

and why your servant has tried to disinter it from the grave of tradition, and scrape off the ancestral mould and secure its recognition as a *live*, beneficent power. This chair recognizes no distinction in the quality of a Mason, outside of character; what any one is worth as a *man*, is just what he is worth as a *Mason*. The terms of the equation are equal, and he is the most accomplished Mason who is the most rapport with the best thought of the hour.

This is the only line on which we can "fight the good fight," that is to win crowns. The Mason of the future must be the peer of the best man in the community, or the best man in the community will give Masonry a wide berth, because in the days that are coming, institutions are to be judged by their fruits. The class who are so good that they are good for nothing have had their day. Live men are going to take the reins and drive, and things will have to conform and be attuned to the ideas of that class. Already is heard the "Slogan" of enlightened sentiment in the management of affairs. Along with the mouldy dogmas and cramped ideas of the dark ages, are also vanishing the dark, gloomy halls, and the frigid austerity of power.—*Grand Commander Carpenter, of Wisconsin.*

MASONIC DOCTRINE OF THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL.

THE address of Grand High Priest Companion George A. Donnelly, of Arkansas, is an admirable production, abounding in rich gems of thought and clothed in beautiful and eloquent inquiry. He says:

Masonry not only looks back to the time when darkness brooded over the waters, and God said, "Let there be light, and there was light," but looks forward, beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity, to a period when the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who, by one omnific fiat, caused this fair fabric of the universe to spring into existence, who spake and it was done, commanded and it stood fast, shall by his omnific power, raise the sheeted dead to a life of immortality. A thought wholesome and full of comfort. This is the general sentiment of mankind, especially of Masons. But few are found to doubt it. Notwithstanding the absence of a written revelation in many parts of the earth, and the consequent moral darkness which shrouds the nations, still that great truth, revealed by God in the Garden of Paradise nearly sixty centuries ago, that man was to inherit immortality, has not been entirely lost nor forgotten; but being vested with immortality, it has lived on in glorious remembrance; rising superior to Eden's wreck and ruin, it still burns in human hearts and kindles an undying glory in every human hope. Taught as it is by Masonry, it has wandered on through every tribe and nation, kindred and people, until its testimony is found in every land and under every sky, from the dwarfed Greenlander to the giant-grown Patagonian—from the dweller in oriental climes to him whose home is at the setting sun. Everywhere man reaches forth his arms to embrace a future; everywhere and in everything man strives to read his future and his rest. The sun-tanned children of the woods, as they wander among the wild scenery of their mountains, rehearse it in their legends of distant smiling seas and islands of green. The polished and erudite Greek proclaims it in his classic stories of Hesperian gardens and Elysian fields of purity and flowers. But above all, the Royal Arch Mason glories in it as he sees the veil of the Sacred Tabernacle drawn aside by the hand that spans eternal ages, and as he listens to the song of the celestial harpers as it rises and swells like a tiara of glory, beneath the bending arches of immortality.

The Committee to whom was referred the Grand High Priest's Address, reported as follows, and the Grand Chapter unanimously adopted the report:

Your Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, to whom was referred the following decision of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, viz: "That it is not proper to confer the Chapter degrees upon a candidate who does not believe in the immortality of the soul," fraternally submit:

That the belief in a resurrection to a future life is an important landmark in *Masonry*; and as the soul is the only admitted indestructible element or principle in the human organization, its immortality is self-evident, and upon no other hypothesis can the family of man hope or reasonably aspire to enjoy the rewards of a well-spent life beyond the grave. The belief in the immortality of the soul is naturally subsidiary to the belief in the existence of God, and the Mason who claims or teaches a contrary doctrine is virtually in mutiny to one of the dearest, most cherished and well established principles of the Order.

Unanimously impressed that the conclusions as above set forth embrace the law, and what should be the usage, the committee cordially commend the decision of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and recommend its approval.