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Grand Lodge Bulletin

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HOPE AND JOY

R.W. Bro. Edmund J. Thompson
Jr. Grand Warden

Easter is the celebration of belief in the existence of life beyond the experience we call 'death.' Easter is the symbol of hope, hope not only for this earthly life but hope for life in a new dimension beyond the grave. When we speak of brethren who have died we use the phrase "The Grand Lodge Above." We quote Shakespeare's words, "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns." As, in imagination, we try to follow the departed, our prayer is that as he enters "the Grand Lodge Above" he may hear the words of the Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your Master" Matt. 25:21.

Centuries ago men thought of the earth as flat. Below it was Sheol or Hell, the realm of shadows and darkness; above the dome of the blue sky was another realm, heaven or paradise. Jacob, in his dream at Bethel, saw a ladder reaching up to this heaven and said, "This is the gate of heaven." (Gen. 28:17.) With this simple but clear conception of the universe it was not difficult to believe that the good spirits of the departed entered into a new life in heaven where they would receive their due reward and renew the fellowship of brotherhood begun on earth.

Today we live in the space age. Man has explored the vast, far distances of space with telescope, with sputnik and projectiles. In the other direction man has explored by microscope and penetrated with his mind the very core of the atom itself. But all his search and endeavours have disclosed no clearly delineated place where his hopes of new life might be realized. Instead he discovers himself to be a puny little creature living for a moment of time upon the skin of a wee fragment of matter swirling through endless space. Where he came from and where he is going remain a profound mystery. Two things become clear: First, the universe is much more vast and complex than man ever dreamed. All the efforts of scientists only open up new and more amazing facets of this wonderful and extraordinary work of creation. Each discovery witnesses to the ability and the wisdom of the Grand

Architect who designed and who sustains the world and all that lives in it and beyond it. Second: Clever and intelligent as the mind of man has shown itself to be, we have only scratched the surface in our understanding of the universe and of man. The origin of man and the ultimate destiny of man is shrouded in mystery. There is only one way to live and that is the way of faith-faith in God the Creator, faith in the powers and abilities with which God has endowed us, and faith that God has an ultimate purpose or goal for each of our lives.

The fact that our search has found no "heaven above the bright blue sky", the fact that we are unable to locate precisely in time and space the "Grand Lodge Above" calls us to a deeper and stronger faith in God.

We have been taught that there are **signs** and **symbols** which point to realities existing beyond themselves. So it is that words like "heaven", or "The Grand Lodge Above" or "Eternity" are signs and symbols that point to profound mysteries and realities which at present lie hidden from our earth-bound minds. St. Paul said, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9.) He is saying that our thoughts and concepts are formed in the context of this earthly existence. As yet we are unable to grasp or imagine the beauty and wonder of the life which lies beyond the grave.

We go forward by **faith**. The future, even beyond death, is illuminated by **hope**. The highest life is that which expresses itself in brotherly **love**. So we celebrate Easter with faith, with hope and with love, confident that the Grand Architect of the Universe has made great preparations for our life beyond death. When our time comes we will launch out in faith on life's last and greatest adventure with hope, putting our trust in God. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Ecc. 12:7). Not in the theories of scientists, not in the inventions of men is our faith, but in the ultimate source of all things, God.

May the hope of Easter illuminate your minds; May the joy of Easter fill and warm your hearts!

"Freemasonry And Eternal Life"

A Guest Editorial by W. Bro. O. Seward
W. M. Cairo Lodge No. 32, Claresholm

Charles Dicken's in his book "A Tale of Two Cities" depicts a moving story of adventure and love in the time of the French revolution. One of the main characters, Sydney Carton, ends his life on the guillotine, not for any crime, but in order to save the life of Charles Darney, the husband of the woman he loved. The revolutionary tribunal had condemned Darney to death but Carton, who resembled Darney in appearance, manages to trade places with him and to die in his stead.

Just before Carton dies he utters those famous words, "It is a far, far better thing I do than I have ever done." By this supreme act of devotion he saved the life of his friend and, at the same time, redeems his own life which up to that time had been largely wasted and misguided. Truly, as Jesus says in the gospel of John, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". Carton felt justified in what he did for he gave his life to those whom he loved and who in turn loved him.

