



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: SAM HARRIS, P.G.M.

WE ARE BUILDING

Brethren:—

The Masonic fraternity has an objective and task of helping men to build their own souls upon the foundation of faith in God; helping men to construct the Temple of their own characters; by laying emphasis on the individual, helping to build stronger, finer men. This is fundamental. It is not a temporary job. Rather, it is something absolutely fundamental to the success of the world. Freemasonry is timeless. It belongs to no particular generation because character is essential in all ages and generations.

We cannot completely isolate ourselves—even within the tyled recesses of our lodge—from the impact of world affairs. The orderly course of our individual lives has been rudely disturbed for more than ten years. At times it has required a courageous faith to withstand the shocks levelled against the very foundations of our way of life. The most challenging words in our language, not only in these anxious days, but every day, are Freedom and Liberty. They breathe the spirit of genuine Freemasonry and signify the precious thing which men of good will cherish and which we must have for humanity. Herein, Brethren, we discover the solid granite rock, the corner stone, if you like, upon which our Order must stand. Through all vicissitudes and difficulties of life our lodges have been working constantly, serenely and consistantly, building character, installing patriotism, teaching morality, affirming its belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, developing the principle of personal liberty and freedom through the law for the individual. We can attain and preserve these ideals only by the devotion of every good Mason to his duty as a citizen, acting in his civil life as the dictates of right reason prompt him. Cultivate Harmony, Practice Charity and live in peace with all men.

How good it is to know that there are ties that

even all the forces of evil cannot break. These are the ties of Christian and Masonic Brotherhood. These are the only channels by which men or nations will be able to find their contacts after this strife of winning the peace is over. As Freemasons, let us be true to the principles of this great Order. Looking forward with faith and courage to that better day which we know will surely come. There is a great future for Freemasonry, any organization that does the things we have done, are doing and shall continue to do in making contributions to Charity, to Relief and especially to the support of the Grand Lodge, sets Freemasonry out as something to be desired by every good man and true.

Yes, my Brethren, the world needs the mellowing and refining influence of fraternalism—that glowing beacon of the everlasting light of love and brotherhood, which points the faithful craftsman to the archway through the skies, past the gates of pearl into the streets of gold. The spirit of brotherhood was the fundamental principle emanating from the innermost recesses of the hearts of all great men in all nations, and also the great pioneers. They were real fraternalists, conscientiously doing for each other the vital things for the constructive civilization. They found time for the *great things* of life.

Time is an elusive thing. Some borrow it and live on it for the rest of their lives. Some steal it and it is never recovered. Some kill it and only suffer themselves. Others claim they can make time and some cannot even find time. Every good and true Mason will find time to do his duty to himself, his God and his neighbour, and will be found standing staunchly for the highest and noblest things of life, manifesting a real patriotism, obedience to law, deep religious convictions and zealously in every good work which looks to the betterment of the human family. Above all, he has an abiding faith

and firm reliance in Almighty God. He is deeply moved by a sense of his stewardship and he will live his life and practice the virtues taught by his fraternity, to the end that his loyalty to God and to his country and its government will be apparent to all men.

A man's claim to be a freemason should be a passport as to his integrity and honor, not only with his Brethren, but with all mankind. The strength of Freemasonry depends far less upon numbers than upon the character of its members. Those who were worthy when admitted among us will sometimes fall away, bringing regrets to those with whom they were associated. We should admit no one but those who will be a real brother, capable of receiving and deriving genuine benefits from their intercourse with us.

What is a Mason... Not the clod
 Whose thoughts ne'er rise above the sod,
 Whose best ambition is to know
 The joys that from the senses grow.
 What is a Mason... Not the slave
 To passions that will dig his grave,
 Nor yet the miser hard and cold
 Who shuts his heart to all but gold.
 What is a Mason... Not the hound
 Who boldly treads on Holy ground,
 At woman's honour dares to sneer,
 At truth Divine to mock and jeer.
 A Mason worthy of the name
 Can never stoop to guilt or shame,
 His honour is his dearest care,
 Fidelity, his jewel rare.

