



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: Sam Harris, P.G.M.

LIGHT

God said—"Let there be light!"
 Grim darkness felt his might,
 And fled away;
 Then startled seas and mountains cold
 Shone forth, all bright in blue and gold,
 And cried—" 'Tis day! 'Tis day!"

—ELLIOTT.

Freemasons are so familiar with the first verses of the Book of Genesis that sometimes one feels sufficient thought is not given to the significance of the majestic command, "God said, LET THERE BE LIGHT."

All down through the ages men and women of every race and colour have longed for and searched for that LIGHT—so often in vain. Just as it seemed the LIGHT was about to shine, leaders of the nations threw out screens of deception and suspicion to draw their people away from the TRUTH, often to serve their own selfish ends or for power. Today, as this desire of men and women for LIGHT appears once again to be frustrated by the leaders, one almost despairs of the future, for still the hearts of the common people throughout the world cry out to live at peace one with another.

However, be that as it may, let us, the humbler brethren in Freemasonry, leave the discords of the world and repair to our lodge and there together sit around our altar and endeavour to renew the search for that LIGHT where alone "true joys are to be found". 'Tis in the quietness of the lodge that personal ambitions are dropped as we reflect on the directions to be found in the GUIDE BOOK, ever open in the centre for our contemplation. In that HOLY BOOK we are repeatedly taught it is the desire of our Creator that brethren should dwell together in unity, acknowledging only the Supremacy of God.

Has it ever occurred to you how much of the symbolism and teachings of Masonry resemble the

order of the seasons in the natural world, hence the Divine order of creation?

We are now approaching the end of the period of darkness of winter, when, if the eye could see it, the natural world of vegetation and insect life begins to stir and show signs of revival after many months of dormancy and sleep. We are on the threshold of a new season, awaiting eagerly for that light and warmth we know will shortly come to arouse and renew the sap of life in all creation around us, and to teach mankind once again the great Truth of the "LIGHT".

The solemnity of the degree of an Entered Apprentice awes the candidate as he begins to realize it is far more serious than he anticipated. He is then given a glimpse of that LIGHT, the Great Light of Masonry, which, if he keeps steadfast on the thrilling adventure to which he has set his mind, he will ultimately see in all its fullness and brilliancy. Resembling the world of nature around him, at his initiation into Masonry, he will feel the prospect of a new life opening up before him, in which emphasis is placed on that eternal Truth—"the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

The three degrees may well be likened to those three seasons of the year—Spring, Summer and Autumn or Fall. The Entered Apprentice degree corresponds to the Spring, the emerging from the darkness of winter or ignorance to a new meaning of the purpose of life, which, if he perseveres, will lead him to the fullness of the summer of Masonry, represented in the Fellowcraft degree. Summer, in the order of the seasons, is the time when all vegetation is busy, changing, ever changing, from seedling to plant, from plant to fruit. And so as Fellowcrafts we are led to contemplate and develop the intellectual faculties. In other words, to meditate on the wondrous works of the Great Architect

which surround us on every side, more especially in the country. We are permitted, yea, and urged, to extend our researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science and to seek for that Great Light which may be hidden by the clouds of doubt and fear that, at times, beset every thoughtful man. This degree represents the working period of life, when the mind is open and keen to learn more of those Divine mysteries—not haunted by fear of tradition or of the future. The young plant of wheat stools out and becomes vigorous, reaching ever upward to catch the rays of the sun, and in so doing the new head slowly emerges from the stalk behind the flag or leaf to burst forth to the warmth and light which alone will ripen it. Likewise, the Fellowcraft becomes more expert and by continually enriching his mind with new experiences and new thoughts, fulfills the Divine purpose of his creation—polishing the rough Ashlar until it is as perfect as his patience and ability can make it.

The third season—autumn or fall—sees the fruition of the year's growth, when, by the Divine gift of the light and warmth of the sun, the grain becomes ripened and ready to garner for the benefit of mankind. It is the season when all creation seems frantically busy preparing for the long sleep of winter. As the harvest time is the result of the season's growth, so the Master Mason's degree represents the culmination of man's working period, when we are reminded to give serious thought to the greater things in life and prepare ourselves for acceptance into the Grand Lodge above, where our work during our pilgrimage on earth will be accepted or rejected by the Great Architect.

We have endeavoured to show by the foregoing that the symbolism of Masonry is well exemplified in the world of nature all around us. However, while the light of the sun and moon shed their benign influence on all creation, they themselves do not satisfy the inward craving of man for the fulfillment of that first command of the Godhead, "LET THERE BE LIGHT." We must look elsewhere if we would pierce the darkness which so often enshrouds the mind of man. Freemasonry holds no pretence to have any supernatural powers by giving that LIGHT or even being able to give the LOST WORD. It does, however, by its teachings and symbolism endeavour to assist man along the path leading up the mountain of TRUTH, where alone will be found the answer to life's perplexities. It also warns us of the mental and spiritual difficulties that lie ahead for all those who sincerely desire to persevere in their search for TRUTH—for what is LIGHT but TRUTH?

