



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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EASTER, 1969

W. Bro. Rev. J. C. Daisley, Taber, Alberta, Birch Hills—Wakaw Lodge No. 127 G.R.S.

A portion of the Easter message as recorded in the Volume of the Sacred Law reads:

"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early when it was yet dark unto the sepulchre."

We might ask, "Why did she come?"

As we read the complete story we learn she came because in Jesus she saw that 'plus' in life which she herself lacked. Having been attracted by him, she became a member of The Way. She was in the company which followed Jesus throughout Judea and Galilee. He came to her home in Bethany where she listened to his teaching. She was among those who followed him to the hill outside Jerusalem where He was crucified. "Then, on the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early to the sepulchre."

However, she did not find what she expected for "the stone was rolled away" and He had risen from the dead.

This was, for Mary, the beginning of her introduction to a new dimension. She entered upon a new stage of spiritual experience, not controlled or directed by attachment to a physical form but by an awakening of her spirit to Christ's presence 'within' her life.

This is real Christianity.

It is experience of a new dimension. It is believing Christ is with us now beyond His death and beyond ours.

With this thought of Easter in mind, we might ask, "Why do men come to Masonry?" And as we enquire we find they like Mary have seen a man who has a 'plus' in his life which they lack. This man whom they see is a Mason who practices outside the lodge those excellent principles which are inculcated within it.

So they come, seeking admittance and again, like Mary, they do not find what they expected.

However, as each new member receives 'light', it is for him the beginning of his introduction to a new dimension. He enters upon a new stage of moral and spiritual experience which is Masonry. Every man as he progresses in the order has a dream—a dream of becoming the man he ought to be in the eyes of his fellow man and of his Creator.

This Easter let each one of us ask ourselves:

Has that dream been forgotten?

Have we failed to bring it into reality?

As we look at ourselves our work and our lodges, in many cases the answer must be yes! But this must

not discourage us. Easter is a time of new life, of a new beginning. Let us make this true in Masonry and for ourselves. Here are three words which can help us sum up the means by which our dreams can be changed to acts and masonry in our midst can break forth with new life. They are Humility, Dedication and Power.

Humility—If we are to ensure that our dreams shall come true we need humility. None of us can cope with every situation in our own strength. We admitted that as we entered upon masonry. If we continue to practise it, grace shall be given and our dreams shall "turn to noble actions, ministries of love."

Dedication—As Masons we must be dedicated men. We must cheerfully conform to the ancient usages and established customs of the order. Remembering always it is more important to have 'a few good masons' rather than 'a good few masons.' For quality breeds quantity and quality comes through dedication.

Power—In technology we have recourse to apparently limitless 'atomic' power. But as Masons we know that atomic energy is only a small fraction of the limitless power of the Great Architect of the Universe which is available to us at all times. If we 'plug in' power will be there to bring our dreams to reality.

So let us act on these things that Masonry may shine in '69.

What I have tried to say in this Easter Message is summed up for us in Elbert Hubbards words:

"The line between failure and success is so fine

That we scarcely know when we pass it.

So fine that we are often on the line and we do not know it.

How many a man has thrown up his hands at a time
When a little more patience
Would have achieved success.

As the tide goes clear out, so it comes clear in.

In business sometimes prospects may seem darkest
When really they are on the turn

A little more persistence

A little more effort

And what seemed a hopeless failure

May turn to a glorious success.

There is no defeat except in no longer trying

There is no defeat save from within

No really insurmountable barrier

Save our own inherent weakness of purpose."

How Should The New Freemason Be Prepared ?

Bro. R. Wilkins, Red Deer Lodge No. 12

When we intend to erect a structure we spend considerable time in the Planning Stage. Long before the materials are ordered or the actual construction gets underway, plans are drawn and studied. Sometimes they are modified and even redrawn. Great effort is expended so that everything possible may be done to insure the building will be as useful to our purpose as possible.

As Freemasons we are told that we are Builders, and I think that this fact is recognized by all in the Craft. Therefore we should see to it that our planning is well done and that our material is well prepared.

My thought is, Brethren, that our preparation for our new members should be as carefully planned as is our approach to the erection of a new structure. We must plan every step carefully, remembering that every candidate should be treated as an individual irregardless of the fact that he may be initiated as one of a group.

