

our masonic life is a fraud and our boasted masonic character a deception. I know that very often that profane words bubble forth thoughtlessly, involuntarily; but when every body knows that a pure fountain cannot send forth impure streams, we do well to guard our speech, our vows, our honor. In all purity and truth, in all loyalty to our institution and its laudable precepts, will we not think, refrain, banish a habit which has no earthly excuse for existence, one which gives no force nor emphasis to assertion or argument, indicates poverty of ideas or expressions, defiles the heart, sears the conscience and is revolting to good taste.

Masonry should be a powerful lever to lift us above degrading habits, and stimulate us to nobler speech, conduct, attainment.

4. And lastly: Nor does masonry conflict with the duties of citizenship. The judge, juror, witness in court, the citizen ruler, official or voter, can find no warrant in our law or ritual for the slightest disregard of the rights of neighbor or townsmen, nor disloyalty to Society, State or Nation, *because* he is a mason; quite the contrary of this, *and because he is a mason*, one is under especial obligations to adhere to those fundamental principles of justice, equal rights and integrity, which are the glory and safety of Society, of the State, of the Nation, as well as of honor and protection to the individual. The common law, and masonic law as well, are in full accord upon this all-important, far reaching proposition, namely, that the rights and privileges of every man are bounded on all sides by the rights and privileges of his neighbors, and by a line clear and straight, and to that line we must hew. I need not enlarge upon this suggestion.

"There is something grand in living
To the line:
Just beyond which opens to us
The divine;
In our dealings with each other,
Conscience nevermore to smother,
Loving God and one another,
You and I."

Indeed, in all our lines of masonic life and work, let us prove to our neighbors and fellow-citizens that our Order has something of worth and profit to men and women, and to the community and state.

There is no room in our mystic circle for the intemperate, the untruthful, the licentious, the profane. We should not have our good name tainted by such members. The world has naught to do with our secrets, but it has much to do with the conduct of our members.

And you and I must remember the element of personal responsibility which we cannot shirk nor shake off; and to this extent are we our "brother's keeper." Somebody has written: "The space between what a man is and his ideal is his opportunity."

Masonic tenets place before us a grand ideal for our conduct. How best we will improve our opportunity depends almost entirely upon individual effort. True Masonry is growth, progress. We cannot live on the bread of the past alone. While loyally conservative of our landmarks, we must not be content with traditions. Our Order must advance to greater light; and if we as masons would seek the deeper meaning of life, and be judged by our standard before mankind, we must not be dreamers, idlers, loiterers, soldiers on parade, but must move forward, work, strive, fight. Only thus are good results attained and character acquired; only thus do ideals have value, and symbols have use or meaning. Our Institution is apparently free from external danger; have we like security within?

In such spirit, dear brethren, improving the lessons of the past, catching the inspiration of present duty and future possibility, equipped with the invulnerable armour of correct personal example, let us labor on in this unceasing warfare of making society better and homes more sacred, making better husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, neighbors and citizens, of dissolving malice and hate, and of supplanting slander, im-