

ble, we should not have existed for so many centuries, nor should we have had so many illustrious brothers in our Order, ever ready to sanction our proceedings and contribute to our prosperity. To-day we are assembled in the presence of you all, to lay the corner stone of this building according to the rules of Masonry; but before proceeding, our Rev. Chaplain will implore a blessing from Heaven on the undertaking.

GRAND CHAPLAIN.—Almighty and Eternal God, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, at whose creative fiat all thing were at first made: We, the frail creatures of thy providence, do humbly beseech of thee to pour down on this convocation the continual dew of thy blessing.

More especially we invoke thy blessing on this undertaking; ever remembering the object and aim of this institution—obedience to thy most holy laws. Grant, we beseech thee, that our Order may flourish in every part of the globe, become influential in the diffusion of the light of wisdom, aiding and strengthening reason and dissipating and lessening human vice. May it teach us to regulate our actions by the rule of unity, square our conduct by the principle of morality, and guide our thoughts and our conversation within the compass of propriety.

May the edifice which is this day commenced be carried forward to its completion prosperously. Do thou protect the workmen; secure them from all injury; and when completed, may it be the means of strengthening our Order.

Finally, grant unto us the knowledge of thy truth. Do thou be our Ruler; and finally admit us into thy kingdom, for thy great Name's sake. Amen.

Glory be to God on high.

RESPONSE.—As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.