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**E**minent

**W**itnesses

**A**gainst

**S**ecretism

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**T**HE witnesses in favor of the Secret Lodge System are many, and some have great worldly prominence. This is usually the first argument used by lodgemen when defending themselves for being members of a secret organization, or soliciting others to join with them. We are told that at the present time the King of England and some members of the Royal Court are Masons. In this country we find the President of the United States and some members of his cabinet, as also some members of both houses of Congress, some State Governors and other political leaders, with many Educators, Editors, Scientists and other men of influence in public life—members of lodges.

## CHURCHMEN SUPPORTING LODGISM

Some who are called great in Church affairs are held up as examples to follow as lodgemen—Bishops and Archbishops, Presiding Elders and District Superintendents, Moderators and Stated Clerks of Church Assemblies, with many other professed Christians in the membership of our more fashionable and popular denominations. And the argument runs that if so many of these eminent folk find it good to be members of this or that secret society, there is every reason for the rest of us to become lodgemen.

But do they all "find it good" to have joined? I recently read the statement of one who should know the facts, that of all who join the lodges yearly, it is estimated that at least forty per cent withdraw yearly or allow their membership to lapse. I once talked with a Mason who said that while he was nominally a member, he had no interest in the meetings and never attended. Another Mason gave me as his reason for having joined, that his father and grandfather had been members, but he himself had no real interest and absented himself from the meetings, admitting that the very fact that this is a secret organization put the members under suspicion of concealing something that was not right. Still another Mason recently said to me, "I was disillusioned, and have not gone to a single meeting for over fifteen years."

## HORSE-PLAY OF SECRETISM

What is it in Lodgism that makes it objectionable to some who refuse to join, and distasteful to some others after joining? Some find it too expensive, paying handsomely for initiation fees and trying to keep up with their dues and assessments. Some distrust and resent the lodge obligations and threatened penalties of the oaths imposed. The exclusive-

ness and un-democratic spirit of a lodge is irksome and unwelcome to liberty-loving souls who desire companions of their own choosing. The vulgar horse-play of some initiation services is humiliating and may be dangerous. A friend of mine who had mistakenly consented to go through one of these lodge initiations told me that when the hoodwinker was removed from his eyes and he saw himself in a nightshirt, with a rope around his neck, and the room full of "old buzzards" with whom he had never cared to associate at all, he recovered his own clothes as soon as possible and left that place never to return.

## MASTER-SIN OF MASONRY

All such features of Secretism are secondary to the master-sin of Masonry, in its claim to be God's universal religion though in no sense the Christian religion; that does not pretend to be founded upon the Bible as Christians accept it, and in its use of that sacred Book deliberately cuts out the sacred Name of our Savior wherever it is found.

Here, then, is a false religion whose institutions and forms of worship make no recognition of our need of a Mediator, that never mentions the personality and work of the Holy Spirit, that teaches a code of morals that is not Scriptural, that ignores all need of repentance and faith in Christ, conducting funeral services that are full of heathen superstition; and promising unsaved sinners a future blessedness which they have earned by their own good works.

I repeat this is the Master-Sin of Masonry, and ours is no groundless accusation because the official books and teachings of Masonry distinctly disavow any relation with Christianity, and specifically claim this faith to be of pagan origin. Here is the statement of Mr. Mackey, the chief spokesman of Masonry: "I have no doubt that Freemasonry de-

rives its legends, its symbols, and its methods of instruction from the old religions—sun-worship, tree-worship, animal-worship." And again: "Among the pagans, rites of the most magnificent nature were often used in setting apart their temples to the purposes of worship. A Masonic Lodge is an imitation of these ancient examples, consecrated with mystical ceremonies to the sacred purposes for which it had been constructed." (Textbook of Masonic Jurisprudence, page 288). George W. Chase informs us: "The Jews, the Chinese, the Turks, each reject either the New Testament, or the Old, or both; yet we see no good reason why they should not be made Masons. In face Blue Lodge Masonry has nothing to do with the Bible; it is not founded upon the Bible. If it was it would not be Masonry, it would be something else." (Digest of Masonic Law, pp. 207, 208).

Other quotations of like nature might be made at length, but they are all obtainable from books sold by the Masonic Supply Co., 35 West 32nd St., New York City. With such sources of information within the reach of everyone, the claim of lodgemen that opposers of secret societies know nothing about them, puts a severe strain upon the patience of all who have read such books, especially those just mentioned. A still greater strain is imposed upon us by Christian lodgemen, who in the face of such evidence about the pagan origins and other sins of Masonry and affiliated lodges, choose to enter or continue their support of a self-confessed opponent and antagonist of Christianity.

