



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta

WITHIN THESE PEACEFUL WALLS

From The Ashlar

What an amount of optimistic thought lies behind the words; "Within these peaceful walls." It is nothing short of a great hope that the Creator, in His infinite wisdom, will be pleased to bestow peace on Freemasonry and Freemasons for all time. For centuries past man has been craving for peace, for the V. O. T. S. L. says, "Blessed are the peace makers," and it appears as the world is today, that that craving may still want centuries to bring a permanent peace to a world which looks like being destroyed in more ways than one.

The above sanguine expression would make one feel that Freemasons were in a world of security, and that safety prevailed. Freemasonry, like any other philanthropic objective in life, must be inspired with the fullest measure of feeling and action, if it is to live.

To a great part of human race, there still are many blessings, which open the way, giving Freemasons the opportunity to persevere with Masonic principles which are good and true, and such opportunity must not be lost sight of, for the forces opposed to Freemasonry are always at work, looking for their opportunity to crush all opposed to their ideas of life. Although such opposition is strong and cannot be overlooked, Freemasonry still manifests its influence among men, and will continue to do so, uniting as it does, peoples of all creeds, countries and beliefs, to one great brotherhood, who, firm in uprightness, fair play, impartiality, principles, loyalty with which, when put into action, must rise superior to all opposition.

The antagonism and undercurrent working against a peace-loving humanity can only be sobered by justness and uprightness, and those who are treading the past justly and uprightly, may at times feel they are playing a losing game. No battle has ever been won, but by continued effort and perseverance, which Freemasonry must put forward, by spreading the light of wisdom,

supporting and contributing to the strength of reason, illustrating and expounding the beauty and refinement of virtue, and to that most deserving of all, lessening the length and breadth of human misery and vice.

The odds are so great against a peaceful world, that, from a Masonic view, every brother who is worthy of the name—a Freemason—must remain firm and steadfast in the performance of his Masonic duty. Whatever a brother pledges himself to do, he will honour, so that Freemasonry will flourish throughout the human race. When that desire is fulfilled, Freemasonry, aye, and even the world can shout with joy at the result of their labours.

This should not be classed as a dream, but an act to be put into operation, the final result of which may not come in our day. But this great structure for peace must be so erected that, like a Freemason, it must be perfect in all its parts and honourable to the builder. Shakespeare gives encouragement to one and all when he says—"There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them though we may." History plainly shows that many human undertakings, quickly or slowly have their day when evil rules the way. The truth and wisdom of the ancient philosophers still lives, so Freemasonry will live, if every act of its tenets are held fast and acted upon by square conduct, and the highest standards of manhood. Only by such acts, if Freemasons are earnest, can our successful destiny be assured, when every race may unite, one with another.

What a crowning accomplishment for Freemasonry in due time to achieve.

This is a glimpse between the lines of that masterly address to the brethren at Installation; it is worthy of reflection, and can only conclude with:

"May the Great Architect of the Universe preside in our Temples."

EDITORIAL

Probably the most recent and forward looking step that has been taken in Alberta with a view to increasing the interest in Masonry has been the trial of the so-called Area Meeting and, although it is doubtless too early to make an unqualified appraisal of the value of such gatherings they will doubtless be watched with a great deal of interest.

Districts five, ten and seventeen recently came together to meet with the Grand Master, Grand Secretary and others and the general consensus of opinion appeared to favor this type of meeting for the dissemination of information with respect to the conduct of the Grand Lodge.

The officers dealing with the respective items of interest covered the ground with advantage to each member of an assembly of more than one hundred members representing twenty lodges of the districts concerned. Indications pointed to a much larger gathering but extremely adverse weather conditions had an unfortunate bearing on the attendance.

Such vital questions as the make-up of Grand Lodge, the functions of the various officers, the dispensation of benevolence, the importance of the higher education bursary plan and the urgent necessity for its support by the membership at large, a proposed mentor plan which created major interest and other questions of importance were discussed and a most effective question period served to enlighten those in attendance.

The subject of Masonic education came in for a good deal of discussion and the great value of such publications as the proceedings of Grand Lodge, the All Canada Conference and the Banff Conference was stressed by those representing Grand Lodge; there was general admission that attendance figures at some lodge meetings gave real cause for disappointment and various ways and means of overcoming this unhappy condition received the careful attention of the meeting. There was definitely a quite general acceptance of the fact that lodge meetings must be planned and not merely held by reason of an obligation to conduct monthly sessions; the responsibility of the Worshipful Master of the lodge, his officers and the members constituting the lodge became very clear indeed during the course of the discussions and it is believed that the Area Meeting served a most useful purpose.

Whether or not the Area Meeting is the answer to problems which are from time to time presented it is difficult to say, but there is little question but that through the medium of such meetings a real effort is being made to advance the general cause of Freemasonry among its adherents and it is urged that members keep an open mind with respect to this medium; first and foremost it is essential that members attend such meetings whenever possible and thus give the proponents of the plan every possible chance of success.

