

# GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

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## EASTERTIDE

In the month of April comes the festival of Easter, the annual recurrence of the young returning spring, prelude to growth and harvest. The symbolism of the Christian Eastertide is so closely analogous to the ceremonies of the Master Mason that to the Christian Mason Easter has a double significance.

The returning sunshine fills all men with new energy as it does the earth it nourishes and the annual cycle must remind Masons that their present lot and past progress are inextricably woven into the accomplishment of those who have gone before them. On the past is builded the present and when the future becomes the present, our accomplishments will be the past for those who will carry the torch.

But who are they who will carry this torch? On several occasions of late we have drawn attention to things which are of great concern to the survival of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry and we make no apology for being more explicit on this apparently entirely suitable occasion.

Lest some bewildered soul be misled let it be stated plainly that the views expressed are the writer's own and have no sanction from Grand Lodge as a body nor from anyone of its individual officers.

We contend that a decade has been lost during which few young men have joined our ranks and during which the serving brethren have waxed exactly ten years older. Should this continue the end is in sight. To whom shall aging brethren impart the mysteries sans youth to receive them.

Does the occasional young man appear seeking the hieroglyphic bright, have we aught of his own age, outlook and kind to offer him? Can old age, and legally, if not in fact, a man begins his old age at fifty, offer comradeship, common aims, common outlook, even common colloquial talk to the lad of twenty-one or twenty-two? Is it wonderful that the occasional lad, perhaps induced to come to us because of his father's interest, comes, looks and decides that we have nothing for him? And what can the average young man who has no immediately personal relationship with Freemasonry know of us? What do we do to attract his notice?

It seems a simple question in arithmetic to decide what will happen to Freemasonry in ten or twenty or thirty years when the Old Brigade marches out and recruits are few or non-existent.

This is Freemasonry's problem today. We fail to attract youth. We even

fail to attract ourselves! Con the Lodge registers for proof of this statement.

Youth is not interested in the past. Life is before him and the organization which clings to outworn sentimentalities, failing to bend its energies, its resources and its philosophy to his present day problems, moral and ethical, mental and spiritual, will be shunned by him.

We need not be ashamed of what Freemasonry has to offer if we offer it to youth for youth but the crying need at this moment is the energy, enterprise and enthusiasm of young men.

Guard your landmarks, your rituals, your forms, your ceremonies, your wordy hairsplittings and your quibbles but GOD GIVE US YOUNG MEN.

A.M.M.

### THE CARDINAL VIRTUES

"Justice is truth in action". So stated Disraeli, the great British statesman. The just man has always been the object of admiration. In the Volume of the Sacred Law we read, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." Here it is worth noting that the first named duty is to do justly, that is to practice justice, or as we say in common language to be a "square shooter".

In Nature whose hidden mysteries we are taught to seek out there exists a very evident law. It has been expressed, "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." At first sight and from one point of view, this seems a harsh statement. But properly understood, it is the kindest of laws. It is quite true as any observer can verify that the sins of the fathers are visited on the children, but on the other hand, the children of the just and upright men rise up to call him blessed. On the positive side there is assurance that conduct in line with law will have its appropriate compensation.

It would be a queer sort of world if a farmer who at care and cost sowed elite Marquis seed wheat found at harvest time he had a crop of wild oats. "Absurd", you say. Of course it is absurd because, it runs contrary to all experience. We are willing to accept the principle of justice where it works in our favor, but we do not like it when it crosses the path of our desires.

Most commonly we think of justice and law together. Law causes fear in the mind of the lawless. To him it is like a barbed wire entanglement which hems him in where he does not wish to stay or keeps him out from the place he would like to enter. But to the just man who has learned to govern himself by the inner compulsions of a well-developed character law is a guide. It is like the fences along the highway. They are guides or landmarks which do not hamper or restrain but reassure him that he is on the right road which will lead him to his wished-for destination.

Law and justice are the safeguards of freedom. There can be no liberty in the true sense without justice.

He who cultivates a sense of justice will learn to govern and discipline himself in a more complete sense than any outer compulsion can accomplish.

