

To All Our Readers - - A Merry Christmas



Vol. 12. No. 4

DECEMBER, 1946

Grand Lodge Bulletin

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LET THERE BE LIGHT

Bro. Rt. Rev. A. H. SOVEREIGN, D.D., Peace River

CHRISTMAS has always been associated with light. Its very date marks the victory of light over darkness as the first lengthening day begins to put to flight the powers of night—in fact, the feast was once called “Sol Invictus” (the sun unconquered). Drowsy shepherds by Bethlehem hills were aroused by the effulgent glory of heavenly light and they heard angelic voices singing the first Christmas carol, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will”. Far away by Eastern skies, there were three kings or priests of the religion of Zoroaster. They worshipped God in the symbolism of “Fire”. Their priests were called “Fire Priests” and before the altar in their Temples the holy fire forever burned. Fire to these seekers after God was the symbol of the divine essence, the source of life to man and beast and flower and the lustre of Paradise. These Magi were thrilled with worship as they beheld the sun and in the gathering darkness looked up at the stars—“the forget-me-nots of the angels”—and wondered.

An ancient carol dated 1610 tells the story of their search:

*“This shining star three kings did guide
Even from the furthest East
To Bethlehem where it betide
This Blessed Babe did rest.”*

And the Magi had found their King—“A light to lighten the Gentiles” and to illumine the world,—and when they had found him they departed unto their own country another way—the Way of Holiness.

In the beginning, when the Great Architect planned and created the heavens and the earth, darkness moved upon the face of the deep. “And God said: ‘Let there be light’ and there was light.” Then man began his long search for that revealing light, for we are Children of the Quest. Man at his best has always gone forth in his search for lost secrets and hidden treasures and unexplored lands—“Like children crying in the night, like children crying for the light, and with no language but a cry.” Even flowers in dungeon cells will stretch their tenuous whitened stems towards the tiny window with its magnetic light. Dante in his Divine Commedia describes the Inferno—“I came unto a place mute of all light” and yet each of the three divisions of this great Classic of the Soul closes with an upward look to the light of the stars,—“Thence issuing we again beheld the stars” (Inferno); “Pure and made apt for mounting to the stars” (Purgatorio); “Love that moves the sun in heaven and all the stars” (Paradiso).

Today the world is crying for light. Twice in our own generation we have seen the lights of Europe all but extinguished. Darkness—dense darkness moved over the face of the earth and millions prayed for a glimpse of the comforting stars. “The stormy clangour of wild war-music” has now ceased, and man is once again seeking for light—the light of peace. Prophetic seers on mountain heights, far above the mists and darkness of groping

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LET THERE BE LIGHT

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souls, are catching the gleam.

*"To the knights in the days of old,
Keeping watch on the mountain heights,
Came a vision of Holy Grail,
And a voice through the waiting night:
Follow, follow, follow the gleam,
Of the light that shall bring the dawn."*

At this Christmastide, may we listen, and tuning our souls in harmony with the Infinite may we hear the dynamic words—"Let there be light".

In cities, where slums shut out the sunshine from childhood's unfolding life, where burning pavements crowd out the green grass and the gladdening flower, where factories and warehouses displace the playground where children can laugh and play and sing—Let there be light.

In gaudy dungeons where the doors of vice are open and temptations lure and beckon, where demon vultures thrive on the degradation of others, where human leopards fatten on the bodies and souls of their fellowmen—Let there be light.

Where the gloom of ignorance and fear rests like a black cloud over the minds and souls of blinded men, where through vicious statecraft and subtle priestcraft, the smoke-screen of superstition floats continually over the habitations of souls made in the image of God, where truth is hidden or crushed or perverted by rulers of states for their own aggrandisement—Let there be light.

Where poverty hovers with darkened wings and children cry for bread, where youth grows old before its time, where disease leaves blinded babes and deformed and paralyzed limbs, where men and women are condemned to suffer to the third and fourth generation—Let there be light.

In a world where mad men and war-mongers have wrought death and destruction on innocent millions, where helpless victims have been enslaved and tortured and burned, where a million homeless orphans drift over bleak plains or through black forests like chaff before the shifting winds, in a dark and broken and bleeding world—Oh God, let there be light.

To our Masonic Brotherhood, which is as wide as the Seven Seas is given a light—a light which came from the Great Architect of the Universe, a light which has been bequeathed to us from our brothers through countless generations,—a light for which millions have died. "Be yours to hold it high." It is the light of truth, of charity, of service, of liberty, of a freedom which is set in righteous law, a light of common brotherhood which shines over all men of every colour and tribe and tongue. May it shine in our sacred Temples, in our Homes, in Hall and Market, in Church and State. May it shine in our own lives.

