general knowledge. The study of the arts and sciences is recommended, together with such investigation into the laws of nature, and attention to the wisdom brought to light by the labors and researches of great minds, as will have a tendency both to enlarge the scope of thought and impart a true enlightenment to the soul.

Masonry desires a membership that shall be disposed to much active thought, that shall be anxious to quaff deeply of the fountains of wisdom and truth. It knows that its strength will be the greater when the Craftsmen all wear the stamp of intelligence, and give evidence of large acquisitions gathered from every department of knowledge.

But Masonry has a knowledge peculiarly its own to be studied and treasured up. A man may be called a Mason and have membership in the Fraternity after two or three half hours of ceremonial experience, and when he has been put in possession of certain signs and pass-words. But he is only a Mason *in name* if he pauses and rests content with the acquirement of this much of ceremony and formal practice. He wants the key to the significance of everything he has witnessed. He needs to realize the fact that Masonry as an art and a science makes large demands on the thought, and amply repays the most careful investigation. He is to consider that the wonderful symbolism by which it seeks to illustrate its truths and principles can only be understood by giving close and unwearied attention thereto. Then he is to remember that Masonry has both a history and a literature of its own, and that ignorance here is wholly inexcusable. As it exists to-day, making it self felt all over the globe, unfolding its character in a multitude of ways, it is doing a work which the intelligent Craftsman can not afford to let pass without thought or notice.

Masonry is a secret Institution only as regards those essentials which constitute the bond of working fellowship among its members. These essentials should be sacredly held in the Lodge room and in the recesses of faithful breasts. But the general history, character, principles, proceedings and work of the Institution may have the widest publicity. A public installation, or other meeting to which the profane are admitted, and where the teaching and spirit of Masonry are shown, will often be of service, while the knowledge that may properly be communicated in books and papers will add power to the Institution in a variety of ways.

Dr. Oliver tells of a time, only a hundred and fifty years ago, when universal consternation prevailed among the Craft in England, at the idea of using the printing press to disseminate the laws, transactions and usages of the Fraternity. He also states that "experience has proven that such fears were groundless; for Freemasonry made little or no progress until its claims to respect and veneration were fairly laid before the world in printed form." Happily such fears no longer exist, albeit we occasionally hear some benighted brother declare that if he could have his way there should be no Masonic literature of any kind. The thoughtful, intelligent Mason desires to become acquainted with the history and aims of the Institution, the origin and significance of its ceremonial, the meaning of its emblems, and its work and progress in the world. To acquire this knowledge he may properly avail himself of the labors and researches of able minds who have brought to light a wealth of material; he may read the books they have written, together with Masonic journals and proceedings that show the present workings of the Institution, gratifying thus the desire for knowledge which should be a working element in the Masonic character.—*Freemason's Repository*.

FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA.

THERE are now 202 Masonic Lodges, having a membership of 12,000 brethren, in California. The Grand Lodge just closed its Annual Grand Communication on October 13th, inst. The proceedings were unusually interesting. The following interesting extracts are from the address of Bro. George C. Perkins, Grand Master:

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND MASONRY.

During the past year one great religious association has raised its voice as a body against the Order of Masonry, and ostracised those of its members who held fellowship with us. While we must condemn this unwarrantable bigotry, we recognize and pay all homage to the many acts of charity and benevolence extended to those in distress by the disciples of that Church, and we would not tarnish by word or thought the lustre of that bright star of promise awaiting to reward those who have by their vows devoted a life in her service, administering to those in affliction and comforting the unfortunate. As Masonry remembers this it forgets the wrong they would do it. "With malice toward none and charity for all," it raises not its voice against its aggressor, but quietly pursues its mission of doing good to all. It does not array itself against any religion or proclaim itself a substitute, but it inculcates the Divine maxim of "Love thy neigh-