



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: A. M. Mitchell, P.G.M.

THE MASON'S LODGE

WITH his home and his church, the Lodge is the oldest of man's shrines. Today we look upon it as a room or hall where the furniture and ornaments are arranged according to an accepted and familiar pattern, but there were times when The Lodge was something quite different.

When the folk lore of the race was passed from old to young by word of mouth, initiation was the most important event in the life of youth. With great care and only after severe and at times cruel trial was the accumulated wisdom and knowledge of the tribe communicated to the young men. In caves and secret places the drama of the future was unfolded recognizing the life force and teaching that the individual may disappear but the race goes on, bearing with it into future generations the secret that as knowledge of himself and his environment had grown with man, so would the store increase by the effort of the worthy in the centuries to come. Thus is initiation the ritual drama of the life of man and the Lodge a symbol of the world, "in length from east to west; in breadth from north to south."

In the days of operative masonry when the idea of initiation had become firmly linked with that of building, the "Lodge" had become a temporary shed or barrack near the main building in progress. Here the workmen ate and slept together and here were stored their plans and tools and materials. The Fabric Rolls of York Minister in 1352 refer to these uses in orders issued to the operative Masons at work on the great Cathedral.

The plan or diagram now referred to as the "Tracing Board" was at one time known as "The Lodge". In the Book of Constitution, 1784, of the Grand Lodge of England appears a reference to "four tylers carrying the lodge covered with white satin", and Preston in one of his "Miscellanies" speaks of "the Grand Master, attended by his officers, forming themselves in order round the lodge, which is placed in the center, covered with white satin." This use of the term has, apparently, disappeared.

To modern Freemasons the Lodge is a representation of that ideal world which every man seeks. Before passing through its tyled doorway he is taught to leave behind him all that is base and ignoble. Within its walls he is taught that here indeed

*"Love is Nature's second sun
Causing a spring of virtues where he shines."*

Outside angry passions and mad ambitions may fill the earth, inside there should be peace, serenity, wisdom and the love of the brethren.

The character of man is of his thought and not of his possessions, and in his Lodge he finds a place "on the level" where he can study himself and his fellow mortals in peace, close tyled from "the vices and superfluities" of the daily round.

Whatever we have lost or will lose by the present conflict, whatever we have gained or will gain by our sacrifices, the Lodge in some form will live. Here man may look upon that Shining Letter which points him to the stars. Here is the dwelling place of the Ideal to which men may come when all else fails. It is a mystic meeting place where man looking into the faces of his brethren may hope to find himself.

A.M.M.



THE SILENT MASON

The silent Mason is one who lives and acts out his principles in all his intercourse with his fellow-man. We believe in Masonry that acts silently. We want no loud cry in the market place, or vain pomp and show. The Mason who tries to live our principles without any ostentation will be a pillar of strength to the noble institution. The humblest craftsman who has been made a Mason in his heart is worth more than any number of distinguished members to whom its teachings are mere verbiage.

—The Freemason, London.

THE CARDINAL VIRTUES

4. Justice

—“Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations.”—*The Book of Common Prayer.*

IN time of mortal stress a very common reaction is the search for vengeance. Because Churchill and Roosevelt have publicly declared that a point in their peace plan will be the seeking out of those responsible for the present holocaust of bestiality and their punishment according to their deserts is no reason why the armchair vigilantes should begin to design the utmost refinement of torture for their particular pet hates. Let the President and the Prime Minister go about the business in due and proper form according to the dictates of fair trial under Democracy. Thus only can we vindicate that for which we fight, for vengeance is not Justice.

The principle can be extended into ordinary life. Are we always sure when we impugn motives that we are being just to the impugned. May it not be at times that we fail utterly to think things through, assume, plot and counterplot from ill digested evidence or none?

Psychologists will tell you that one of the commonest tricks of the human mind is to rationalize. That is to say, having done the deed or taken a stand, one proceeds to build up defenses for it, regardless of its justice by the standards of truth.

Quite apparently rationalizing may not make for Justice and the implications of this, the fourth of the cardinal virtues to the Mason are, that he must suspend judgment till all the facts available are in; that he must look the facts in the face without prejudice or rancor; and that in pronouncing judgment, he should remember that fair play is a jewel of great price, that revenge or punishment do not *per se* indicate the application of Justice, and that the strict letter of the Law itself is occasionally far removed from true Justice in a particular case.