Then will the shadows disappear, the gloom will fade away and the beacon fires of love and faith and hope

GRAND LODGE PROCEEDINGS An Interesting Educational Medium

Every brother is entitled to receive from the Lodge Secretary, in his turn of request, a copy of the Grand Lodge Proceedings (just off the press) for review purposes, without cost. This year's volume is an important masonic document, which contains not only a full report on Alberta freemasonry, but also interesting Reviews on the activities of the Craft in many Grand Jurisdictions throughout the masonic world. As the Proceedings include gems from the storehouse of masonic philosophy, which appear in the printed addresses, and also as excerpts from the addresses of Grand Masters of other Grand Lodges, which are in interesting reading style, it is a valuable medium for higher masonic learning. Arrangements have been made to supply brethren desirous of a copy for their personal masonic Library at the nominal cost of 50c if application made direct to the Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple, 12th Ave. West, Calgary, or through the Lodge Secretary. This newly published volume is recommended particularly to the brethren who have joined our ranks in recent years, as a step along the pathway leading toward higher masonic learning.

ARTHUR G. R. BOND,
Grand Master.

YULE-TIDE GREETINGS

It gives me great pleasure as your Editor, to again have the privilege of extending Christmas Greetings of Good Cheer to our many members and to my many personal friends. I am sure we all hope that during the past year we have contributed some small thing to the welfare of our fellow man. I wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with this thought, "It is not what we gain but what we give, Measures the worth of this life we live."

SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

AIR PIONEER HEADS MASONS

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand is Governor-General Sir Cyril Newall, Marshal of the Royal Air Force and one of the pioneers of aviation, he having learned to fly in 1910. The Royal Air Force of today in the British Empire is said to owe much to his exertions when he served at the Air Ministry as Chief of the Air Staff. It is believed this is the first case of an airman holding this high Masonic post. As Governor-General of New Zealand he succeeded the late Viscount Galway, who was active in both the Supreme Council, 33°, and the Grand Lodge of England.

will guide mankind to a nobler age. So mote it be.
"Every tiger madness muzzled, every serpent passion killed;

Every grim ravine a garden, every blazing desert tilled;
Robed in universal harvest, up to either pole she smiles;
Universal ocean softly washing, all her warless isles."

LET THERE BE LIGHT

HERE IS A MAN

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never put his feet inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things which usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away . . . One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying, and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today He still is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the columns of humanity!

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings and dictators that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as that one solitary life.

—Texas Grand Lodge Magazine.

THREE PRECIOUS THINGS

Six centuries before Christ there lived a wise Chinese philosopher who has given us three precious principles of leadership. As you turn the pages of history you will find that the greatest men followed these simple precepts.

"I have three precious things which I cherish and prize," said the sage. "The first is gentleness, the second is frugality, the third is humility.

"Be gentle and you may be bold; be frugal and you may be liberal; avoid putting yourself above others and you may become a leader."—

—The National Observer.

Those who flatter themselves that by suppressing radical thoughts they can make the present systems work, are due for more than one terrific jolt in the days to come.

that the greatest minds have not yet completely fathomed it. And it is yours and mine—a treasure of inestimable value. In the very centre of the Story are these words for each to ponder:

"To you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

R. W. Bro. Rev. T. H. LONSDALE,
Grand Chaplain.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

THE Most Worshipful, the Grand Master has asked me to write a Christmas Message. On receipt of his request I went at once to the Great Light, the Holy Bible, and read again the Christmas Story as found in the second chapter of the Gospel by St. John.

There are 385 words in that Story; it can be read in two minutes. As I closed the Book an idea hit me with the force of a bomb-shell: *the almost unbelievable fact that so short a story should live for so long.* And not only live, but exert a marked influence upon mankind.

I began to ask myself if any other story could lay claim to such distinction. Scores of them passed before my mind: I choose three.

From the first day when I began—haltingly and uncertainly—to read in the original Greek the story of Socrates, I was entranced with it. There was charm, beauty, grandeur, self-sacrifice about it. Yet while that story is older than the Christmas Story, it is not nearly so well known, nor so often read.

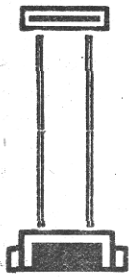
I have always considered the discovery of Radium by Madame Curie to be one of the world's great stories. It has about it the elements of greatness—unremitting toil, complete devotion to a self-appointed task, courage in the face of a thousand defeats. But of those who know the Christmas Story, only one in a hundred know of Madame Curie.

Possibly the nearest competitor to the Christmas Story is Charles Dicken's "Christmas Carol". The competition, however, is unfair, since, no Christmas Story, no "Christmas Carol". Yet even Dickens' great, and shall we say immortal, story is not so well known as the original.

