



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

ALL CLEAR

*"All Clear! All Clear!
Build now His Temple fair,
With Love alone as corner-stone,
And faithful care!
All Clear! All Clear! All Clear!"*

ABOUT 700 B.C., a prophetic Seer, Micah, had a vision which may well be fulfilled in our own day—"And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Nineteen hundred years ago, through the silence of Bethlehem Hills, drowsy Shepherds heard an angelic symphony—"Glory to God in the highest, and Peace on earth to men of good will."

The pages are turned and a far-seeing soul with a ready pen wrote in the passing century—
*"For I dipt into the future, far as human eye
could see,*

*Saw a vision of the world, and all the wonder
that would be;*

*Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the
battle-flags were furled*

*In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the
world."*

To this generation is given the opportunity of making this dream a reality and this vision a factual achievement. Mankind may not have another opportunity for there are catastrophic forces at work which may wreck the plans of nobler workmen as they seek to build a new and more permanent Temple of Peace. But we believe that "civilization has struck its tents and is moving forward."

Now there are two features which characterize our day and generation which though separ-

ated greatly in essence drive us powerfully onward to calmer seas and a more peaceful haven.

"Rejoice that God has given you for a priceless dower to live in these great times and have your part in freedom's crowning hour."

In the Chinese language the word for "crisis" is composed of two characters meaning "danger" and "opportunity", and in that sense we are now facing one of the major crises of history. Certainly, this is an hour of extreme peril for the world, but it is equally an hour of tremendous opportunities, and not least for the ancient Craft of Masonry.

The first mark of this great hour is the fact that the world is one. For a century or two, we have been discovering that we are neighbours; now we must learn to be neighbourly or else—. This old earth has been shrinking most perceptibly and it is beginning to dawn on us that geographically, socially, economically, commercially and politically, the world is one. Continents have become corridors—the Atlantic Ocean a canal, the Pacific a stream. The radio and the aeroplane have bound the earth together with cables of sound and speed. The late Wendell L. Willkie, who manifested his true greatness in defeat, wrote his epoch-making book, "One World"—a stimulating challenge to the realization of the fact that the Great Architect "has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth". He writes—"At the end of the last war, not a single plane had flown across the Atlantic. Today that ocean is a mere ribbon, with airplanes making regular scheduled flights. The Pacific is only a slightly wider ribbon in the ocean of the air, and Europe and Asia are at our very doorstep."

Yet three hundred and fifty years ago, the

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ALL CLEAR—(Continued from page 13)

Rev. John Donne (Dean of St. Paul's, London) so quaintly yet so deeply fathomed the secret—

"No man is an Iland intire of it selfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as well as if a Mannor of thy friends or of thine owne were; any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

The other feature identifies this hour as a new age. Mankind through all of the evolving generations, through struggle and conflict, through sorrow and joy, in days of unutterable anguish and in hours of convulsive strain, in times of darkness and of sunshine, in ages which have been marked with defeat and seeming retrogression when "even God and his saints seemed to sleep", has ever been climbing upward. He groped in the stone age, he discovered fire and then climbed to the iron age. There were the Dark Ages and Ages of Awakening—a steam age—an electric age—and now we have reached for better or for worse—The Atomic Age. The President of the United States announced at 10:45 a.m. on August 6th, 1945—"Sixteen hours ago an American airplane dropped one bomb on Hiroshima, an important Japanese Army Base." The atomic age had begun. Then the narrator naively states—"On the ninth day of the Atomic Age, Japan surrendered." The blast of flying neutrons comes out as a wind with a velocity of millions of miles an hour. The heat is actually greater than that of the sun, and perhaps man, like Icarus of ancient times, approaching too close to the secret of the sun, may find that his soaring wings may likewise collapse and he himself perish. Neither can the secret be cabined or confined. There can be no material defense against this death-dealing blast—only a spiritual defense.