This, of course, is to be done without changing any of our precepts or ideals. After a man is raised he may be interested in one or many phases of the Craft, and he should be encouraged to follow whichever phase most appeals to him.

However, I feel that we should give him the fundamentals right from the time he asks for an application form. We should tell him as much as is reasonable, and then after each Degree, we should go over it with him step by step, up to and including the M.M. Degree.

The question then arises, if we are to prepare them properly before they enter the Craft—what and how much should they be told?

I would, I think, take the following course. Before I personally signed the application recommending a petitioner, I would make up my mind that I was going to be a personal guide for this man, and see that even after he is raised, everything is done for at least a year, to insure that he fits into our Lodge structure and activities. Certainly this will take time but it will be time well spent.

I think that before he fills out the application he should be asked the following questions:

Why do you want to become a Mason?

What benefits do you expect to gain from membership?

Can you afford the Initiation Fee and the Annual Dues?

Do you expect the same type of activities in Masonry as in Service Clubs?

I would expect the proper answers to these questions before proceeding with the completion of the Application Form.

I would explain to him that we are not a charitable organization in the sense that we promise any material benefits. Rather, I would point out the many various forms of Charity, not just the giving of money, but the giving of something greater—himself.

I would explain to him our belief that kind words and deeds expressed and carried out amongst his fellow men will bring him greater happiness than just giving

out money. Tell him, of course, that we do our share as far as our resources permit in helping less fortunate members of society, but that is secondary.

We should endeavor to explain to him that Masonry is a way of life. While it doesn't take the place of a man's religion, the acceptance of a Supreme Being is a must. All races, classes, creeds can belong, but our doors are barred to Atheists. Inform him that we are not a secret society, although we have secrets which are used in our Degree work, and also as a means of recognition.

Stress the fact that there is nothing secret about our ideals and aspirations.

He should be told that he will be expected to take part in Lodge activities. That there will be ritual to be learned and memorized, and that the task of becoming a good Mason will be much easier if he understands the lessons given him during the ceremonies.

We should try to give him a fair idea of what Freemasonry is, so that he would be better able to decide whether or not he wished to proceed. Then if his decision is affirmative, tell him you are willing and happy to present his petition to the Lodge.

Assuming his petition is passed I would then have an informal discussion with him, explaining that there will be certain ceremonies that he must go through, and I would stress that the Ceremonies will be of a solemn and dignified nature, and that he has nothing to fear regarding any personal embarrassment. **There will be no horseplay.**

I would advise him that he would be wise to cleanse himself both in body and soul before he arrives for Initiation.

On the night of his Initiation, I would call for him personally, take him to the Lodge, and introduce him to as many members as possible. Then when the members go into the Lodge Room to open the meeting I would stay with him and endeavor to keep him from feeling uneasy.

I should make certain that when the Worshipful Master asks him, "In whom do you put your trust?" he is able to answer without prompting.

After the Degree is over I would make it a point to be with him, and take him to the refreshment table, and see that he talks to as many Brethren as possible.

During the entire time, from Initiation into the E.A. Degree to the final raising to Master Mason, I think we should maintain close contact with him and encourage his questions or requests for enlightenment, and I am convinced that by the time he receives his M.M. Degree, he will be a far better qualified Mason than those Brethren who are left to find their own way!

Also we should be aware that our responsibilities to our newly raised Brother do not end here. We should impress on him the importance of attending Lodge Meetings, encourage him to take part in Lodge activities, attend committee meetings, mingle freely with the Brethren, and advise him of Library facilities.

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APPRECIATION

Our October issue featured V.W. Bro. J. S. Stewart as Personality of the Month and the Bulletin Committee wishes to acknowledge a letter of thanks received from Bro. Stewart which says in part—

“Masonry has paid great dividends to me all down through the years; it did my heart and soul much good and I am thankful that I followed my father’s steps in joining the order. Long may it prosper.”

REPROOF

The following letter was received by the Editorial Committee from the Secretary of Vermilion Lodge No. 24.