Such expressions of love and devotion toward a friend are deeply moving, but they raise even more far reaching questions: eg. "though one may die for a friend what must it take to die for someone from we are estranged?". In reply we find that only Divine Love, the love of God, could go so far. It is only God, in the person of Jesus Christ, who could show such love for man — for those very people who had wronged him and spurned him — that he would die to save their lives, die willingly at their hands. This is exactly what God did for each of us. Paul describes it in Roman 5:6-8 "While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man — though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." By this supreme act of love and devotion Jesus Christ fulfilled the purposes of God to redeem our wasted lives enabling man to seek divine fulfilment both here and in the hereafter.

The two cardinal tenants of freemasonry concern our belief in God and in eternal life. In Jesus' coming we behold God dwelling in the midst of his people while in the Resurrection there is the final proof of a victory over death.

Freemasonry through its philosophy and beliefs has always reinforced such teachings. The legend of Hiram, though symbolic, is the story of the victory of man over his lesser self, evil and death. The late Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, a distinguished mason, has written: "The Degree ends not in a memorial, but in a manifestation of the Eternal Life. Raised from the dead level to a living perpendicular, by the strong grip of faith, the Master Builder lives by the power of an endless life. Masonry symbolically initiates us into the Eternal Life here and now, makes us citizens of eternity in time, and bids us live and act accordingly. Here is the deepest secret Masonry has to teach — that we are immortal here and now; that death is

THE GRAND MASTER'S COLUMN MASONRY IS AN INVESTMENT

Most of us think of an investment as something to do with money, or its equivalent. However, some of us must have thought at times that we have investments of much greater value than mere monetary gain. Our homes, our families, our neighbors, are all part of our investments of our lives.

To many of us, Masonry is a true investment. Surely it gives us no monetary return, you cannot buy and sell what Masonry teaches. But you gain by the opportunity of becoming a Mason. You have made a great, living, action-filled investment. When you became a Mason you put into Masonry, more than money, by dues and fees; more than everything you possess that is measured by dollars and cents. You put your whole life into it, to get in return the teachings of Masonic principles which will enable you to lead a better life. You let Masonry then, direct your life.

Our lives are a constant conflict between good and evil, light and darkness. Our teachings make it possible for man to choose the best that life can offer. Masonry, if allowed to do so, can create the habit of choosing the best that is offered to us, and by so doing helps to develop character.

Just as a farmer sows his seed in faith, believing all will be well, so should we make our investment, believing that the step we take, will lead to a richer, fuller life. As we absorb all that is told to us, and watch the impressive ceremonies ever widening our Masonic knowledge. As we climb higher and higher we are called upon to divest ourselves of our selfish desires and material ambitions.

Is this not a truly great dividend for the efforts we expend? You may call it by any term you please, but Masonic effort is an investment and the dividend and reward of Masonic effort is character. You may have wealth and put your money into high paying propositions but you can make no investment that will pay greater dividends than Masonry will, if you make a Masonic effort to build for good.

W. Bro. A. L. Latta Sr., who was Worshipful Master of Highlands Lodge No. 168 in 1965 and was followed by his eldest son W. Bro. A. L. Latta, Jr. in 1966, installed his second son W. Bro. David Latta as Worshipful Master of Evergreen Lodge No. 166 for 1968.

M.W. Bro. B. Brown represented the Masons of Alberta in February at the Conference of the Grand Masters of North America in Washington.

At this conference M.W. Bro. Sam Hardin was elected President of the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America.

Contributions to the Higher Education Bursary Fund for this Masonic year will be received up to April 30th, 1968.

nothing to the soul; that eternity is here today." "This is the power of the resurrection and the hope of each one of us.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF FREEMASONRY

A Paper Presented to Kenilworth Lodge No. 29, Red Deer February 6, 1968

By Bro. Dennis Stanley, Junior Warden of Kitchener Lodge No. 95 Rimbeay

This address is intended as an attempt to portray some of the principles and practices of modern Freemasonry, and although the few subjects which I plan to cover have been discussed before, I hope that I will be able to ignite one spark of inspiration in some of you brothers here tonight to encourage you to persevere in your lodge work.