*"What is invention without faith! A steed superb
averse to any curb*

*On which we hurl ourselves, unmindful of the soul,
Thro' depths of tangled growths; we ride wild mouthed,
without a guide,*

Yet, ever moving on, we never reach the goal."

The atomic bomb has forever shattered isolationism. Annihilate war or annihilate man. The world is one.

Christmas of 1945 comes in this strange age with the angels' song of Peace and Goodwill. The echoing boom of the heavies and the staccato clatter of the machine guns recede in the distance and in the bewildering silence, if you listen, you can hear the angels sing. This can be the most prophetic Christmas in the history of mankind.

That noble army of builders, members of the Masonic Order scattered throughout the world, must have a specific and important part to play in the rebuilding of a broken and bleeding world. Masonry has ever viewed the world as one. Men of goodwill out of every nation under heaven meet within its sacred portals and in brotherhood look up at the starry dome which shelters the virtues of charity,

fraternal love and universal benevolence. Herein is an unfolding Magna Charta of sincere friendship and brotherly love which overleap the dividive boundaries of nationhood, of race, of colour and language. Herein are cultivated never fading flowers—Mercy which blesses him who gives and him who takes,—Justice with the balanced scales and a sword,—Love which suffers long and is kind. Freedom and Liberty dwell here for the torch of Masonry ever reveals the inherent worth and true dignity of the common man. These are the Voices which can be heard,—these are the Visions which beckon, "o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent" of a deaf and blinded world.

Masonry builds on firm foundations. There is the corner-stone—The Divine Architect, not far away but very near, who has a plan and purpose in creation both in the lives of nations and of men. That purpose is beneficent, and in its unfolding, He uses the hearts and souls of men.

There is the foundation of Righteousness for the plumb-line and the square remain as the eternal standards of a pure and blameless life. The Volume of the Sacred Law is central in the life of a Mason and its light ever illumines his pathway.

Humanity is the priceless material with which we build—so susceptible to the kindly touch and the sympathetic word. Christmas ever reminds us that the family is the oldest and most valuable of human institutions. The Master Painters with brush and canvas have through the centuries portrayed to mankind "The Holy Family". Every family is holy. Its disintegration shatters the nation. Indeed "the world moves forward on the feet of little children." Masonry has ever held aloft the sanctity of the family, for the cornerstone of a nation is the hearth stone. This Christmastide the world bows in worship before a Child, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World—and in that worship, the world climbs upward to the Altar-steps of the Infinite. Thus will Masonry grow and unfold and widen "with the process of the suns" securely anchored in the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God. Masonry is not a static and fixed book; it is a progressive and unfolding ideal. In Masonry it is always dawn. And so to our waiting task and our working tools'

"O listen now, ye men of strife,

And hear the angels sing."

All Clear! All Clear! All Clear!

Bro. Rt. Rev. Bishop A. H. SOVEREIGN,
Bishop of Athabasca,
Peace River Lodge No. 89.

YULETIDE GREETINGS—The past six Yuletide Seasons have been celebrated under the clouds of war and world wide disturbances, this year we celebrate our Yuletide Season under more peaceful conditions and it is indeed a time when we can really say, Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on Earth and Good Will to all Men. This is my sincere Yuletide Wish to all my friends and brethren wherever dispersed they may be.

S.H.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unfortunately the usual Christmas Message from our Grand Master has not arrived in time to be included in this issue of the *Bulletin*. M. W. Bro. Rev. Canon Crane-Williams expects to leave Liverpool, England, on November 20th. We all wish him a safe journey home and may this Christmas be the happiest and best he and his have ever had.

It is with regret that I advise you that our Senior Grand Warden, R. W. Bro. A. E. Ottewell recently had to undergo a serious operation for appendicitis. His recovery is not as rapid as we would wish as there are other complications. We all hope his recovery to good health will be as speedy as possible and I know I echo the good wish of all his brethren whilst he is being confined to his bed and you all wish him Good Luck and a Merry, Merry Christmas.

