



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor, pro tem: Sam Harris, P.G.M.

A Brighter Easter Morn

IT was my privilege last Easter to write to you a short message and it is with great pleasure that I avail myself of the opportunity to send you another brief message at this time. Last year we expressed the hope that we would celebrate this Easter with Peace reigning over the world once more and that our many Brethren would join in their Easter Celebrations under the same peaceful conditions as we do, this hope has not fully materialized, but this Easter Morn is most certainly very much brighter than the Eastern Morn of a year ago. I think we can safely predict that our next Easter Morn will be celebrated with Peace reigning throughout the World, in fact, even as you read this, so soon after I write, conditions will have greatly changed and the Hun might have already capitulated.

I have been wondering in what material way we can assist our Brethren in the various war torn lands and I must confess I do not know in what actual way we can assist them. Perhaps some brother living in these lands might read this and be good enough to suggest a way to us; they know they already have our heartfelt sympathies and prayers for their well being and speedy re-establishment, but Brethren, I do not think this is sufficient if a way can be found in which we can materially assist them.

The homes of our Brethren in the British Isles have suffered severe damage and our Brethren severe casualties and wide-spread suffering during the wanton destruction by robot planes—so much so that our Grand Master recently forwarded to the United Grand Lodge of England a further contribution of \$5,000.00 from our War Distress and Rehabilitation Fund. This money, brethren, was sent with your very best wishes to our unfortunate brethren and people over there. This Fund is still open to receive all contributions any lodge or individual brother cares to make. So many need a helping hand—how many of us will bring that help?

We rejoice with our brethren "down under" that the fear of invasion of their lands and homes has passed and they are now pressing northwards to

victory. We were indeed glad to welcome in Alberta so many of their sons, at the same time we mourn with them the great losses they have sustained in the cause of freedom. We grieve with our many brethren in various parts of India, in Burma, and in the Far East. Many of their lodges have been totally destroyed, but our brethren are already making plans to rebuild. In some instances it is reported that our brethren buried their lodge records, regalia and furniture in order to save them from destruction.

Whilst every day is bringing more heartening news and victories, we are living in critical days—days on which the whole future of the world hinges. Perhaps the future will contain some "new order", not one of tyranny and slavery, but one of truth, brotherhood and love. We are hearing of this from all angles and it is agreed that the world of tomorrow will be and ought to be different from the world of today. This vision of a new world order has been held by prophets and seers in all ages. No doubt many of us have dreamed of this fair ideal, but many of the dreams of nations and individuals remain sadly unfilled. We find ourselves today fighting the same common enemy and with our goal the same—the establishment of truth, liberty and justice. Can we establish this "new order" when Peace comes? It is important that all men of good-will should be planning and thinking of this new and better world. We cannot hope or expect to have anything new if we do not plan and work for it. Masons can materially assist in this work and planning. It is not too early to think and plan and in some things make a beginning. Weariness is apt to set in when the war ends and the end of the war will provide the opportunity for us to try and create a new and better world, the end of the war itself will not provide any guarantee of a new order or world. Who can say what the world will be like when the war is over. One thing appears certain—it will be different to 1918 or even 1939. It will be a tired and devastated world and perhaps a smaller world on account of the way nations have worked, fought and grown together.

Let us as Alberta Masons do our share in this rebuilding and contribute our quota in making this a better world and Province in which to live.

During the past year hundreds of our members have suffered bereavement in the loss of one or more of their loved ones, perhaps many more of us will mourn ere this terrible conflict is ended, let us all have strength to "lift our eyes to the bright morning star whose rising gives peace and salvation", and may this Easter Morn bring health and happiness to each one of you.

SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.



NEWS FROM ENGLAND

United Grand Lodge of England,
Great Queen Street,
London, W.C. 2,

January, 1945.

Dear Brother Grand Secretary:

You will have gathered from reports in the Press and by Radio, that since the middle of June last many parts of Southern and Eastern England, particularly the London area, have been the object of renewed attacks from the air, and these have caused widespread suffering and damage to the population among whom are a great number of our Brethren in the Craft and their dependents.