Masonry has had a rough and rugged road to travel and one beset with many dangers. Ecclesiastical bigots have denounced her and political demagogues declaimed against her. Church councils have decreed her ruin and political parties have been organized for her overthrow. To all these attacks she interposed no defence except the conduct and character of her votaries, and with patience waited for her to bring her vindication. The vindication came, full and complete; generation after generation adds to her numbers; and today in her ranks may be found many of the brightest, best and noblest of our race.

It is said the flower that opens its frail beauty within reach of the observer's hand, the wild bird that lifts up its morning song in welcome of the returning light, the evening cloud that curtains the couch of the setting sun with the crimson glory, the rainbow that spans the pathway of the retiring storm with its sevenfold arch, do indeed for a few moments arrest our vivid and delightful attention; but when they have finished their brief course and have sunk into silence and darkness, our lifted eyes see the same stars gleaming like fire-tinted blossoms on the plains of heaven, undimmed by the darkness of a thousand

storms, unchanged by the lapse of a thousand years. Let us be like one of these stars, constant, consistent and true; that wherever our lot may be cast, there may we be found dispensing True Masonic Light; that the evil, envy, error, hate, ignorance and intolerance of those opposed to truth, honour, tolerance and liberty may be driven from the earth; *that we may be remembered.* No fonder or dearer wish has ever pulsed the human heart than the wish to be remembered. Death itself would be much less dreadful for many if they could only be sure they would not perish from the memory of those whom they have loved. Chisel a tablet of precious metal and some future generation will throw it among the rubbish or fling it on a dump; but hold it in the golden embrace of memory and it endures co-eternal with all the eternities themselves. May the influence of our lives and our words and thoughts be eternal for Truth, Justice and Right, and may that light which shines around our altars be brighter because of you and your labours.

R. W. Bro. Charles Fotheringham,
 P.D.D.G.M. Ontario.

The above article was written expressly for our Bulletin by Bro. Fotheringham previous to his recent departure to Britain.

S.H.

A NEW WORLD ORDER

Extract from an address by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, Judge C. H. Book, K.C., LL.B.

As we build, and as we show our brethren, first our brethren within the Craft, and then our brethren outside the Craft, what it means to be a Freemason, so we shall make our best and most real contribution to the New World Order, because only as we are incorporating these wonderful tenets and principles of ours into actual life and activity do they become real, tangible, and effective. It has been said that God works for man through man, and seldom, if at all, in any other way. He asks for our voices to speak His truth, for our hands to do His work here below, sweet voices and clean hands to make liberty and love, truth and decent, honest living prevail over cruelty, falsehood, injustice and hate. Life is a capacity for the higher things. Shall we not as Freemasons see that we make it a pursuit of the highest, so that through us, through each and every one of us, the great spirit of this great Craft may grow and extend until in God's good time the day will come of which Tennyson spoke so many years ago, the day of the New Order, when the war drums throb no longer, and the battle flags are furled in the parliament of man—the Federation of the World.

I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity an obligation; every possession a duty.—*Edwin Markham.*

NATIONAL AND CONTINENTAL MASONIC EXPANSION

It is interesting to note by recent events, that Freemasonry is being broadened beyond the parochial limits of Grand Jurisdictions. This is revealed in the recent expansion of the Annual Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in the United States to that of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, commencing this year. And also in the organization this year of an all Canadian and Newfoundland Grand Jurisdictions Conference body, which is an outcome from the Conference of Western Canada Grand Jurisdictions. It is with considerable satisfaction that one is able to confidently believe the new Dominion Wide Association has been brought into being and the American Conference expanded, through the prominence and success of the Western Canada Conference, in which Alberta has played an important part through the contributions of its past and present Grand Lodge Officers. The two large important Conference Associations (National and International) do not and will not, in any way affect the sovereignty or autonomy of any regular Grand Lodge, but they will effect closer ties and concerted action on matters of general Masonic importance to the Craft as a whole within the confines of the National and International Conference associations. These recent important events are a good omen for a greater and grander Freemasonry at this time of the World's entry into a new Era of Civilization. Believing it will be the wish of the general membership, I am recommending to our Grand Lodge Committee of the Bulletin and Masonic Education, publication of the Reports (reasonable in extent) of the proceedings of these two important Masonic Associations. This with a view to a fuller knowledge of Freemasonry's activities in the broad national and international field of the fraternity, of which our Alberta Grand Body is a component part.