#### GOD'S TRUE WITNESSES

How happy we should be that when Masonry made its advent in the Appletree Inn of London in 1717, the faithful guardians of the Gospel there recognized in it "the way of Cain" that had survived in the Baal worship of Old Testament times

and had persisted in the paganism of Druid worship, from which Christianity was saving the British Isles. When this false religion had drifted westward and taken root in America, it was opposed by the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, of whom one of the most outstanding and fearless witnesses was Captain William Morgan who in 1826 was abducted and murdered by the Masons in revenge for his opposing them and publishing their secrets to the world. This fact becoming known, the State of New York where the murder was committed, appointed a special committee to work with the regular officers of the law to bring the murderers to justice. Ministers of religion and all friends of right and order were aroused to action, and statesmen like Thurlow Weed, Millard Fillmore, William H. Seward, William Wirt, John Marshall, John Quincy Adams, Thaddeus Stevens, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, Daniel Webster, and many others of like eminence took part in the agitation against the institution that was guilty of this crime.

#### THE GREAT AWAKENING

At that time the whole country was stirred from coast to coast. Church assemblies were deeply affected. Christians came to themselves as witnesses for God and righteousness, for Associations, Conferences, Conventions were held, and resolutions adopted declaring membership in Masonic lodges inconsistent with a credible profession of the Christian faith. Legislatures and Courts of justice were involved in the discussion of the Masonic order, and as a result of the wide-spread awakening of public opinion in this period between 1826 and 1840, Secretism was the most unpopular thing in America, not excepting slavery. Lodgemen were no longer the idols of popular favor, but were glad to keep out of sight and cease their activities. The lodges went down "like falling trees before a hur-

ricane," as one writer puts it. Robert Morris, himself an eminent Mason at that time, admitted that forty-five thousand out of fifty thousand members of that institution left never to return.

#### FOR OUR ADMONITION

This page of American history must needs be read, and re-read many times by us all, because it has the record of sobering facts of which many otherwise intelligent people may be ignorant or find it easy to forget. Those experiences demonstrated the possibility of the Holy Spirit working a revolutionary change in public and private opinion toward an evil which some may think is here to stay. This united opposition of God's people toward Masonry preceded, and was a necessary condition of America receiving one of the greatest spiritual revivals in all our history, and is a condition which we must again fulfill if we seek like blessings in our time.

As an aid to this feeling toward Secretism I am here quoting the words of some who have in the past spoken as eminent witnesses on this subject, whose truth is as cogent now as when first uttered and which the friends of Christ should never let die.

#### MINISTERS AND EVANGELISTS

"What an amazing banter upon all mankind is Freemasonry."—JOHN WESLEY.

"Masonry originated with the Devil and will end with the Devil."—PETER CARTWRIGHT.

"Masonry and Odd-fellowship, a bane in the midst of us, have done us much evil."—BISHOP L. L. HAMLIN.

"Secret societies are forbidden to church members in some denominations, and ought to be in all."—JOSEPH COOK.

"I do not see how any Christian, most of all a

Christian minister, can go into these secret lodges with unbelievers. Do not do evil that good may come. You can never reform anything by un-equally yoking yourself with ungodly men."—D. L. MOODY.

"My strongest objection to Masonry is because of its rivalry to Bible religion. It steps before the Church and is a false, idolatrous religion, without a Savior, and therefore a delusion and snare to all who engage in it, or rest their hope upon it."—J. R. W. SLOANE.

"I would do almost anything within my power to help on the work of rescuing all men from the 'grip' of Masonry and all other un-Christian secret societies. I believe that Masonry is an incalculable evil, and essentially anti-Christian in its principles and influence."—GEORGE F. PENTECOST.

"The lodge-system traces its origin, in Freemasonry at least, to a heathen source. It has the same rules, rites and symbols of the ancient mysteries of paganism. Essential features of all the other counterfeits are found in the lodge system, and while this is not to say it is the consummation of them all, it is as dangerous as any in its tendency to rob men of a clear and satisfying hope in Christ, their only Savior."—JAMES M. GRAY.

"All lodgism is anti-Christian. The very foundation principles are anti-Christian. Lodgism is secret—Christianity is open. Lodgism is for the few—Christianity is for all. Lodgism is full of bloody oaths—Christianity says swear not at all. Lodgism requires money and initiation—Christianity requires repentance and faith. But of all the anti-Christian, sacrilegious, blasphemous work of Lodgism, nothing is more ghastly and horrible than the so-called Christian degrees."—CHARLES A. BLANCHARD.

"I do not see how an intelligent, consecrated

Christian can belong to a secret order. It is in express disobedience to God's plain command (II Cor. 6:14-18). Furthermore, the awful mockery of the professed prayer in the pretending resurrection scene in the initiation ceremonies of the Master-Mason degree must shock beyond measure any man of real spirituality. Some of the oaths of the higher degrees must be horrible beyond expression to any man possessed of genuine Christian sentiment."—R. A. TORREY.

#### STATESMEN AND REFORMERS

"I am opposed to all secret associations."—JOHN HANCOCK.

"I am decidedly opposed to all secret societies whatsoever."—SAMUEL ADAMS.