It is with deep gratitude that I am writing you to say that the funds placed at my disposal by your Grand Lodge have proved of inestimable help to many of these unfortunate Brethren and their families, and I have been asked on so many occasions to tender their heartfelt thanks to the donors, that I feel I must try to convey to you the appreciation they have expressed for the generous and fraternal thought of our Brethren overseas.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to me to be the channel through which your gifts pass to these victims of misfortune, which so materially lightens the burdens due to the destruction of their homes and businesses, and, in some cases, personal injury and bereavement.

With my sincere good wishes to you for the New Year, and the hope that the coming of Peace may not be much longer deferred.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

(Signed) SYDNEY A. WHITE,
Grand Secretary.



The time has come for a call to austerity—in living in working, and in thinking, a call to a personal sense of responsibility, a national awakening to a higher spiritual life, and a greater sense of patriotism.
—Lord Woolton.

MASONRY IN INDIA

The following is a letter received from India:

"I attended my first Masonic lodge meeting in India on October 7th, as all of their meetings are held on Saturday night (of all nights). The meeting convened at 5 p.m. and lasted until 7:30 p.m. British, Americans, and Indians were present for the meeting, which was the conferring of the Fellowcraft degree on three Americans and two British.

"Perhaps one of the things which made the meeting so impressive was the fact that there was so little difference in the lodge room from those in the states. It reminded me of the lodge room of Henry A. Greene (U.S. Army Lodge), Fort Lewis, Washington, where I witnessed my very dearest friend take his work after I had coached him.

"Getting back to this meeting here, another reason why it was so impressive was because of the difference in customs of those members who were present. Some of the members were from England, about 3,000 miles across the Atlantic from the U.S., and some were Indians, who were right at home, on the opposite side of the world from the U.S. The man who sat on my left was an Indian Sikh. The Indian Sikh is the Indian who originates from the Punjab Region, at the foot of the grand Himalaya Mountains of India and Tibet. He wore his square and compass ring along with his other regalia which included several gold bracelets, a wrist watch, and, although he wore a standard civilian suit, he has never shaved nor had his hair cut during his life. His beard (and a black one at that) was so long that it was braided and tied into two knots, and his hair was brought up over the back of his head and tied in the traditional pug under his yellow turban. I did not see his pug, of course, because they wear their turbans at all times, and the lodge permits them to wear them in the lodge room. The religion of the Sikh is not to drink, smoke, chew, or have any other immoral habits.

"The several other Indian members, present, were Hindus, of the Brahmin Caste (the highest caste in India), and they were very intelligent, spoke good English, and all of them hold high offices in the British tea companies of India and Assam.

"The wording in the lodge work was practically the same as in the United States with few exceptions. It seemed that everything else was the same. When they got ready to adjourn the meeting everyone formed behind the officers and marched out of the lodge room in a body. They also have Council, Chapter, and Commandery over here, so I will attend a meeting of the Chapter (Royal Arch) on the second Saturday of November. As I sat in lodge meeting that night, looking about me, I could not help think of what we all had in common, and I thought of how wonderful it would be, though remote, if the world could be formed into such an organization, thus ending all wars, hatred, persecution, etc. I thought a lot that night, and that meeting gave me something that no one can ever take from me." *North Dakota Bulletin.*

NEW APPOINTMENT

The Grand Master has been pleased to appoint V. W. Bro. Fred Whitfield, a member of Edmonton Lodge No. 7, to the Committee on the Work to succeed M. W. Bro. A. M. Mitchell, P.G.M., who has found it necessary to move to Victoria, B.C., to reside on account of ill health. This Committee is now comprised of M. W. Bro. John Martland (63), Chairman; M. W. Bros. G. E. Cruickshank (26) and Geo. F. Ellis (124) and V. W. Bro. Fred Whitfield (7) and ex-officio, the Grand Master of the year. We are sorry that M. W. Bro. Mitchell has found it necessary to leave us, we hope only for a time. He has been a valued member of this Committee since its inception several years ago. We hope his recovery to good health will be both speedy and sure.