Firstly I would like to speak about MASONIC STUDY:

As we progress through the three degrees of Masonry we are continually in search of "further light in Masonry" however, I feel we, the older lodge members, seem to forget the newly raised brothers and fail to encourage them to actually receive more light in Masonry. We all have an obligation to ourselves, to gain more masonic knowledge. Because some of us, and probably most of us are confronted with a society which, shall we say is over-organized or over-subscribed, we do not have the time and probably the inclination to do the things which are truly masonic deeds. Masonry teaches us to make time for these things and I think it teaches us how to spend our time more wisely. We shouldn't have to be encouraged by the masters or the older brethren to study and obtain masonic knowledge but some of us need an extra push to remind us that, if we do not endeavour to obtain more knowledge and spend some time and effort in getting this knowledge, we cannot expect to receive a masters wages. The great objective of Masonry is to teach. It teaches men to be better men. It teaches the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. It teaches the need of knowledge and the need of virtue. It teaches toleration and uprightness of character. It teaches men to circumscribe their passions. Its great end is to make men better men, and thus the world a better place in which to live.

My second topic is "THE SECRECY OF MASONRY".

Masonry is not a secret society. Don't let anyone tell you it is. Secret societies are societies which are secret; that is which do not acknowledge their existence to the public, or in which men do not acknowledge membership. Most everyone knows of the Masonic fraternity; its members are proud to be known as such. There is nothing secret about the organization. It possesses, and imparts to its members, certain information which Masons are required to hold sacred and thus secret from the public. It is a society which possesses "secrets" but is not itself secret.

Why have any secrets? Why not give our secrets to the world? If we only could give them to the world. Masonry is anxious to deliver knowledge and does so to men as fast as they are fitted for such knowledge. No good man need to be denied the blessings of Masonic knowledge, but he must ask to receive.

To give knowledge to those who are unwanting and unfit to receive and use it would be to cheapen it, to injure its power for good among others. The secrets of Masonry are few in number and valuable only to her

membership. A few modes of recognition, a few solemn promises made, a few ways of teaching knowledge and you have encompassed most of the Masonry that may not be told. Masonry, keeping her teachings for those who seek them; Masonry, making it difficult to become of her elect; Masonry, holding herself apart and unostentatious from the world, makes men desire her. When a man finds that there is one and only one road by which he may win from Masonry those teachings she guards so well, that road will he take. He will be a good man, paying the price of study, application, patient waiting and on the bonds of fraternity to prove himself fit. The real secrets of Masonry are never told, not even mouth to ear. For the real secret of Masonry is spoken to your heart, and from it to that of your brother.

My final topic is CHARITY:

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortune, to comfort their miseries and restore peace in their troubled minds is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections. A careful reading of these sentences taken from the Masonic Manual is all the guide any Master Mason really needs to point the way to Masonic charity. Masonry is not an organization conducted for charitable purposes. It is not a mutual benefit association. No, Masonry is something much greater; it ministers to a man's heart and mind, rather than to his body. True, fraternal affection and pity for the unfortunate lead Masons to take care of their own, to establish homes for their aged and infirm, to give to the needy, to relieve the distressed. All lodges spend money for charity. The greatest charity which the Masonic Order has for its members is charity of thought; the greatest relief it can render is relief of the spirit. It is charity of thought and act, rather than charity of money and material things, that demands a Mason's attention. The most common opportunity given us is visiting the sick. The brother who has been confined to hospital in a strange city and who has received a visit from a brother he has not previously met, truly understands the beneficial effect of Masonic charity. Another charity which we can all extend is that of faith. When our brother fails in business; is accused of some offense; is criticized; is in any trouble, we need to offer a helping hand and ensure him that we believe in him and will assist him in his difficulties.

Charity of opinion reminds us not to be the judges of our brethren. Let us, "in the most friendly manner, remind him of his faults". Let us speak no ill of a brother; let us keep our critical thoughts to ourselves. Let us remember that as we judge him, so we must be judged; that the fraternity and its reputation do not depend upon what we think of him, but what the world thinks of us.

So shall we offer the truest Masonic charity, and some day find that it comes back to us ten fold.

