

it—the birth and incarnation of God's only Son, the Redeemer of mankind. Should not all then be agreed that a spirit of universal charity and good will be established and manifested between man and man. He said this day was traditionally associated with the memory of St. John, whom Jesus loved. It had been thought by some that he would never die, but he was the only one of the disciples who died a natural death. The event took place about the year 100. The speaker was not a worshipper of hero or of saints, but still there appeared to be a special fitness in acknowledging integrity, uprightness and truth, of which the compass, plumb and square were typical. It was characteristic of mankind to prefer the ornamental to the useful. This was displayed in Israel choosing a king. Although warned, they were captivated by the symbol of a sceptre, and could not brook being longer governed by the prophet Samuel. The speaker said he did not want it to be supposed when speaking of Masonic institutions that they are solely and professedly christian. There were members whose lives and conduct were inimical to christianity, but to those and to the public it might be said that anything that would prove adverse to christianity was adverse to the constitution of the Order. Masonry coalesces with christian ethics more than anything else. This statement none of the initiated will dispute, and for others to give an opinion on it would only be cavilling. The brotherhood yielded first place only to the grace of God. The spirit and genius of Masonry demanded a devout recognition of the God-head; an unconsciousness of becoming fashioned to the times in which we live: that the shadow never can take the place of the substance excepting so far as leads to the living truth. He believed that in Masonry there was more true friendship, and more unostentatious charity, than in all other institutions on the face of the earth excepting religion. This being the ground on which they stand, they are united not by grip, password or sign, but by the golden chain of sanctified love. When men are enrolled in charity and brotherly love, then will strife and quarrels among mankind cease, and manhood reach its highest pinnacle of fame. Mutual affection is the golden chain which forms the brotherhood into a grand union—it is the mystic tie of Masonic fellowship. In speaking of mutual love the speaker urged that no petty jealousy be ever allowed to pass over the sacred threshold of a Masonic temple: let no mean, sordid ambition hold sway; nothing enter to mar the harmony within; but let all efforts be put forth for the advancement of the science of Masonry, in

keeping with truth, equity and love. The outside world will then be compelled to give an institution which extends over the face of the globe both homage and respectful reverence. The reverend gentleman concluded his discourse in very eloquent terms, by laying before his hearers the necessity of exercising charity for the upholding of our holy religion itself. He characterized the institution which they purposed assisting at this gathering as a public ornament and a blessing to the town. He hoped it would receive a just and Masonic consideration. He was not permitted to recruit for the Masonic ranks, but he was urged by a higher authority to press his brethren to enlist under the banner of the Cross of Christ.

After the service the brethren reformed in procession and marched to the Masonic Hall. A regular communication of Speed Lodge, No. 180, was then held, and the officers were duly installed:

- Bro. Allan McIntyre, (Aberfoyle) W.M.
- " James Parker, S.W.
- " Joshua Kribbs, J.W.
- " John Wanless, Chaplain.
- " W. H. Jacomb, Treasurer.
- " J. Mimmack, Secretary.
- " James Philp, S.D.
- " John Mackenzie, J.D.
- " Daniel Hunter, D. of C.
- " Henry Sweet, Steward.
- " James Smith,
- " W. N. Husband, I.G.
- " George Smith, Tyler.

The ceremonies being concluded, a large number of brethren, with their visitors, adjourned to the City Hotel, where a very sumptuous Christmas spread had been provided by Bro. John Haugh, well known as a first class caterer, and to which the craft, with great satisfaction to the inner man, did ample justice. After a very enjoyable evening had been spent the company separated with the Junior Warden's toast, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again." The gathering throughout was one of the most enjoyable yet held in connection with Speed Lodge.

At the regular communication of Waverley Lodge the following officers were installed:

- W. Bro. W. Tytler, P.M.
- " A. McBean, W.M.
- " John H. Emmans, S.W.
- " Adam Weir, J.W.
- " H. D. Morehouse, Treasurer.
- " M. O. McGregor, Secretary.
- " Rev. J. C. Smith, Chaplain.
- " Fred. Skinner, S.D.