Arthur G. R. Bond
Grand Master.

THE FIRST IMPRESSION

Taken by and large the conception a new Brother gets of Masonry is formed by what happens to him in his initiatory degrees. That is where a Mason is made. If these are improperly done, conducted in an "assembly line" manner with the members exhibiting boredom and a let's-get-it-over-with attitude, you can be sure the newly obligated Brother is going away from there with a lowered opinion of the Order. He is bound to feel a sense of being cheated, and the hoodwink is certain to mean more to him than the symbol for which it stands.

Masonry is great. It has lived through the centuries. But let us never forget that it is never greater than the new blood it draws to itself. Masonry begins with the Entered Apprentice degree. It begins at the door of the preparation room. Let each of us remember that and see to it that no slip of ours detracts from

(Continued from page 28)

mentally and spiritually, will never make his own desires the goal of his work, but, as Pope puts it, "continually do good, and blush to find it fame." He must also be ready at any hour of the day or night to lay down his tools of labor at the call of the Master Builder, and answer that summons which must surely come, and maybe when least expected. Consequently he should devote a portion of his life to the business of preparing himself for that moment when the soul shall take wing to those unexplored realms above where the divisions of time shall cease and the beauties of a glorious immortality burst upon the view.

Let us remember, brethren, the greatest of all broken obligations is failure to endeavor, mentally and spiritually, to live up to the ideals Masonry teaches. A well-known Masonic writer has said: "An impure thought is a broken trust; a destructive action a living curse; a narrow mind a strangle cord around the throat of one's soul."

Let us definitely remember that the measure of man's life is in the well-spending of it, and not in the length of it. So said Plutarch centuries ago, and yet how true even today.

Therefore, let the initiate realize that in Masonry, as in all things, it is the man who can do something that will win the esteem of his fellows, and not he who can explain why he did not do it.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that at least some of the thoughts expressed in this address will be the means of giving the newly initiated brethren a little better understanding of the principles underlying the ritual of the First Degree and a higher appreciation of Masonry generally.

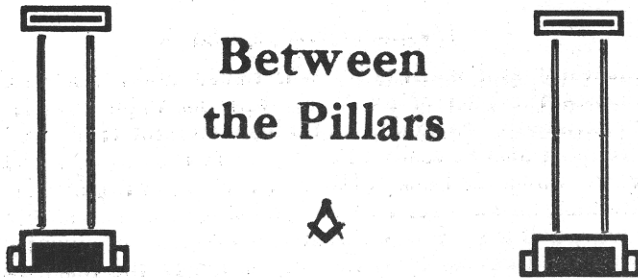
LIFE'S STAIRWAY

"We are all on life's stairway, going up or down, all going somewhere. And the people... some are ascending, their faces radiant with sunshine. Many others are climbing with faltering steps and trembling heart. There are faces of arresting seriousness, strong and honest faces, that inspire weaker ones. So many thousands need helping up. What a thrilling spectacle, a never ending panorama of human beings, all travelling toward destiny. See these coming down... A boisterous, careless, wild-eyed throng of those seeking pleasure. Self-living men and women. How fast they go; two steps at a time, some are literally falling down. A heedless, dissipated, selfish and ignorant seething crowd of unfortunate human beings, travelling toward destiny.

My Brother, are you travelling up or down... What an opportunity for Masons to help humanity up."

Selected.

the solemnity, dignity, honor and reverential atmosphere which should govern when a new Brother is brought into the Order.