"A more perfect agency for devising and executing conspiracies against Church and State could hardly have been conceived."—CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

"By Freemasonry, trial by jury is transformed into an engine of despotism and Masonic fraud."—THADDEUS STEVENS, Governor of Pennsylvania.

"In my opinion, the imposition of such obligation as Freemasonry requires should be prohibited by law."—DANIEL WEBSTER.

"Secret societies are not needed for any good purpose, and may be used for any evil purpose whatsoever. In my opinion such societies should be prohibited by law."—WENDELL PHILLIPS.

"All secret oath-bound political parties are dangerous to any nation, no matter how pure or how patriotic the motives and principles which first bring them together."—PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT.

"I am prepared to complete the demonstration before God and man, that the Masonic oaths, obligations and penalties cannot by any possibility be

reconciled with the laws of morality, of Christianity, or of the land."—PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

"The Masonic fraternity tramples upon our rights, defeats the administration of justice, and bids defiance to every government which it cannot control."—PRESIDENT MILLARD FILLMORE.

"The institution of Masonry ought to be abandoned as one capable of much evil, and incapable of producing any good which might not be effected by safe and open means."—CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL.

"From the number and character of those who support the charges against Masonry, I cannot doubt that it is susceptible of abuses outweighing any advantages promised by its patrons."—PRESIDENT JAMES MADISON.

"Secret societies, Sir? Before I would place my hands between the hands of other men in a secret lodge, order, class or council, and bending my knee before them enter into combination with them for any object; I would pray to God that that hand, and that knee, might be paralyzed, and that I might become an object of pity and mockery to my fellow men."—WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

"Masonry murdered Captain Morgan. If it could not conceal his murderers, it nevertheless protected them. It overrode the laws of the land, and ruled the Courts and ballot-boxes. Moreover, it is capable of repeating such crimes. Why, then, should we not dread secret societies, and do what we can to bring them to an end?"—GERRIT SMITH, in address, 1870.

#### TESTIMONY OF FIVE SECEDERS

"I owe to my country an exposure of Masonic dangers."—CAPTAIN WILLIAM MORGAN, murdered for this in 1826.

"My refusal to meet with, or support, this institution is not sufficient. I must renounce fealty to the order, reveal its secrets, oppose its influence, and use my efforts to destroy it, or I am guilty of a violation of moral obligation."—ELDER DAVID BERNARD, author of "Light on Masonry," published in 1829.

"I used to be a Mason, but have been an Evangelist for years. I do not get one Mason in a thousand converts, and I never knew a Knight Templar to be converted."—EVANGELIST D. W. POTTER.

"As one who has hundreds of times, in public and in private defended the Lodge System, preaching and lecturing in its favor, believing it to be harmless and beneficial; I would appeal to the thousands of conscientious Christian people who are held in bondage to what clearer light will shew to be darkness—"Come out from among them and be ye separate."—REV. E. G. WELLESLEY-WESLEY, pastor of Park St. Church, Providence, R. I.

"It has been about two years since I stepped out of all connection with the Rebekah Lodge, and not for one moment do I regret the step—so great is the spiritual quickening I have experienced. My lodge pin, never to be worn by me again, is laid aside. I am ready to exclaim, like him who in olden times experienced his Savior's healing power, 'Once I was blind, but now I see.'"—MRS. ELIZABETH M. RULL, reformed lodge-woman.

### SOME RINGING QUESTIONS

1. As between these witnesses for or against Secretism, who is on the Lord's side?

2. If some former leaders in Church and State, from the White House down, opposed Secretism

as an enemy of free institutions, why do we not have more of such leaders now?

3. Since the Bible teaches that no one can be wholly at peace with God unless he is at war with every foe of God, why are so many pulpits, religious publications, and Christians everywhere either silent, neutral, or friendly toward Secretism?

4. Since many who were once lodgemen have abandoned all forms of Secrecy, why do not all lodge-going churchmen do likewise?

5. Ought genuine Christians to withdraw from lodge-dominated congregations, and refuse spiritual leadership from ministers who divide their time, faith and service with Secretism?

6. Can advocates of Foreign Missions consistently seek the overthrow of false religions in pagan lands, and be content to live at peace with them here at home?

7. Since many men wearing a secret society pin are trusting to lodge religion for their salvation, can we as Christians have fellowship with any such without concern for their souls?

8. Are you tempted to accept Secret societies as here to stay or think that effort against them is hopeless? Not so long as the Holy Spirit is with us, and we are willing to use those battle-weapons which are not carnal, but mighty (II Cor. 10:4).

9. Why not join the goodly fellowship of the *National Christians Association opposed to Secret Societies*, with headquarters at 850 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.? It was organized in 1868, its official monthly is "The Christian Cynosure" containing articles and information of vital interest to all who love to walk in the Light, and will join their testimony in opposition to Organized Secrecy.