**WEST EDMONTON LODGE No. 101
CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR
ALONG WITH CANADA'S CENTENNIAL**



R.W. Bro. Briggs and W. Bro. D. T. Ritchie being presented with certificates by R.W. Bro. Dodds

West Edmonton Lodge No. 101 Edmonton, Alberta celebrated the whole of the year 1967 as its 50th Anniversary Year. Several outstanding events and projects took place and were completed as the year passed along, among which were the appointments of a Treasurer-Emeritus, Honorary Historian, and a Honorary Life Member.

A series of very fine speakers were invited to speak to the members following most of the Regular monthly meetings. This program got off to an auspicious start with Bro. D. Innes, of Acacia Lodge retired Principal of Strathcona High School, on the subject of "Canada's History" on April 5th. This was followed by an address by our Lt. Governor, Dr. MacEwan, on "Alberta's History" May 17th. It should be noted that this latter event attracted more than 150 members from the Edmonton area, and the lodge was honored by the presence of the Grand Master and a number of Grand Lodge officers.

The meeting of May 17th was one of the highlights of the year, the business portion including the presentation of a beautiful set of altar and pedestal cloths by V.W. Bro. N. Luciow, the same being dedicated by the Grand Chaplain, R.W. Bro. E. J. Thompson.

At the Regular Meeting on June 7th, Bro. J. Falconer of Saskatchewan Lodge dealt in a pleasing and interesting manner with the subject of "Edmonton's History" and on June 21st, the Festival and Banquet in connection with Installation of Officers took place, still in the 50th Anniversary theme.

The lodge returned from summer recess with renewed vigor, and heard on Sept. 6th from Dr. Morley Young on the most thought provoking subject of "People and Aging."

October 4th saw the lodge holding a special night called "Like Calder" at which V.W. Bro. Horner gave a nostalgic account of the events and people involved in the early days of the lodge when meetings were held

in Advance Hall, Calder, and the membership consisted mainly of employees of the Canadian National Railway Engine Shop and Yards in the Northwest section of the City of Edmonton. This affair brought back many fond memories in the older members and proved interesting to the newer members.

The event to which all this was leading up, occurred on October 18th, when the 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving and Dedication Services were held. This was a most impressive affair, and the lodge was honored by the presence of the Grand Master and a considerable number of Grand Lodge officers, past and present. A banquet was held before the meeting, and when the lodge was re-opened, the distinguished visitors were received in due form, and the services of Thanksgiving and Rededication were conducted by the R.W. Bro. H. Cantelon, Past Grand Chaplain.

The Secretary, R.W. Bro. R. Martins, was presented with a beautiful long service jewel for his sixteen years of service to the lodge in that capacity.

R.W. Bro. W. E. Briggs was declared "Honorary Historian" and W. Bro. D. T. Ritchie was declared "Honorary Master Printer" and both these brethren were presented with certificates.

These three presentations were made by R.W. Bro. J. E. Dodds, P.G.R. V.W. Bro. W. R. Horner then presented the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. C. Schroder, with a gold, mounted plaque bearing the inscription "Commemorating fifty years of Fellowship in West Edmonton Lodge."

R.W. Bro. Briggs read the highlights from the Historical Review of the Lodge, which is very complete and was written by him during the past twelve months.

The Anniversary Year wound up with a most enjoyable Ladies Night, at which souvenir Anniversary silver spoons were presented to the ladies.

**BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES
DIGEST OF MINUTES**

At a meeting of the Board of General Purposes held in the Masonic Hall, Red Deer, among other business the following items of interest were approved or authorized:

1. M.W. Bro. Merner reported for the Jurisprudence Committee that a majority of Past Grand Masters favoured having the Installation at the time of the Banquet, or on the main day of Grand Lodge. This recommendation was passed to the Committee on the Constitution, to draft an amendment.
2. Draft of a new Master Mason Certificate in English only was approved.
3. The Board was advised that 2,000 copies of the Mentor Plan were being printed.
4. The Board was advised that the Higher Education Bursary Committee were looking into the possibility of providing a larger Bursary in the field of our Mental Institutions. Some suggested details were given and the matter was referred to the Higher Education Bursary Committee.
5. The Board, on the motion of the Grand Master, seconded by the Senior Grand Warden appointed V.W. Bro. M. P. Dunford as Assistant Grand Secretary. (Congratulations to V.W. Bro. M. P. Dunford.)