

A Bright and Happy New Year to Our Shut-in Members

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Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor: Sam Harris, P.G.M.

THE DUTIES OF A MASON IN LOCAL, PROVINCIAL or DOMINION AFFAIRS

The Empire, the Dominion, the Province and local affairs and other districts of the British Commonwealth has proved to be the best soil for Freemasonry, and Christianity and Freemasonry have been the Keystones of the whole economic structure.

The Masonic order as we know it was organized in Great Britain in 1717, Masonry spread to the Continent of Europe and introduced Liberty, Equality and Fraternity in France about the year 1745 and the French Nation still use that slogan, designed by Freemasonry. Wherever the Union Jack has flown there has been Liberty and Fraternity, and an equal chance for each individual to develop his own peculiar talents, and Freemasonry has flourished. Freemasonry has never flourished under a Dictator, it has been persecuted, but never completely subdued.

Now it seems to me that the subject overlaps because if you do your duty in local affairs as a good citizen and a Mason you are doing something for humanity at large as one cog in the vast chain of the Empire.

Now what should a Mason do to be worthy of these privileges and do his duty to the State? Let us act as the dictates of right reason prompt us, cultivate harmony, practice charity, and live in peace with all men. No one can describe your duty more concisely. Given a good early training, a Mason's first duty is to develop a clean mind and a good character. Without these qualities he is of no use to Empire, Dominion or any other sphere of action, with a clean and a trustworthy reputation a Mason should be willing to do his part in any State function upon which he may be called, without pushing himself for mere honors or financial reward. He should look beyond the narrow limits of particular institutions

whether civil or religious, and do his duty to God, his neighbor, and himself.

Now there is only one God, and only one of himself, but when they asked the Man of Galilee "Who is my neighbor? He replied, any one who needs your assistance, he is your neighbor." This is a plea for the Freemason to apply what the Fraternity stands for, to the problems of our own day. Then there is the Mason's duty to the man, who given the ten talents, and who trying to put them into practice, is sometimes ridiculed and slandered, as a political or business crook. A good Mason should at least give those in authority a chance before they are condemned. It is a curious trait in human nature, that we often forget the many good things a man has done, but a single stain of slander will cling to our memories forever.

It is said in one place in Masonry "that an unjust man like an unjust Nation is the Architect of his own swift ruin." Did you ever deliver a fine piece of Masonic Ritual and have some one run over afterwards and tell you, that you left out a word or two? He saw the mistake, did he remember the rest of the lecture?

Then we talk of Freedom. Some years ago some of the big employers took advantage of labor and imposed on them at every turn. Today the tide has turned and labor dictates to the so-called capitalist. That is not Masonry in either case. What will the next cycle be like if men will not learn Masonic Principles as outlined in the Golden Rule? The word freedom in some cases has been a joke, because it is useless to free men unless you first make them fit to be free. We have people here from Europe who would upset our whole system. Europe of all places, described by the Prime Minister of Can-

ada in 1939 as a country that NEVER was capable of looking after its own AFFAIRS. The United Nations are looking for some means to reorganize a distracted world and bring order out of chaos.

There are two sure systems if they could see it, Christianity and Freemasonry, or better still a combination of the two. Still even in this great land of plenty we have never given either one of them a fair trial. The world needs Brotherhood, Universal Brotherhood to include all classes and creeds. The world needs the right kind of leadership, furnished by those who believe in the real Masonic teachings. A good Mason can be a tremendous power for good in the Empire, Dominion or Province. This CANNOT be done by confining our actions and knowledge to the Lodge Room. The least among us can make his contribution at home or abroad. Even a stone dropped in the lake spreads its ripples to the farthest shore. No one knows the full spread of his own influence, and whatever that influence may be, it is each member's Masonic duty to show the world by example and utterance the true way to World Peace and a better way of life.

Ambition, Greed, Jealousy and Selfishness have wrecked hundreds of good intentions, and THEY are no part of Freemasonry. Given the good qualities I have quoted a Freemason will do his duty to the Empire, Dominion, Provincial and local affairs, and do unto others as he would have them do unto him. Then when his time comes to pass on, his Brethren can truthfully say "he was a gentleman and a good citizen and left this world a little better than he found it."

R.W. BRO. R. G. THOMSON, P.D.D.G.M.,
Unity Lodge No. 51

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The ceremony of opening a Lodge is of considerable importance (writes the "Masonic Record", London, England). It was designed to weave a spell about those brethren present and to prepare their hearts and minds for what is to follow. Just as a flower unfolds its petals and displays its centre to the sun which renews its life, so the opening of a Masonic Lodge is a symbol of the human mind and heart to the G.A.U.T.U. Entered upon and completed with due reverence and in stately manner, it prepares the mind for the wise and beautiful teachings of the Craft. The opening ceremony of the First Degree is suited to the E.A. as a call to life and a means of lifting one's mind above the level of mundane things. In the Second Degree it is a call to advancement in the philosophy of Masonry and stimulation to habits of industry and perseverance. The opening for the Third Degree emphasizes the need for further and more sacred contemplation, that we may be better enabled to fulfil our duties to our Creator and to man-

kind, and thus be able by trust in the Most High to face our inevitable end with courage and conviction. Thus the ceremonial of opening the Lodge in the three degrees is worthy of the best thought of those present, for the symbolism of the ceremonies is susceptible of the most profound interpretation, revealing to those who have minds to comprehend the spiritual realities of life.