“At the last regular meeting of Vermilion Lodge No. 24, serious objection was taken to the manner in which the historical sketch of Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. F. G. Millar was written up. He was referred to only as Bro. Millar, no reference being made at any time to the valuable contribution he made as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 10, and at no time using his correct title. Further, no mention was made that his son, Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. Jim Millar has not only served as Master of St. George’s Lodge, Elk Point, but also as a Past District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 10.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. F. G. Millar has not only contributed greatly to the welfare of Freemasonry, but has also proved to be a staunch friend to all who know him. It is with this in mind that we draw to your attention the above omissions, as we of Vermilion Lodge No. 24 feel that this great man deserves all the honor and credits that are due him.”

COMMENT

The Editorial Committee is very sorry if the profile of R.W. Bro. Dr. F. G. Millar failed to reflect our opinion of him as a true and faithful servant and we are glad to print the corrections so graciously submitted by Vermilion Lodge. At the same time we would like to assert that to be called Brother in the Masonic Sense is the greatest tribute that can be paid to any man no matter what his other attainments may be. Similarly to be called a Master Mason and to have the privilege of wearing the apron emblematic of that rank is a far greater honour than all other recognitions that might come. Indeed one can climb no higher in Freemasonry than to the height which is attained when he is raised to the Sublime Degree.

Letters to the Editorial Committee are most welcome and it will be pleased to acknowledge such correspondence in the Bulletin. Recently the number of contributions made to the Bulletin has increased in a gratifying manner. This is an indication to the Committee that the publication is being read with interest. The reactions and suggestions of the Brethren are most welcome.

THE GRAND MASTER’S COLUMN

M.W. Bro. C. E. Pinnell

During February I had the opportunity of attending two very interesting conferences. The first was held in Winnipeg and is usually called the “ALL CANADA” conference. It brings together the Grand Masters of all the Canadian Jurisdictions in addition to the Grand Secretaries and other Grand Lodge Officers. The week following the All Canada Conference, in Washington, D.C., there was a meeting of the Grand Masters of United States Jurisdictions to which the Canadian Grand Masters are invited. I had the honour of acting as President of the All Canada Conference this year. M.W. Bro. S. C. Heckbert, P.G.M., is the Conference Secretary.

The Brethren in Alberta should be proud of the record that the Alberta Grand Lodge Officers have established for this jurisdiction in these two large gatherings. Our representatives over many years have been able individuals and have reflected to the conferences the dynamic life that is part of Masonry in this province. This year Albertans again assumed positions of leadership. Our Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. P. J. Kendal gave a paper at the All Canada Conference on “Freemasonry and Youth” in his usual thorough and provocative manner. One of our highly respected Past Grand Masters, M.W. Bro. S. H. Hardin was the Chairman of the Committee on Recognition at the Washington Conference and gave the report for the committee in the efficient manner to which we in Alberta have grown to anticipate.

At Washington the Grand Secretaries of North America held a Conference at the same time as the Grand Masters. Our own Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers delivered a paper on the Masonic Spring Workshop and in this he was assisted by the Assistant Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. M. P. Dunford. As you must be well aware the Masonic Spring Workshop has attracted much attention both in Canada and the United States and wherever we go discussions centre around it. In fact some other places have attempted to follow our lead in this matter. All of our Workshops have been thoroughly planned and well carried out but the added reason for success is the location in the Banff School of Fine Arts. There are few places that can duplicate such accommodation and such surroundings.

Attendance at Conferences such as the All Canada and the Washington are valuable from the point of view of program and instruction but the greatest value of them is that it lifts one out of a provincialism that is inclined to develop when one is absorbed in the problems of one’s own area. By meeting Brethren from all over the continent and sharing concerns with them it becomes possible once more to look out on Freemasonry as a movement in which the sun is always at its meridian. Masonry is more than a movement, it is a brotherhood which unites men. Of the strength and possibilities of that union we had ample demonstration at these two significant gatherings.

VISIT OF THE GRAND MASTER TO DISTRICT NO. 13

District No. 13 was privileged to entertain the Grand Master W.M. Bro. C. E. Pinnell and the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Kendal on their tour of the bitterly cold north.

R.W. Bro. Stacey, D.D.G.M. met the distinguished Brethren at Peace River on January 17th where they were most cordially received and entertained by W.M. Rod McRae of Peace Lodge No. 89 and Officers and Brethren from High Prairie and Fairview.