S.H.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to our brethren in Empress and district who were recently granted a Dispensation by our M. W. Grand Master. I am sure all the brethren throughout our Jurisdiction hope that Empress Lodge U.D. will prosper and grow and become a tower of strength to our Grand Lodge.

After a lapse of 14 years our Grand Lodge is again showing "growing pains", the previous Dispensation being granted in 1931.

S.H.

SCOTLAND

During the past year the number of our initiates has risen from 19,500 to 20,855. That is a large increase in the number, and I would like once again to reiterate what I have said on several occasions—the need for careful scrutiny on the part of Masters and Office-bearers of Lodges before admitting candidates. It is much more important that we should maintain our high standard of ideals than that we should have a large increase in our numbers.

(Extract from the Address of the M. W. Grand Master Mason of Scotland.)

TRUTH

"The sun veils himself in his own rays to blind the gaze of the too curious starrer". Thus runs our old saying, and if for "the sun" we read "truth" we will have its application. The deepest truths are veiled and are best revealed by symbol and allegory.

Truth includes all virtues; it is older than all sects, more ancient than mankind. Its feet never slip. They stand firm and immovable upon a solid foundation. Storms may beat, tempests may howl, lightning may flash, and thunders may roll, but it is

not disturbed. Evil and falsehood may hurl their javelins at its head, but they strike the impenetrable shield that surrounds it and fall broken at its feet.

God is the shield and strength of Truth. It gives joy and confidence, and there is no pleasure like that of standing upon its vantage ground. With Truth on his side, a man may stand upright and with modest but fearless confidence look straight into the face of his Creator. God loves Truth and the man who speaks the truth and acts the truth has God for his friend.

Truth, like a sunbeam, cannot be soiled by any outward touch. It is pure and immaculate, as eternal in its purity as the years of God himself. Happy the man, and safe from calumny's sting, who dwells in the bright rays of Truth.—C.C.H.

Iowa Grand Lodge Bulletin.

WANTED

Copy of Grand Lodge Proceedings for 1916. Please mail to Grand Secretary.

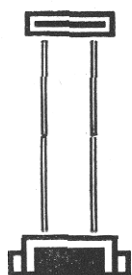
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the keynote of our service should be brightness and cheerfulness.

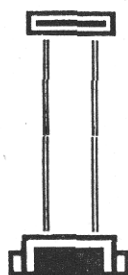
Freemasons should render and maintain a mutual service. "Behold how good and joyful thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"; the wisest sage, the humblest disciple, the skilful craftsman, the newly received initiate, all meeting together on the level, on the ground floor, in the middle chamber, on the center of their Masonic Temple of labor. Alike inspired by faith, hope, and charity; alike seeking the hidden mysteries of nature and science; alike being taught to practice prudence, temperance, fortitude, and justice; alike enjoined to exemplify in their daily lives the great principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Let our work, brethren, be freed from all tinsel and cheap advertisement. In the great work with which our history stands so intimately associated—that magnificent Temple at Jerusalem—there was not heard the sound of any hammer or other implement of iron while it was building, but it grew and like some beautiful dream or majestic tree a noiseless fabric sprung up. So let us work, quietly but surely. Impressive ceremonials and brilliant regalia may have their part in the setting, but underlying and surrounding it all is the silent teaching of Freemasonry.

Whatever difficulties may surround us, if our Masonic influence be brought to bear it will materially help to simplify them by affording us a better understanding of each other, and so make the world a better place to live in. Only let our vision be clear, our feet secure, our hands held up to support the right, and ever remembering that the apron we wear is the badge of service.



Between the Pillars



The Charter of Freemasonry

By R. W. Bro. Albert E. Batten, P.G.W., Dep. G. Sec.,
Grand Lodge of Tasmania in the South Australian *Freemason*.