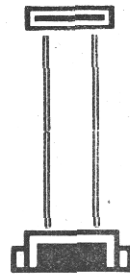
Without a doubt the Christmas Story out-tops them all. It is still the world's best seller—to use a popular phrase. I mean that factually. Few books that attracted the buyers at Christmas last year will be on the shelves this year. Yet in every Church, in every Sunday School, in many Masonic Lodges, and in millions of homes, the Christmas Story will be on sale—in music, sermon, form of worship, in the festivities of the season. Strangely enough people will have no hesitation in buying it. Not even the devastation, and destructiveness of a great war prevented people from buying.

Here enters a peculiar anomaly: this Story has no market value. Did you think I meant you could buy it with coin of the realm? I apologize if I misled you there. The Christmas Story can only be bought with devotion, adoration and contemplation. In plain fact, it was a gift from God. It can be bought by the acceptance of us men.

What a simple Story it is! Yet how profound! Such that a child might understand and love; so deep



Between the Pillars



Significance of the Square Explained in Ancient Tale

LET us allow our imagination to take us 62 miles east of London to the ancient city of Canterbury and back in time to the year 1175, five years after the murder of Thomas A. Becket.

Fire has destroyed the cathedral which had been rebuilt in 1070, A.D., on the site of the church which King Ethelbert gave to Augustine about 597. A.D. William Sens, a Master Mason from France, with craftsmen and apprentices, is rebuilding the cathedral. It is a labor of love in which every workman vies with his fellows with nothing short of perfection as a goal.

Although the hours are long and the labor extremely fatiguing the devotion to a great Christian ideal makes the work a pleasure and it is only when the gathering dusk makes it imperative that further progress is postponed to the morrow.

Repair In Order

As the order comes from the Master, calling the craft from labor to refreshment, they repair in an orderly manner to the Lodge where the stewards have provided the evening meal. The Lodge is a temporary structure to provide a home for the workmen, as they reside at Canterbury only until the Cathedral is completed and then travel, perhaps into foreign countries, to work on other edifices.

These Craftsmen and apprentices naturally invoke the blessings of God on all their undertakings and thus, after grace has been spoken by the Master, each workman feels that even the food of which he partakes is a part of the design of the Temple on High of which the Cathedral he is constructing is a symbol.

The meal being finished, the Master calls the Craft to order for the reception, or initiation, of a candidate who wished to become an Entered Apprentice which included an obligation to serve seven years. His qualifications had been thoroughly investigated; his moral, intellectual and physical requirements had met the approbation of the Craft and the Master was satisfied that all established usages and customs had been covered. He therefore ordered that the candidate be properly prepared and initiated.

Serious Preparation

The preparation was of a nature to make a most serious impression on the young applicant of the importance of the undertaking. His reception into the Lodge was accomplished by an ancient ceremony such as had been used in the Mysteries of Mithra before the Christian era, and similar to the one used at the present time. Notwithstanding these formalities, the whole of the ceremony was short. An obligation was taken by the candidate in which he promised to be faithful to God, to the church, and to the Craft and to diligently apply himself to the study of the profession he was choosing. He also promised to hold in veneration the established customs and usages of the Craft. He was then clothed as an Entered Apprentice and given his working tools.

The old traditions were recited and a charge was given him, which in essentials has been handed down to the present day. After the charge the Master gave a lecture. In our imagination let us listen to the words:

"You are now an Entered Apprentice and have seven years to faithfully serve before you can become a Fellowcraft. You have had instruction of a general character but it will be necessary for you to study all this general knowledge in detail and learn how to apply the principles taught you to your work. The tools you have been given have uses which have been briefly explained, but it is only by much practice that they can be skillfully handled.

"To become a Fellowcraft, and perhaps eventually a Master, it will be necessary for you to have a full comprehension of the ultimate purposes of our Craft. Among the tools and implements we use there is none of more vital importance or more significant of the basic principles of building both this temporal cathedral and that more important temple of Character than the SQUARE."

Late Bro. SILAS H. SHEPHERD.



CALIFORNIA GRAND LODGE FIFTH

Grand Master Arthur W. Brouillet revealed that the California Grand Lodge is now fifth in size in the United States, being exceeded only by New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. He said that more than 1000 Californians are becoming Masons each month.—*Orange Co. Masonic Bulletin*.



Expect less of Masonry as an Institution and do more through individual effort. The Institution can furnish leadership and inspiration, and when it has done that it has fulfilled its mission. It cannot live the Mason's life for him. Only by his efforts can he experience the benefits that he may be tempted to expect from his membership alone.—*Masonic Journal of South Africa*.