S.H.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER

It should be understood that Freemasonry never encourages brethren to disclose their membership of this Fraternity to all and sundry whom they may meet in the walks of life. To parade it is undignified and often leads to a brother's motive being misunderstood, if not misconstrued. It is better that brethren talk less about Freemasonry, and apply more of their energy to the demonstration of its ideals and principles in their conduct.

Freemasonry has nothing to gain by its members publishing on the housetops that they have been received into its fold, but it will gain immensely if they will let it be seen that, having been brought face to face with its great ideals and teachings, their own lives have been enriched and ennobled. This is what the world wants to see.

Masonic Journal of South Africa.

NAME OF NEW ENGLISH LODGE ASSOCIATED WITH OLD LEGEND

While Freemasonry has maintained in England a remarkable increase in lodges during the war, it is noteworthy that all of the Masonic Provinces have not enjoyed an increase in their number of lodges. It would appear that the Province of Cornwall is one of them. In fact, the last lodge consecrated there, save one in 1938, was consecrated in April, 1945. The name chosen by the lodge, Lyonesse No. 6014, is that of a legendary land now submerged off the shore of the cliffs of Land's End, adjacent to which was the Valley of Avalon, where lay the remains of King Arthur. The lodge is located at Penzance.

—Selected.

“Masonry brings men together at the altar of prayer, keeps alive faith in the truths that make us men, seeking, by every resource of art, to make tangible the power of love, the worth of beauty, and the reality of the ideal. Who can measure such a ministry, who can destroy it!”

—Joseph Fort Newton.

ANSWERS

Would a Moslem or a Buddhist be obligated upon the Bible?

In the lodges of the Far East (Egypt, Arabia, India, and beyond) frequently there are several volumes of the sacred law upon the Altar—the Bible of the Christian and the Jew, the Koran of the Mohammedan, the Zend-Avesta of the Parsee, the Tripitika of the Buddhist—and the candidate chooses the Book which to him is the most holy, upon which he is obligated. In California, it is required that the Bible lie open upon the Altar and it is accepted as the symbol of the Holy Scriptures of every religion.

What characteristics give the Bible its pre-eminence in English literature?

A great writer has well said: what the Koran was to the Arabs, that, and much more, the English Bible is to us.” The generally accepted translation from the Hebrew and the Greek, is known as the King James version and was published in the year 1611. The translation was made by a group of scholars at a time when the English language was at its best, and in the truest sense it is “a well of English, pure and undefiled”. In its simplicity, sincerity and grandeur, it set the standard of the language for all time. As Macaulay once declared: “If everything else in our language should perish, the Bible would alone suffice to show the whole extent of its beauty and power.”

Is a motion to adjourn ever in order in a Masonic Lodge?

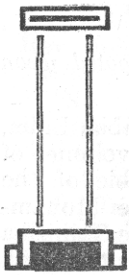
From the nature of our Constitution, a Lodge cannot properly be adjourned. It must be closed, either in due form or the brethren called to refreshment. The Master alone can dismiss the brethren, and that dismissal must take place after a settled usage. We read in a recent exchange of a Lodge in Raleigh, N.C., which was opened April 16, 1865, and was not closed until 1915. The Lodge was in session when news came of the attack upon President Lincoln. The brethren left the hall without waiting for a formal closing. The Lodge technically speaking, remained at labor for more than half a century.

—Masonic Historiology.

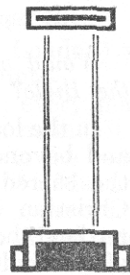
Masonry teaches that of all the events and actions that take place in the universe of worlds and the eternal succession of ages, there is not one, even the minutest, which God did not foresee, with all the distinctness of immediate vision, combining all, so that man's free will should be His instrument like all the other forces of nature.

—Selected.

Scandal is the sport of its authors, the dread of fools, and the contempt of the wise.—William Benton Clulow.