There is another phase of this cardinal virtue which the young Mason and the old may very well ponder. He must be just to himself. This includes a homely virtue, but the knowledge and acceptance of it will keep him apart from many a mischief. That knowledge is an appraisal of his own limits. Few men are omnipotent, but there are those who, thinking they have all the talents, continue to foist themselves upon the unwary and unthinking with unfortunate results to all concerned.

One of the felicities of middle age is the freedom of spirit gained by the simple recognition of one's own limitations. "I cannot" is not as cowardly at fifty as the copy books suggest and the spartan soul who fails to recognize that he really cannot accomplish all things is neither just to himself nor to his neighbors.

"To be patient is a branch of Justice" said the wise Marcus Aurelius, and perhaps the best interpre-

tation of the fourth cardinal virtue for the young Mason is to refrain from judgment of others but to be ever a severe judge and critic of himself. Thus may he slowly accumulate the integrity of inward and outward character, which should mark for all men the true initiate.

A.M.M.

BIBLE LESSON

Major Vivian Gilbert, "*Romance of the Last Crusade*".

A brigade major with General Allenby's forces in Palestine during the last war was reading his Bible one night by the light of a candle, looking for the name "MICHMASH". His brigade had been ordered to capture a village of that name which stood on a rocky hill just across a deep valley. The name had seemed vaguely familiar.

Finally, in Samuel I, Chapter 13, he read: "And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash." The major went on to read how Jonathan and his armour bearer went over to the Philistines' garrison alone one night, through a pass that had "a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of one was Bozez, and the name of the other Sench." They climbed the rocky hill till they came to "a half-acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow." Then the Philistines awoke, thought they were surrounded by the armies of Saul, and "the multitude melted away."

Saul then attacked with his whole army, and "so the Lord saved Israel that day."

The major thought to himself, "This pass, those two rocky headlands and the flat piece of ground are probably still there." He woke the brigadier, and they read over the story. Scouts were sent out and found the pass, thinly held by the Turks; rocky crags were on either side—obviously Bozez and Sench—and high up in Michmash, moonlight showed a small piece of ground.

Then and there the general changed his plan of attack; instead of sending the whole brigade, one company only was sent along the pass at dead of night. The few Turks met were silently dealt with, the hill was climbed, and just before dawn the company found itself on the flat bit of ground. The Turks awoke, thought they were surrounded by the armies of Allenby, and fled in disorder. Every Turk in Michmash was killed or captured that night.

And so, after thousands of years, the tactics of Saul and Jonathan were repeated with success by a British force.

The measure of difference between the crowd and the thinking individual is the gulf between the desire of the crowd to maintain that to which it is accustomed, and of the thinker, sensing change, to change with it.

AXIS BOX SCORE AGAINST MASONRY

(This article, "Axis Box Score Against Freemasonry," gives in brief the details of the aggressions and invasions which have eliminated 34 Grand Lodges having 2713 Lodges with a total membership in excess of 235,356 members.)

By J. FAIRBAIRN SMITH
Editor of *Masonic World*, Detroit.

AUSTRIA—Masonry abolished by Hitler and his hordes March 17, 1938. Grand Officers thrown in jail—90 per cent of the membership placed in Dachau, Bavaria, concentration camp; 20 Lodges; 1,500 members.

BELGIUM—Hitler invaded Belgium April, 1940, and following conquest banished Masonry. Masons imprisoned, property confiscated. One Grand Lodge; 24 Lodges; 4,000 members.

BRITISH EAST INDIES—Jap invasion in 1942 closes Lodges working under the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Three District Grand Lodges.

BULGARIA—Masonry suppressed by pressure of Europe's arch-foe before German penetration. One Grand Lodge; 12 Lodges; 800 members.

BURMA—Jap invasion of 1942 brought about elimination of Masonry. Lodges under District Lodges of England and Scotland.

CHINA—Aggression of "Yellow Aryans" starting in 1937 gradually suppressed District Grand Lodges working under England, Scotland, Ireland, Austria, Massachusetts, and the Philippine Islands.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—The infamous Munich Pact in 1938 wrote finis to Masonry in this country. Tyranny and "Legalized Murder" was the lot of the membership. German and Czech Grand Lodges had worked in harmony. Two Grand Lodges; 60 Lodges; 2,600 members.