As the years pass on the struggle along this earthly pilgrimage becomes more wearying. At times a man feels terribly despondent at the thought of his many failures and weaknesses, till the darkness

and gloom over mind and soul become almost more than he can endure.

Slowly, and at first quite imperceptibly, there takes place in his mind and heart a change, likened unto the change at harvest, when even the light from the sun sheds its glow over the ripening fields of grain with a softer and kindlier light than in summer. It is then there comes to him the remembrance of the Promise given in His glorious Easter and His comforting words, "Let not your heart be troubled."

With these assurances in mind, like a flash the cares and trappings of this earthly journey, which formerly seemed to him all important, are dropped, as the spirit is gently borne up by the angels into the serene purity of those brilliant rays diffusing eternally from the outer courts of the Temple of the Most High. It was from the Holy of Holies in His Temple that Almighty God gave to His angels at the Creation His beneficent decree, "LET THERE BE LIGHT: and there was LIGHT".

V.W. BRO. M. J. BRODIE,
Past Grand Steward.

A FREQUENT OFFENCE

The commonest Masonic offense is revealing the transactions of the lodge. This is usually done through carelessness and not through criminal intent. No Mason would reveal our ritual to an outsider and the actions of the lodge in its business or that which takes place in the lodge room is just as sacred. If a friend has been elected to receive the degrees of Masonry it is the pleasing task of the Secretary to inform him of the fact and if rejected it is his unpleasant task to do so. Too many times has a brother told his friend of what has transpired and the pleasure of getting the news from the Secretary is lost upon the applicant. The very fact that you do not tell him impresses him with the solemnity of the fraternity.—Exchange.

"... and the greatest of these is Charity." Let us be charitable, not only financially but, more important, in thought, word and deed to those about us. In this way our Masonic stature grows.

—L.E.W. in the Philalethes.

Be small enough to walk with the lowly and not feel superior. Many will agree with this but few will follow it. Those few will carry the light of everlasting sunshine on their countenance, and man and God will walk with them.

GRAND SECRETARY'S COLUMN

By the time this issue of the Bulletin is in your hands it is expected that each and every Brother will have received, through his Lodge Secretary a descriptive folder of the Grand Master's scheme for the "Boys' Farm Inc.", to be located in Southern Alberta. It is his wish that every Brother read this folder very carefully before coming to any decision in the matter. So far as it is possible to do at this time, the plan of establishing the Farm has been fully set forth.

Some fifteen thousand of these folders have been printed and a sufficient number have been sent to each Lodge Secretary, with the request that a copy be sent to every member of the Lodge with his next circular so that every Brother will have full information of what is proposed.

In addition a circular letter has been sent to each Lodge, requesting that each Lodge hold a full discussion on the project at an early date. Included is a form of resolution—for or against—which each Lodge is requested to fill out and mail at once to the Grand Master c/o Grand Lodge Office.

By this means the Grand Master hopes to have a well informed meeting when the matter comes before Grand Lodge in June next. He earnestly desires the co-operation of every member throughout the Jurisdiction in this great undertaking.

The fiscal year of Grand Lodge is rapidly drawing to a close—soon the books will be closed, moneys transferred to their respective funds, and the usual data prepared for Grand Lodge—While most of the Semi-Annual Returns have been received there are a few still outstanding, and your Grand Secretary would greatly appreciate it if these few would send their Returns in at once, even if the cheques have to follow later on. Don't forget, every entry on your Returns have to be "card indexed" at least twice and some of them three times, which means a great deal of work. As usual, many of the Dimits sent in are not signed, and being valueless without signature, have to be sent back. Some don't bother to send them in at all, although Section No. 213 deals with the matter very clearly. Dual Membership, dealt with in Sections 267-273 is another source of trouble and Brother Secretaries are invited to study these sections of the Constitution carefully. All these and other related matters are the cause of a lot of correspondence, much of which could be eliminated if better understood, and the Constitution was more carefully studied.

District Deputy Grand Masters are reminded that their reports should be sent in not later than April 30, 1948. Please remember it is from your reports the Deputy Grand Master compiles his report on the "Condition of Masonry" and you should give him all the time possible, as this is one of the most important reports to be submitted to Grand Lodge.

The circulation of the Grand Lodge Bulletin is steadily climbing, over 8,000 per month now. An increasing number of Lodges are sending one to each member every month—this is as it should be, no Brother can afford to be without this highly desirable paper with its wealth of Masonic information, especially the newer members who have joined the Craft in such large numbers in recent years. It is vitally important to your Lodge and the Craft at large that they receive education, there is no better way of doing this than by giving them the "Bulletin".

G. MOORE, P.G.M.,
Grand Secretary.

OPPORTUNISTS CANNOT INFLUENCE MASONRY

Some have expressed disappointment in Masonry. Why? Because they have become members from wrong motives. No one needs to think he can mould the institution to his preconceived pattern. No one can use it to climb the social ladder, and also it is impossible for one to find it a shield to escape punishment for crime, treason or other violation of law. Only a brief period is necessary for the Craft to discover if a newcomer is exploiting his membership for self-aggrandisement or, as is usually said, "to work the fraternity," then he is in bad repute, shunned, and he soon drops out—disappointed, to "knock" the institution. Many there have been of this character, and yet Masonry endures and thrives.