On January, 18th R.W. Bro. Stacey escorted the visitors to Fairview for a very enjoyable noon luncheon hosted by Northland Lodge No. 147 and then on to an afternoon coffee break with members and officers of Spirit River Lodge No. 116. Arriving in Grande Prairie they were guests of W.M. W. Boyd of Grande Prairie Lodge No. 105 at an entertaining dinner and lodge meeting, also attended by the members of neighboring lodges. The attendance was limited by the severe cold but those present enjoyed a pleasant evening of fraternal friendship with the Grand Lodge officers.

Sixty Year Mason Passes

Coronation Lodge No. 72 lost one of its most highly respected members in the passing of R.W. Bro. W. A. Lamrock on January 17th.

R.W. Bro. Lamrock was born at Barrington, Nova Scotia on December 2nd, 1878. He moved to Boston, Massachusetts at an early age and was made a member of Converse Lodge in 1908. After moving to Alberta he joined Coronation Lodge in 1925. In 1951 he was the Master of Coronation Lodge and was D.D.G.M. of District No. 9 in 1955-56.

R.W. Bro. Lamrock took an active part in the work of the lodge until the disabilities of advanced old age made it impossible for him to attend. He had completed sixty years of loyal service to Masonry and will be sadly missed by his family and the Brethren.

Congratulations

On February 10th, Robert Burns Lodge No. 49 at Carmangay presented a Fifty Year Jewel to V.W. Bro. Sidney B. Thompson. A goodly number of members turned out to express their congratulations on this happy occasion.

New Freemason (Continued from Page 30)

Above all we should not fail to give him a proper outlook on the need of World Brotherhood, and help him to understand just what it implies to us as Masons.

To be kind to one another, to relieve the necessities of the needy and to live peaceably with all men.

These are the principles we should try to instill in our Brother's mind.

I think the greatest lessons he will learn, however, are by Example. He must see that his fellow Masons live their lives in such a way as to bring credit to the Craft. We can tell our new members to do one thing, and then refuse to follow these teachings ourselves. Teaching is a wonderful science, but it is useless unless it is followed by example.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



R.W. Bro. William Hamilton Allan, who was born at Alma, Ontario on September 8th, 1879. Brother Allan was Initiated in Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 at High River when he was the C.P.R. Station Agent at Cayley on July 13th, 1911. He affiliated with Nanton No. 17 on September 21st, 1917, serving as Worshipful Master in 1929 and Secretary from 1934 to 1937. He was again elected Secretary in 1946 and has held the office ever since. In 1943 Bro. Allan served as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 6. Nanton Lodge presented him with his Fifty Year Jewel and Life Membership in 1963.

This is just the Masonic History of one of our members who has been very active in the life of the Community as well as being the cornerstone of his Lodge. R.W. Bro. Allan is a Radio Ham—Call VE6-U.Q.—his house is distinguished by the tall radio mast and he has cards from all parts of the world.

Bro. Allan and his gracious wife are very proud of their family of four boys and one girl. Now also ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Their son Jack was Captain of the famous R.C.A.F. Golden Hawks, another son Floyd is Past Master of Dunbar Lodge No. 15, Vancouver, B.C.

Bro. Allan worked on three railroads as Telegrapher and Agent before coming to Calgary January 3rd, 1903. In the Calgary office on April 29th, 1903, he copied, at 4:10 a.m., the report of the Frank Slide, when the small mining town of Frank was engulfed by Turtle Mountain. He opened the Nanton Station of the C.P.R. on January 8th, 1903, and saw it closed on November 5th, 1965.

Members at High River may be interested to note that Bro. Allan was the guest of the famous Bob Edwards at the opening of the Hotel there in January 1903; we do not have any details of the day's events.

As one of his civic duties, Bro. Allan acted as Magistrate at Nanton for 35 years, as he says his reminiscences could fill the Bulletin as he has witnessed the tremendous development of the Canadian West. We are privileged to salute our distinguished Brother.

LATE NEWS FLASH!

The M.W. the Grand Master announces that M.W. Bro. Dwight L. Smith, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Indiana will be the guest speaker at the Grand Lodge Communication in June. The author of "Whither are we Travelling," and other popular Masonic Works was a guest of Grand Lodge four years ago and made an outstanding contribution. Brethren from all over the jurisdiction will welcome his return and look forward to his timely messages.