DENMARK—Since Nazi Bloodless Invasion in April, 1940, no news has sifted through about Danish Masonry. However it may still exist since King Christian X is Grand Master. One Grand Lodge; 30 Lodges; 8,000 members.

FRANCE—After defeat of France in June, 1940, murder, imprisonment, and economic looting was the lot of Masons and their property. Petain, aged Chief of State, ordered that Masonic properties be auctioned. The Nazis raided the Great Masonic Library in Paris and carried books off to Berlin. Three Grand Lodges; 460 Lodges; 36,500 members.

GERMANY—When the gangster paperhanger Hitler came to power in 1933 the German Craft was wiped out with one foul blow after two centuries of continuous service. Masons were murdered or imprisoned and their properties confiscated. Temples were looted and their contents carried off to Berlin and exhibited in the Anti-Masonic Exhibition which was opened in 1937 by Joseph Goebbels. Ten Grand Lodges; 700 Lodges; 100,000 members.

GREECE—This gallant little nation after fighting Fascist Italy to a standstill finally was defeated by the German war machine and Masonry annihilated. Masons were arrested and persecuted, their homes burned and their wives and children killed. King George II was Past Master of a Lodge in London, Eng. One Grand Lodge; 70 Lodges; 6,000 members.

HUNGARY—The Communists seized Hungary's Grand Lodge Building in 1920 and Masonry was thereafter banned by successive governments. The loss of World War I was blamed on the Craft. One Grand Lodge; 100 Lodges; 10,000 members.

HONG KONG—The Far Eastern barbaric gangster Japan eliminated Masonry in this British Crown Colony by conquest in 1942. Masonry worked under District Grand Lodges of England and Scotland.

ITALY—The Fascist hordes under Mussolini began the slow strangulation of Masonry in 1923 and completed it in 1925. Thousands of Masons were arrested and taken to the desolate Lipari Islands where most of them have since died. Masons created the Italian Kingdom in the 19th Century. One Grand Lodge; 500 Lodges; 25,000 members.

JAPAN—Up to the time of the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor by the Oriental murderous gangsters. Masonic Lodges under the jurisdiction of England and Scotland were allowed to exist. Japanese nationals were, however, not allowed to join. After December 7, Masons were arrested and their properties grabbed.

LUXEMBURG—Europe's smallest Masonic Jurisdiction ceased to exist after the invasion of April, 1940. Hitler as in other lands, completely wiped them out. One Lodge; 100 members.

NETHERLANDS—Hitler and his army of cut-throats laid the Low Countries to waste in April, 1940. Cruel and ruthless suppression followed for Masonry. Masonic Funds were confiscated, netting the Nazis \$795,000.00. Jewels were melted and aprons cut up for shoe leather. Nazi gangs destroyed Lodges and furniture. To avoid capture and torture many prominent Masons committed suicide. Others were arrested and have never been heard of since. One Grand Lodge; 151 Lodges; 10,000 members.

NETHERLAND EAST INDIES—The madmen of the far east in 1942 eliminated the 24 Lodges meeting here under the jurisdiction of The Netherlands. A few Scottish Lodges also existed.

NORWAY—Hitler's conquest of Norway was accomplished by the aid of the traitor, Major Vidkun Quisling, who was also largely responsible for the banishment of Masonry. He it was who provided punishment for Norwegians who failed to give up the Craft. Masons have been put in concentration camps and the Masonic Temple at Oslo has become a museum. One Grand Lodge; 30 Lodges; 11,500 members.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—The fanatical barbaric hordes of a so-called Modern Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor, erased Asia's only Independent Grand Lodge. Always intolerant of Masonry Hirohito's War Lords inflicted inhuman cruelty and bestial torture upon the Craft. One Grand Lodge; 102 Lodges; 5,656 members.

POLAND—The Nazi hordes made their first blood invasion upon Poland in August, 1939. The world can never forget the horrible fate of the Polish people nor of the way that Masons of that country were herded into concentration camps. One Grand Lodge; 12 Lodges; 1,000 members.

PORTUGAL—Masonry has always suffered greatly in Portugal. The last time the Craft was banned was in 1931, although dispatches claim Masons still quietly meet. One Grand Lodge; 135 Lodges; 4,300 members.