JOHN H. COWLES, P.G.M.,
in New Age Magazine.

Try to be happy in this very present moment; and put not off being so to a time to come; as though that time should be of another make from this, which is already come and is ours.—Fuller.

In an English Lodge the only officers elected are the Master, Treasurer and Tyler.

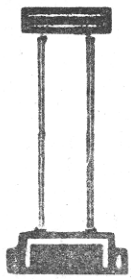
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always be done in a quiet and fraternal manner, so as to avoid any possible hard feelings.

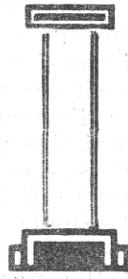
The distinguishing characteristics of a Past Master who is a regular attendant should be: Loyalty to his Lodge, Enthusiasm for its Work and to be in harmony with all Brethren.

In conclusion, let us all—Past Masters, Officers and Brethren—continue to live and work together in Love and Harmony, and be guided by the Level and the Square in all our undertakings.

V.WOR. BRO. DOUGLAS WARD,
Corinthian A.F.&A.M. No. 22, Alta.



Between the Pillars



THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLACE OF THE PAST MASTERS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF A LODGE

The Place of a Past Master is at the left of the Worshipful Master or any place about the Lodge.

A Past Master should be well acquainted with all the rules and regulations contained in the Book of Constitution; he should be a great help to the Worshipful Master, willing to take different parts of the Degree Work when requested to do so by the Worshipful Master. He should be prepared to examine any visiting Brethren; to introduce any Grand Lodge Officers; to propose Toasts to Visiting Brethren and Grand Lodge Officers when required and to lead in giving Grand Honors when requested. Many other matters of minor importance constantly require the lead of a well skilled brother and a Worshipful Master is grateful to a Past Master when he relieves him of a lot of Lodge detail. Perhaps it cannot be termed "the duty of a Past Master" to relieve the Worshipful Master of all the points suggested, but a Past Master should endeavor to attend all meetings and be happy to leave the direction of the work to the Worshipful Master and by his attendance and influence encourage those who have not held office in the Lodge, to continue their interest in the Lodge, and give liberally of their time and substance in promoting the Welfare of the Lodge.

A Past Master should not stand aloof nor feel superior to his younger brethren or feel it necessary to enforce his views on others, but he should insist on the Landmarks of Masonry being carefully preserved. By his advice and fellowship he should encourage the younger brethren to seek promotion in the Lodge and encourage them in any work they are asked by the W.M. to undertake. A Past Master is not an officer of the Lodge, but he holds an honorary position, advising the Master when requested and his great function should be to act and exemplify the role of a well skilled Master Mason. He has become the Big Brother to the newly initiated and should be loyal and considerate to his Successor in office and a Master of precept and example.

When the Master of a Lodge finishes his term of office and becomes one of the Lodge's Past Masters, it does not mean that his usefulness to the Lodge is a thing of the past and that from then on, whenever he does attend meetings, he is merely

a spectator. In fact, his usefulness to his Lodge may now just be beginning to make itself felt, and according to the effort he makes to maintain the standard of the Lodge, so his real value will be appreciated and his own enjoyment of Masonry be enhanced.

It is to be regretted that so many eminent brethren who have been faithful attendants in the early years of their membership, after achieving the highest honor a Lodge can bestow upon any of its members—namely that of its Worshipful Master, have absented themselves more and more from the regular Lodge meetings and become just casual attendants. Such a condition is detrimental to any Lodge as the Lodge is deprived of his Good Fellowship, advice and attendance, and the Brother who is remiss in this respect weakens the ranks of his Lodge by absenting himself. A Past Master of a Lodge is one of its most valuable members, and his regular presence is much needed in guiding the destiny of his Lodge, and in instructing and advising candidates who are newly admitted to membership. It has often been said that the success or failure of a Lodge can be attributed to the interest and activity displayed by its Past Masters.

The rank of a Past Master is not attained without the Worthy Brother serving as Master of the Lodge. As Master, and in the various Chairs through which he has passed leading to the Masters Degree, the Worthy Brother has had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the duties of the various offices of the Lodge and also as the governing Head of his Lodge. This has taken years of apprenticeship and now as a Past Master, he is expected to continue his interest and assist in every way the regular officers of the Lodge as they are promoted and appointed to their positions.

Masonic Fellowship prevails throughout a Lodge, and the Master is always thankful for the advice and help of those who have preceded him in the Chair.

A Past Master, to contribute to the well-being of his Lodge, should express his views fully in all matters brought to the attention of the Lodge. He must learn to realize that in gaining his present position of a Past Master, he has in the past had the confidence of his brethren, and by his help and guidance he must do all in his power to hold such confidence and esteem. Every individual has special attainments—some perhaps clerical, others along various other lines. Any such outstanding ability should be available to his Lodge in whatever sphere it may be required.

A Past Master is not necessarily a critic of the Floor and Degree Work done in his Lodge, but should he notice any discrepancies or errors, it is his duty to bring the same to the attention of the Worshipful Master or other Brother responsible. This should

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