South Australian Freemason.

THE AIM AND OBJECT OF A MASONIC LODGE

The grand object of a Masonic Lodge is to promote happiness of the Human Race. Masonry is an art, useful and extensive which comprehends within its circle every branch of useful knowledge and learning. It promotes the most innocent and social pleasures founded on liberality, brotherly love and charity. The aims of the Lodge are not limited to one form of operation, or one mode of benevolence, its object is at once moral and social. It proposes both to cultivate the mind, and enlarge and purify the heart.

Everything which tends to combine men by stronger ties, is useful to humanity and from this point of view Masonry is entitled to respect. The object of a Masonic Lodge is not to seek the man, it is that the man seek Masonry. The aim and object of our Lodge is not to make good men, this must have already been done by themselves, but our aim is to make good better. However, Brethren, when considering the aims and objects of our Lodges, we must ever respect and guard well the portals, respect the ancient landmarks and resist all innovation.

Should we deviate any from the established order of things let it be in the direction of antiquity and be solicitous rather for quality, than for quantity. Numbers is but a vulgar test of strength. True test consists in goodness.

So let your true light shine before men, that the world may award you the respect to which Masonry, as the oldest of all institutions is so justly entitled, realizing that you are still engaged in laying the foundation in that great Order for much of the future glory of the Superstructure depends on your wisdom and Masonic virtues.

The object of the Lodge is not to seek initiates, should not. Nor does it boast of its membership. Its mission is to improve the character of the individual Mason, the better to enable him to assume his place in society, and to perform the duties which devolve upon him as a citizen. Masonry is an organization of men, by men, for men, and its purpose is to exalt the dignity of man. Freemasonry does not attempt to solve the problems of nations, the problems of the State nor those of the community. However, it is the duty of us all to strive to understand

the great task set before us and all humanity, and to make every effort toward our Lodge becoming a living temple, a shining light in our community.

In closing let me say there is bigness in some of us, and smallness in all of us, but let us all be big enough to look beyond the smallness in all of us and so make our Masonic Lodge in full, the true meaning of Brotherly Love, Prudence and Charity.

That, I think, is the true aim and object of our Masonic Lodges.

R.W. BRO. PRYCE JONES, P.D.D.G.M.,
Gratton Lodge, No. 144.

AWAKE

I can well remember the time when Masons really and truly practiced Masonry, a time when a Mason was looked upon as an example of right and clean living. This was when a Mason's word was all the requirements needed in any transaction. The question is: Why is this not true today? What has happened? Is Masonry slipping? Nay, my friend, the principles of Masonry are the same today as they have been from time immemorial and will remain the same through the ages to come for they are one with God. Then what has happened? Just this: Masonry has been and is still being trailed in the dust and dragged through the mire of negligence and is causing this great injustice to the principles of Masonry. Therefore, it must be the constant practice of all intelligent Masons to eradicate this cause.

It is alarming to see the great injury that is being done to the fraternity through accepting men, yet not men, but creatures, in the organization who give no thought of the principles of the institution as a constant practice through daily living, but enter only for what can be gained through the connections thereby to further their own personal gains. No man should ever be recommended for Masonry unless those recommending him are reasonably sure he will be governed by our rules, laws and usages, that the honor, glory, beauty and reputation of the fraternity will be upheld and Masonry still hold the place it has held, and will hold throughout the world.

And if we should receive any who do not have the necessary qualifications we should rid ourselves of them at once, or as soon as this true nature is known. Again, brothers, let us "Awake".

BRO. BOOKER T. SUGGS,
Oriental Lodge, No. 68, Chicago.

A SACRED TRUST

Masonry had its origin in response to a demand of human nature for a community or fraternity wherein the welfare of a brother was

to be a moving cause. Everyone who has come into this community has done so of his own free will and accord, and his avowed purpose only was advancement of the welfare of his fellowman. In coming thus freely into the fraternity he has yielded his individual will, in certain respects, to the government of the majority, or to the government of the Craft, in such manner as its laws and usages prescribe. In doing this he has trusted to the good faith and the combined wisdom of his Brethren. He has placed in their hands in certain instances his hour and reputation. A trust more sacred could be reposed in no one.

The Freemason, England.

CHARITY

Charity is another name for disinterested love—the humane, sympathetic feeling—that which seeks the good of others; that which would pour out from the treasures of its munificence gifts of good things upon all. It is that feeling which leads on the reformer, which inspires the philanthropist, which blesses and curses not. It is the good Samaritan of the heart. It is that which thinketh no evil and is kind, which hopeth all things. It visits the sick, cares for the orphan. It delights to do offices of good to those cast down, to relieve the suffering of the oppressed and distressed.