A. E. Ottewell.

WORLD CHAOS  
BY Rabbi H. Geffen.  
(In the Macon (Georgia) Messenger)

There is something wrong with mankind's consciousness at the present time. Wild situations, of which men never dreamed, spring forth in our society. In politics there is a terrible chaos, where nobody knows what the next day will bring. In the dominion of economics there is a lack of leadership; in every direction, there are forces struggling to annihilate each other with hatred and wildness. Humanitarian teachings, Masonic ideals, all seem to have been lost to sight. Everything is allowed, if only the doer is powerful and mighty. All authority to which men used to apply for counsel in their problems is ignored. It seems man laughs at everything, and believes no more in duty. In the world the ideas, Spirit and Thought are overthrown. The voice of religion is heard no more. The sublime fraternity of Masonry is oppressed and persecuted. Philosophy has no leadership, centralization, no attraction point. Faithlessness and despair dominate over the world of spirit so that men have begun to prophesy that the whole civilization will perish. A great overthrow to embrace all mankind.

There must be some cause which brought about such a crisis. What is the cause? What is the matter with man that he has lost his path and does not know where to go? Why is it that our present generation which had reached such a high degree of civilization and culture, invention and thought, development and science - why is our generation so helpless and perplexed? Why is the twentieth century, the century of greatest development of man's spiritual powers, turned into a state of despair, a condition of groping in darkness?

For three hundred years, man had had his leadership in religion; there he found his way. Religion gave man the right direction. Later, in the time of the Renaissance, which had declared war against religion, man thought that science, which had combated religion openly and secretly, would take the place of religion in the matter of leadership. It was expected that science, reason, which had elevated itself to occupy religion's place, will take charge of man's guidance, and show him the right way. But after three hundred years of science and great inventions, after three hundred years of the revolution of reason, man finds out that science does not know the answer to the great question; what is man, what is his duty on this earth, and what is his final destination? Removed from his ancient faith, and disappointed of science, man remains without a path-shower, without a leader. Therefore we have reached a spiritual crisis; the twentieth century is the end of an epoch of three hundred years which has not fulfilled what we have expected.

Man had expected that science would clarify and explain all mystery, would satisfy his spiritual thirst, would reveal all the secrets of the universe, all the secrets of his existence, all the wonders of his soul; no more groping in darkness, no more suppositions, faith would be lost of sight and the eyes would penetrate everything that had been concealed so bright was to be the light of reason and science.

Man stands face to face with a mysterious science which has no answer for his questions concerning himself. Man has lost faith in science. Science has brought indeed much that is useful and helpful in material life, but no enlightenment or food for a hungry heart. Science is in no sense the path-shower for man; it is no leader, it does not longer inspire. A disappointed man, now void of faith, in science and reason, which appeared to be helpless to solve the pro-

blems of life - a disappointed humanity! Where shall such a race apply for help, comfort? In whom shall they put their trust and from where shall they expect enlightenment? Where shall they find solid ground, and support, and permanence and direction?

Only the spark of the divine in the breast of man must be fanned again into flame and with a burning devotion he must return to the faith of his fathers before soul longings are satisfied, before contentment and comfort be attained.

ENGLISH FREEMASONRY SHOWS CONTINUED  
GROWTH

Freemasonry in England continues to show a remarkable growth, despite the shocks it has experienced during the past twenty years in the loss of some of its eminent leaders .....

Extracts from the Masonic Year Books of 1917 and 1937 disclose the following information on the net number of new lodges warranted in the past twenty years:

	1917	1937
London Lodges -----	748	1221
Provincial Lodges -----	1782	2990
Military Lodges -----	2	2
District Lodges -----	637	675
Lodges Abroad not under districts -----	57	55
	3226	4943

IN MEMORIAM

Masonry in Alberta has suffered a severe loss in the passing of a well beloved Brother who was such a familiar figure at our Annual Communications which he regularly attended since the formation of our Grand Lodge.

M. W. Bro. Robert Patterson, P.G.M. was a member of the Craft before he came to Alberta with the N.W.M.P. in 1876, having been made in Rathdowney Lodge No. 150, Queen's Co. Ireland.

He was the last surviving Charter member of Alberta Lodge No. 3 at Macleod of which he remained an active member to the time of his death, at the fine old age of 83 years, which occurred on February 28th last in Winnipeg, where he was visiting his daughter Mrs. Harvey.

In all the years he never failed to give of his best to the Craft he loved so well. He seemed to find in Masonry a fellowship that proved to be a sustaining solace in the vicissitudes of life, of which as a pioneer and citizen he had his full share. He endeared himself to his brethren by the interested sympathy he extended to all in need.

His memory will long be cherished by Alberta Masonry as one whom they delighted to honor for his genuine sincerity, his delightful Irish humor and his faithfulness to the principles of our Craft.