Between the Pillars

THE NEWLY INITIATED BRETHREN

Before it can be hoped to properly understand and appreciate the real significance of the ceremony of Initiation, two aspects must be carefully considered—the spiritual and the physical. We must all recognize that the ritual indicates that our initiation is spiritual and not physical, for it is in this degree we are figuratively born to new life, or, as the Latin word “initium” indicates, a new beginning. It is during this ceremony that our souls are awakened to the possibility of higher spiritual and intellectual development. Therefore, the ceremony is really a preparation, a laying out of the ground on which we lay the foundation stone of higher spiritual development. Consequently as the novice develops in conscious conception of these facts, he becomes better enabled to give fuller expression to the higher thoughts that develop within him and is able, in a measure at least, to apply them to his daily life.

In Masonry, as throughout the universe, everything animate and inanimate is passing through certain stages of evolution, but we must not forget that for human beings to attain and maintain perfect development, mentally and spiritually, they must concentrate most assiduously on the task before them, ever conscious of the fact that it is only by individual effort that they can expect to reach their goal. No one else in the world can give it to them. Such development rests entirely on personal endeavor.

At his initiation the candidate is taught to dedicate his heart, purified from every baneful and malignant passion and fitted only for the reception of truth and virtue, to the glory of God and the welfare of his fellow creatures. Consequently the ceremony represents the operation of giving shape to the rude mass taken from the quarry of nature, and, as the human body is the highest manifestation of form, it is necessary that the apprentice should make a close study of himself so that he may shape his own organism or faculties in conformity with the Divine plan. He must realize that God created him after His own image and just a little lower than the angels. Therefore, he should definitely accept the fact that his body is the temple of the living God, and that he must cherish it accordingly. He must endeavor to divest his nature—as stones from the quarry—of all those excrescences to which human nature is prone, such as selfishness, intemperate habits, base thoughts, narrow mindedness, etc., and balance the mental and physical aspects so that they will be

lifted above the sordid plane of worldliness. He must, by the strictest application of the gavel, master those evils that do most easily beset him and develop the better side of his nature before he can hope to improve his character and intellect sufficiently to be considered worthy to be passed to a higher degree.

Every initiate, after having taken the first step, should realize that his inner motives are the true index of his real self, and that those who seek admission to the Order for selfish, materialistic considerations, will never be Masons in the true sense of the word. They may possibly deceive the brethren, but they cannot be foolish enough to imagine that they can hoodwink the Great Architect of the Universe. When the great spiritual Lodge meets it will be too late for regrets and they will surely find themselves assigned to the realms of utter darkness. And all because they have wilfully neglected opportunities that have been placed within their reach. An eminent Masonic writer has said: “Watch fobs, jewels and other insignia do not make Masons, neither do rituals ordain them.” Masons are evolved through self conscious effort to live up to the ideals inculcated in Masonic teachings. Their mode of living is the sole insignia of their rank or worth, greater far than any other tangible credential.

The first degree allows the initiate to take the first step on the path of soul development and liberation. In this degree he symbolizes the child with smiling, hopeful face, who with childlike simplicity clasps the hands of the Great Spiritual Father, willing and glad to obey His dictates, living in the hope of being found worthy to undertake the second step in his spiritual development.

Let us remember, brethren, that material prosperity is not the measure of that soul growth which Masonry cultivates. The Mason at heart must realize that behind all there is one connecting principle or influence—the Divine Spark or Spirit of God in all things living. He must also realize that it is the discovery of this spark of unity which makes him a conscious member of the great Lodge of the universe. Knowing this, no true Mason can be narrow, because to him his Lodge and its teachings should appeal as a Divine expression of broadness, there being no room for little minds in the great work of Masonry.

Individually, as we enter Masonry we are admonished to devote time to the study of such of the liberal arts as may come within the compass of our attainments, and that each day we should extract from life its message and build into it the temple we are striving to erect. That is what is meant when we speak of making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. Therefore, brethren, enter your Lodge with this thought uppermost in your minds: “How can I, as an individual member of the Craft, be of greatest assistance in the universal plan of Masonry...”

A member of the Craft who has Masonry truly at heart, while constantly striving to improve himself

(Continued on Page 27)