WELL SAID

One of the greatest inspirations of Masonry is to sit in a Lodge room and look around at the older men present; men with the snow of many winters in their hair and the weight of a long and useful life bearing down upon the once stalwart shoulders.

In their faces, as they attentively watch the work or listen to the lectures or discussions, you always see genuine interest, close attention, calmness, confidence in the principles exemplified. Month after month for many years—thirty, forty, a hoary half-century—they have come through fair weather and foul. They have come sometimes many miles to listen to these truths and to present them to younger Brethren. You see them today. Could you have been there, you would have seen others several hundred years ago.

This enduring appeal of Masonry; this wisdom in its lessons that fits the needs of all ages and generations; this lifelong loyalty seen in the lives of so many patriarchs in every community, is one of the best proofs that through a human organization, Masonry is a purposeful instrument of Divine Hands.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Youth is not a time of life—it is a state of mind, it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over love of ease.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair—these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.

Whether seventy or sixteen, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement of the stars and the starlike things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for, what next, and the joy and the game of life.

—*Chicago Scottish Rite Magazine*

REAL PROFICIENCY

It is very well to be proficient in the ritual. That is not only necessary, but is very desirable from the standpoint of impressing the newly-made brother with the solemnity of the occasion of his presence in the Lodge. It is, however, well also to consider efficiency, for this involves the practice of the ritual not merely in the Lodge, but before the world.

The Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City, Utah, has many emblems of Masonic origin, including clasped hands, the All-seeing Eye, Beehive, Earth, Sun, Moon and Stars. On the East centre tower is the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord".

—The Royal Arch Mason

ZETLAND ZEPHYRS MAKE EXCELLENT READING

Lodge notices received from time to time tend to give a fair appraisal of the interest manifested in the preparation of such notices and there is ample room for improvement in some cases.

The notice received lately from Zetland Lodge, Calgary, proved a most interesting one and we take the liberty of presenting herewith the Master's Message which was prepared by W. Bro. James S. Woods, Master of that progressive Lodge and is well worth the study of every Mason in Alberta.

Titled the Parallel Duty and referring to the passage, "Every Right has a Parallel Duty", the Message goes on to say; "These words from the General Charge at the Installation Ceremony comprise one of the most sobering statements made at our Festival Meeting. The whole of that charge should convey to every member of the Craft a deep and real appreciation of the great privilege which is his in being accepted as a Brother.

To a newly installed Master the juxtaposition of 'right' and 'duty' is doubly impressive. At the very pinnacle of attainment he is reminded that his newly gained prerogatives impose on him a very real and lasting duty to his lodge, his officers and his Brethren. For even as they have exalted him they have entrusted to him their Masonic future, not only for the ensuing twelve months, but for the rest of his life, because they have made him one of the official guardians of the ancient landmarks.

To his officers the Master owes a duty of proper guidance and instruction in our rites and ceremonies. To the Brethren he owes the duty of inculcating, maintaining and spreading, by action and example, the valuable fundamental principles of the Order, in conformity with the ancient usages and customs of Freemasonry.

The Master, however, is not the only one on whom a duty is imposed. His officers and Brethren each have important parts to play and without their co-operation, the most able Master could not discharge the burden of his obligation. The officers, having been honoured by the Craft, are bound to display genuine assiduity and zeal in the performance of their functions, to be punctual, and to always be prepared for every practice and ceremony, that the work may proceed in that manner which is to be expected of expert craftsmen.

The Brethren have, perhaps, the greatest duty of all, for they are bound to aid and support their Master and his officers in every activity of the Lodge and to answer—and obey—all summonses. Their attendance at communications is the key to the success of the Order. Without them, the work of the most assiduous Master, aided by the most efficient of officers, will be as naught. The duty of the individual Brother is truly the greatest duty of them all, and, his very duty is his greatest right—to be a Mason!"

MORNING STAR LODGE MARKS 'FAMILY' NIGHT



Morning Star Lodge #79, Loughheed held a rather rare 'Family' Night recently when Brother M. W. Reed received the M. M. Degree. His father, V. W. Bro. L. W. Reed is Master of the Lodge and the degree was conferred upon the father, R. W. Bro. C. W. Reed, a Charter member of the Lodge when it was constituted in 1914. He is 84 years of age and was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel in the fall of 1960.

R. W. Bro. R. D. Thirsk, D. D. G. M. was in attendance at the meeting when this most unusual and noteworthy event took place.

Seated: R. W. Bro. W. C. Reed

Back Row, Left: Bro. M. W. Reed. Right: V. W. Bro. L. W. Reed

Within the Craft in Alberta

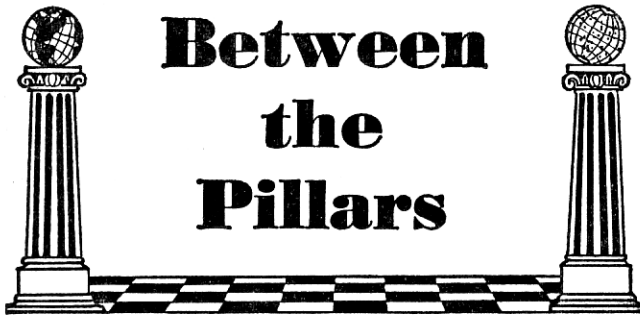
CHURCHMEN TAKE ACTIVE PART IN FREEMASONRY

From time to time we hear discussion with respect to the place of Freemasonry in its relation to the Church, or, alternately, the place of the Church as regards the Order. Certainly a great many Masons take an active part in the Church of their choice and a rather unique and interesting event indicates a practical application of the fine spirit which exists between these two great agencies for the advancement of brotherly love.