FREEMASONRY teaches a broad sympathy for suffering humanity. Its fundamental principles are a belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. No man can be a true Freemason unless he is a believer in the Great Architect of the Universe. One writer on the subject has said that Freemasonry is not founded on unmeaning mystery for the encouragement of festivity and the support of mere goodfellowship (as the ignorant and uninitiated vainly suppose), but an institution founded on eternal reason and truth, whose deep base is the civilization of mankind, and whose glory is supported by those two mighty pillars, Science and Morality. We all feel that, apart from Christianity, Freemasonry inculcates the highest system of morality and good works that we know of, because that system is founded upon the principles of Divine Truth.

Freemasonry is not a system of religion; it adopts the shibboleth of no sect or party, but it is the champion of Truth. It is not a system of national government, or party politics, but a true Freemason is a peaceful and loyal subject—loyal not only to the Throne, but also to the civil power wherever he may live or work.

The uninitiated bitter opponent has ever been ready to charge it with much that is evil and bad; weapons of ignorance and prejudice have been employed against it, but Freemasonry has survived and flourished, overcoming difficulty and obstacle, and living down opposition, till today it numbers in its temples by tens upon tens of thousands and its members by hundreds upon hundreds of thousands; realizing in great measure the vision of seers and sages of olden time, who beheld afar off the benign reign of a universal Brotherhood.

One of Freemasonry's greatest charms is its antiquity. Even in this practical age, when self-constituted critics are many, and the antique is in danger of being sacrificed to the modern craving for change, there are still many who feel the charm which antiquity invests all connected with it. Whether it be old pottery, old furniture, old manuscripts and pictures, many persons are interested. Even the most matter-of-fact persons will feel something of this charm when he wanders through the ruins of some ancient building or temple, or it may be if he

should only read of such, when he can fill in the people of the past by his own imagination so that they seem to live again. This is equally true of the charms which Freemasonry possesses for those who work within its temples, for its history has an origin which stretches far back into the world's history—its early annals being almost lost in the dimness of the ages. Men have scoffed at the antiquity we claim for our Order. Let those who sneer who have not studied it. We glory in it, for no other order has such a noble, ancient origin.

Illustrative teaching by parable and metaphor has always appealed to the mind of many and another of the attractions of Freemasonry is to be found in its symbolic teaching, whereby it conveys some of the sublimest and greatest truths.

The distinctive feature of its teaching has been objected to by some, while others have advanced the argument that if Freemasonry is so noble in its principles, and so elevated in its teachings, why hedge it about with secret symbols, why not give it forth to the world unrestricted by secret sign or obligation? To such we say our secrets are not our own to will them as we like. We have received them in trust, and we can only hand them on to those who prove themselves worthy.

But Freemasonry is something nobler and grander than mere symbolism. It is a living and vital institution, inculcating great truths, filled with noble thoughts, surrounded by generous sentiments, and based on great and noble principles.

Freemasonry uses no influence to lead men into its Temples; the wish for admission into its secrets must be a free outcome of the candidate's own will, but we are always prepared and willing to receive a suitable type of candidate into our ranks.

Freemasonry during more recent years has become popular, therefore we must always have before us the thought that the eyes of the uninitiated are upon us; and as the clearer view of Freemasonry is revealed to their minds, so the greater demand is made upon us, that we may mirror forth more clearly in our lives those principles which we profess to admire in all their sincerity and truth. Let us not forget that in Freemasonry character is supreme. That it is the internal and the external in man that matters.

Freemasonry, like other associations of men, must justify its existence by rendering some service to humanity, and we do well to ask ourselves what helpful service we can do to our fellows, particularly to those of the "Household of Faith".

Our service should be of such a nature that the outside world should be brought to feel that a Freemason is one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrows and find consolation; to whom the distressed may prefer their suit and find relief. We should maintain a cheerful disposition, so that being brought into contact with others

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