



J. Goussier & J. Sandely delin.

R. Dore sculp.

Published as the Act directs
By the SOCIETY of FREE MASONS
at their HALL in GREAT QUEEN STREET LINCOLNS INN FIELDS 1786.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THE original of the engraving, reproduced on a small scale upon the cover, formed the Frontispiece to the 1784 edition of the Book of Constitutions, first published after the building of the existing Freemasons' Hall. It was apparently added to the volume two years after its publication and was the joint work of four great artists, all of them Freemasons. The design was drawn by G. B. Cipriani and Paul Sandoy, and engraved by F. Bartolozzi and Thomas Fildes. The architectural background represents the inside of the Temple at Freemasons' Hall. The uppermost figure is Truth holding a mirror which reflects its rays on different ornaments of the Temple and also on the Globe and other Masonic furniture and emblems. Truth is attended by the three virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity. Under these the Genius of Masonry, commissioned by Truth and her attendants, is descending into the Temple bearing a lighted torch. She is decorated with some of the Masonic Emblems and on her arm hangs a ribbon with a metal pendant with which she is to invest the Grand Master in token of the divine approbation of a building consecrated to Charity and Benevolence.

The reproduction is from a proof of the plate before letters formerly in the possession of Bro. The Earl of Bessborough, and now in the collection of Bro. A. M. Broadley, P.D.D.G.M., of Malta.