In Acacia Lodge, Edmonton, not long ago members of the vestry of St. John's Anglican Church conferred the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on four candidates; all members of the degree team and three of the candidates were members of the vestry or had served in that capacity within the past year or two. The work of the degree was exemplified with precision and dignity and those receiving the honour were much impressed.

W. Bro. Parm Robarts acted as Worshipful Master for the occasion and was assisted by a number of vestrymen whose names are well known in Masonic circles in the Capital City.

If we can but retain in our minds the beauty of the language of Freemasonry and permit our thoughts to go back over the charges and lectures which have so greatly appealed to us in the past, surely we will find the ways and means so necessary today to maintain the true spirit of brotherhood between ourselves and with all with whom we find so much in common.



Between the Pillars

BROTHER WINSTON CHURCHILL

Great men are rare. It is fitting that one of the world's great men of our time should be none other than Winston Churchill.

What, then, is a great man? Instantly one's thoughts fly to such men as Caesar, Napoleon and—perhaps—in the minds of a few—Hitler. Perhaps others will stray from the great conquerors to such men as Beethoven and, we must face up to it, Shakespeare.

Others may again roam to the great "brains" we can think of; once again Napoleon may dominate the scene as an ambitious genius, who did not like the idea of such a person as the Duke of Wellington, who interfered with the satisfying of his lust for power.

There were, however, two great men discovered by the needs of mankind's defence against Hitler—Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Both were concerned with the happiness of mankind.

But still—was it this alone that made Churchill great? No, it was an almost negligible factor compared with what his courage, his splendid ability to say the inspiring words at the right time and his faith in the truth and justice of the cause he espoused contributed.

Churchill began to be considered as an outstanding man as a soldier of the Boer war when, as a war correspondent, he made a name for himself, was captured and escaped to continue his work.

Well educated and gifted in the use of his own language in writing and in speech he entered Parliament where his fine oratory, simple style and wit quickly made him one of the leading men of the day.

Before the war he served in Ministries, notably in the Admiralty, and thus, when the fear of Hitler was in the minds of the British people, they sought a leader—and Churchill was the man they chose.

In appearance he is like the traditional John Bull. His speeches to the people were brave and simple and will live long, with those of such men as Lincoln.

In times that were grim indeed, he instilled into the people of Britain something of his own confidence, so that in the deadliest danger they had ever known they would declare: "This was their finest hour."

He summed up the situation between the people and the valiant young men of the Royal Air Force by saying, "Never in the history of human endeavor did so many owe so much to so few." He could offer the people nothing more than "blood, sweat, toil and tears," but under his leadership they came out of the struggle victorious.

It is interesting to recall that over 50 years ago Winston Churchill was admitted into Freemasonry and remained an active member of his Lodge for a decade.

It was on May 24th, 1909, that his initiation took place in Studholme Lodge No. 1591, meeting at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London. At the time he was twenty six years of age, having but recently returned from his duties in connection with the war in South Africa.

He was passed as a Fellowcraft at an ensuing meeting of the Lodge on July 19th of that year but was not raised as a Master Mason until the 25th of March in the following year and, by arrangement, in the Rosemary Lodge No. 2851, also meeting at the Cafe Royal. He would seem to have remained a member of the Lodge for some years, but there is no mention of his name in connection with the Lodge after July 1912. At that time he was First Lord of the Admiralty and the European War of 1914-1918 was already looming on the political horizon.

Since the time of Pitt there has been no greater Prime Minister than Winston Churchill. Certainly today no statesman has gained so much affection and admiration and respect as the Right Honourable Sir Winston Churchill.

It may be truly said that he was a great figure in a time when there were so few of them. Today he still stands out above all politicians and, as was written by the Duke of Wellington:

He drew his sword

At the command of duty, kept it bright,

Through perilous days and soon as victory
smiled

Laid it unsullied in the lap of peace.

Churchill, the fountain of all wisdom, a man of distinction at 86 years of age is revered, not only by the people of the British Commonwealth but by free men everywhere who recognize and appreciate the use of a great ability, who look back with pleasure and satisfaction on a life that has been devoted to the preservation of the highest principles; just such principles, indeed, as are incorporated in the philosophy of Freemasonry.

Adapted from the Freemason of
New South Wales.

A good man will find that there is goodness in the world; an honest man will find that there is honesty in the world; and a man of principle will find principle and integrity in the minds of others.

—Albert Pike.