Between the Pillars



APATHY IS POISONOUS

RECENTLY one of our Masonic elders raised the question in a district meeting as to the cause of the indifference of many members of the Craft, to the plight of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge. It was admitted that there was no general cause, unless it be that we were making too few Masons and too many members.

We, who have the interests of the fraternity at heart, might well measure and re-measure the timber that presents itself to us by petition. It is not enough that the petitioner have no police record, although this is a prime requisite. After all, Freemasonry in practice is a fraternity, and unless one desires to become a member of a fraternity, share life with others like-minded, and make a contribution to contemporary civilization, he might be the best man in the world and yet never become a Mason. One who has the capacity, or lack of it, shall we say, to outgrow a brotherhood, might well not enter it. Freemasonry is not a decoration but a continuing challenge, and unless it be so, then many of us have misinterpreted its esoterics.

Men who have become too big in their own estimation to practice the simple art have lost it. Men who have become too busy to share a part of their lives with the men, who have in many instances made their lives busy, are, unappreciative, and they too have lost the art. Men who have become so small as to permit picayune matters in disagreement with policy or appointment to break the ties of association were better not have had them, and those who pledged a lifelong search of light to have their vision blurred (or was it curiosity satiated), in the first glimpse have participated in a fraud against an unsuspecting brotherhood.

On the other hand, there are those who with a passion have sought the light, to find the lighthouse "kept, poor, unnumbered and with a shaded lens and they well meaning, failed to gain that which they sought, not because they were not conscientious in the seeking, but because somebody who traveled that way before failed to keep faith with those who followed.

We, who have traveled along the way of Light, owe something to the future. Unless we are willing to make the necessary sacrifice to provide the proper atmosphere and opportunity for the pilgrim who would follow us in the search for light, 'twere better that we close the door to the newcomer.

And then again, we who are charged with the responsibility of leadership, we who encircle ourselves with the positions of honor, have a responsibility to those who placed us there and who have led before. There are truly big and busy men who would share life with us, if we were willing to do our part, but how can we expect them to sacrifice their time and effort after a hard day, in an ill-managed evening, too often planned by the leader on his way to his monthly tryst. There are many who fail to realize that although the truths of Freemasonry, its forms and ceremonies, are unchanging and sweet in their antiquity, others feel we must keep pace with the changing times in meeting the needs of men.

If we measure our strength in numbers, our wealth in dollars, our success by alone measuring up to the past (and methinks at times this would be a worthy goal), have we not lost a consciousness of true Masonry? Until we think again in terms of quality, mediate upon our contributions to the lives of all men and to our contemporary civilization, and make the meeting of our responsibilities to their fullest our measure of success—yes, until we make more Masons and fewer members, we shall be continually faced with disinterestedness, a forerunner of disintegration.

—Virginia Masonic Herald



STUDY THE DEGREES

Brother, don't just "take" the "degrees"! Study them! Learn them! If you don't you're cheating yourself! You are paying for them. Learn well their lessons! You will then appreciate their truth, beauty and deep significance. You'll be a better man, a happier man and a more useful citizen. The "Craftsman" who "gauges" his life in accordance with Masonic law will be a better son, a more understanding husband and father, a more loyal friend, and he will know the real joy of living. Masonry is not just a ritual, a club, a Lodge—it's a way of life, a plan for living.

—Masonic Beacon.



PROMISES

If you make a promise, fulfil it; be it a small or a great matter, fulfil it; broken faith cannot be mended like old china. You may patch it up, but there forever afterwards lurks a certain suspicion or mistrust; you may think it is forgotten, but it is not so. A promise should be kept inviolate, sacred as an oath.



Happiness itself is sufficient excuse. Beautiful things are right and true; so beautiful actions are those pleasing to the gods. Wise men have an inward sense of what is beautiful, and the highest wisdom is to trust this intuition and be guided by it. The answer to the last appeal of what is right lies within a man's own breast. Trust thyself.—Aristotle.