RUMANIA—Like other countries in the Balkans. Masonry was banned in Rumania in an attempt to appease Hitler by the puppet Dictator Antonescu. Members were arrested and placed in confinement. Two Grand Lodges; 40 Lodges; 1,700 members.

RUSSIA—Masonry has always been banned by the Communists but one Grand Lodge had existed in the Ukraine until Hitler's invasion in 1941. The Communist International called Masonry a dishonest and infamous swindle of the proletariat. One Grand Lodge; five Lodges; 200 members.

SPAIN—The recent troubles of Spain can definitely be placed at the door of Hitler and Mussolini. The Masons in this country received worse treatment than anywhere else. Masons in every town were shot, murdered, or tortured. The pinnacle of savagery was gained when General Franco ordered erection of six scaffolds and 80 members were slaughtered by means of the garrote. In another town 50 were forced to dig trenches and were then shot on the brink. Two Grand Lodges; 175 Lodges; 10,000 members.

TURKEY—Freemasonry in Turkey has been dormant for the past five years in accord with a decree of the Government. At present members are holding the institution together by the simple means of luncheons and informal gatherings. One Grand Lodge; 23 Lodges; 2,000 members.

YUGOSLAVIA—Masonry had ceased to exist by the decree of the government of that country some time before the German invasion. This decree was passed by Prince Paul as an appeasement to Hitler. When King Peter came to the throne, appeasement ended. World War I is supposed to have been started here and been financed by the Masons of France. This is of course Axis propaganda. One Grand Lodge; 20 Lodges; 800 members.

MASONIC BROADCAST

By Bro. L. J. HUMPHREY, Secretary,
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THE airways are so cluttered with mere noise these days that it was a refreshing treat to turn on a programme of beautiful Masonic music the other evening. Yes Brother, actually a Masonic broadcast. Did you know of it? Of course none of our secrets were disclosed—only the wide, secret-free beauty which is music and Freemasonry at its best.

The orchestra opened with a general expression of the main theme, a broad, tender melody which swept toward a high, spiritual climax. Then that theme was taken up by various sections and elaborated with counter melodies and adorned with the richest filigree. Truly it was a beautiful composi-

tion, an expression of noble art, an example of unity and cohesion.

I was indeed sorry when it ended, although its memory will enrich my mind as the recollection of all grand things does.

It was natural that I should find in it a Masonic parallel, for Freemasonry, being itself founded on the purest principles of morality, is always sympathetic to, and reflected in, any worthwhile achievement. This made me realise that our Craft, working at its best, can well be likened to an orchestra, for all its members work toward a single end or theme, namely the promotion of happiness. The big instrument and the small have an equal score to play in that they are both desired to give of their best, each within the compass of his ability—and it is this individualism, working under control, that provides ornamentation. All serve under the baton of the Great Architect who guides and rules us.

It takes fine men to play leads; fine men also to play the seconds. Both are interdependent.

Suppose, Brother, we regard Freemasonry as an orchestra, and join with sympathetic energy in its general broadcast?



FREEMASONRY IN THE FAR EAST

The yellow hordes of Nippon, true disciples of the barbarous Huns, during their cruel aggression in the East Indies and British Malaya, destroyed the Temples erected to the worship of Wisdom and to the brotherhood of Freemasonry.

Masonry was brought into the Netherlands East Indies and British Malaya, in the middle of the 17th century, by members of the Netherlands Grand Orient, one of the most respected and recognized Grand Orients in the world.

Up to the time of the Japanese invasion, this Grand Orient had 18 lodges in Java, 2 in Sumatra and one on Celebes. In addition, the United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Scotland each had lodges in some of the principal cities.

The founder of Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles, was made a Mason in a Dutch Lodge which met on the estate of Engelhard.

The first English Lodge in Malaya was founded by the Duke of Athol, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, September 6, 1809, on the island of Penang and called Neptune Lodge No. 344. The first English Lodge at Singapore was founded in 1854 and called Zetland in the East No. 508.

Before Japanese occupation the number of Freemasons in these areas were almost 1,500. Of these less than 100 were Javanese, but since February, 1942, oppression, tyranny, confiscation and complete annihilation is the lot of the Masons there.

—“The New Age”.