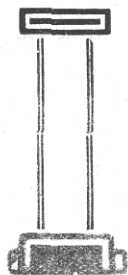
Nothing gives a sweeter charm to youth than an active charity, a disposition kind to all. He who carries ever with him the spirit of boundless charity to man often does good when he knows not of it. How glorious the thought of the universal triumph of charity!

Under the direful influence of an antagonistic principle—war, man has trampled upon the rights of fellow man and waded through rivers of human blood to satisfy his thirst for vengeance. Its footsteps have been marked with the blood of slaughtered millions. Its power has shivered kingdoms. When men shall be brought into subjection to the law of charity, the angel of peace will take up its abode with the children of men. Wars will cease; envy and revenge will hide their diminished heads; falsehood will be unknown, and then this world will be a glorious place.

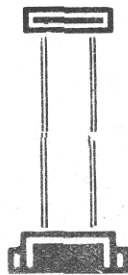
Charity never faileth, rejoiceth in the truth, and now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity.

BRO. N. M. DILLINGER,
Cherryville, N.C.

Every time you acquire a new interest, even more, a new accomplishment, you increase your power of life. No one who is deeply interested in his subject can long remain unhappy. The real pessimist is the person who has lost interest.—Wm. L. Phelps.



Between the Pillars



THE PURPOSE OF FREEMASONRY

"The nature of Freemasonry is spiritual; the purpose of Freemasonry is to promulgate its spiritual ideals and bring them into operation in the life of its members. It teaches throughout its rites and ceremonies that at the basis of all things, there is creative man.

"On the threshold of Masonic light every man is working to find his faith in the Almighty Architect and Master Builder of the world. This is not a mere form of words. To be indifferent to God is to be indifferent to the greatest of all realities, that upon which inspiration all humanity rests for its uplifting and desires. If Masonry was not spiritual, not a brotherhood which it is striving to build fast, the institution itself would be like a house built upon sands. It would not be able to weather the storms that come round it, and it would go crashing down round our ears.

"No human brotherhood that has not a foundation based on the Fatherhood of God can possibly endure. If we follow the meaning of life, then let us all heed the assurance of God as creeds of the world, and it is upon this assurance that Masonry lays its corner stone and endures. Masonry has been described as a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. That is true. It is more than this; it renders service to the inner life of man where issues of character and destiny are determined for good or ill. It seeks to ship with spiritual reality. It teaches respect and toleration of others. It sets up that broad principle which calls upon us to act with charity to other people.

While the nature of Freemasonry is spiritual it seeks to inculcate unto men that they are spiritual beings, charged with responsibility, a deepening spiritual sense and desire. Its purpose is to build a world-wide brotherhood which because its foundations are based upon good, will help to bring universal peace and universal goodwill.

"We are living in days when the world is in great need. At no time in its history has it been in greater need of the spirit of brotherhood to be evinced in the minds of individuals and nations. They are found today in the purpose of the institution to which we belong, and the purpose of the Lodge that is being consecrated tonight is and should be that we should endeavor to the very utmost of our powers and ability, to

bring about in the life of the community in which we exist that true spirit of goodwill, brotherhood and friendship.

"There is before Freemasonry today a tremendous responsibility, and it is up to each one of us to see we do not let down the Institution of which we are members, that we do not let down the world because we fail to carry out in our own lives the things the institution stands for and fail to realize the spirituality of life.

"The the Brethren of this new Lodge I want to say to you, you are accepting responsibility of carrying forward the great tradition and the great ideal of the Masonic institution. You in your various Lodges have learned something of what that means. You have learned something of the responsibility that devolves upon you as members of the Masonic fraternity. Now you are binding yourselves into a new unit. You are to be created a new Lodge in the Constitution of W.A., and I give it to you in strongest terms of recommendation that you see to it that the unit you bring into existence and of which you form a part will hold Freemasonry in the highest esteem, and will live up to the teachings of those ideals.

"This is the nature and purpose of Freemasonry, and our loyalty to this nature and this purpose is dominated by each one of us."

The West Australian Craftsman.

It is with regret that we announce the death of R.W. Brother Frank V. Truesdale who passed away in Calgary on November 24th last, at the age of 69 years.

Bro. Truesdale was a member of Concord Lodge No. 124, and a valued member of Grand Lodge for many years. He was a P.D.D.G. Master, Member of the Board of General Purposes and President of our Grand Lodge Benevolent Committee to which he daily devoted considerable of his time. We shall sadly miss him. To his wife and other members of his family we offer our sincerest sympathies. There were none better than Frank.

Into the light that nebermore shall Fade S.H.

DESERVE YOUR RIGHTS

You can obtain the exercise of your rights only by deserving them, through your own activity, and your own spirit of love and sacrifice.

MASONRY CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS

If we can interpret Masonry in terms of real, live, active brotherhood, there isn't a problem confronting us it couldn't solve.—Iowa Grand Lodge Bulletin.