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ANCIENT MASONIC CONSTITUTIONS OR CHARGES.

[THE following is a literal copy of the old Masonic Charge for which inquiry was made in the January number of THE CRAFTSMAN. For remarks concerning it, see Editorial Department.]

THE might of the Father with the Wisdom of his most Glorious Sonn through the goodnesse of the Holy Ghost three persons in One Godhead be with vs att our beginnige, and give vs grace Soe to Gouverne vs in our Livinge that wee may come to his Blisse that never shall have Endinge.

Good Brethren and fellowes our purpose is to tell yo how and in what manner this Craft of Masonry was begun and after how it was founded by worthy Kings and Princes and other Worshipful men, And also to them that be here wee will declare unto them the charge that belongeth to every Mason to [a word is illegible here] for if you take heed thereof it is well worthy to be kept for a Craft and curious Science, There is Seaven Several Sciences of the which it is one of those followinge; The first is Gramer which Teacheth a man to Speake truly and write truly; the Second is Rhetoricke which teacheth a man to speake faire & in Subtill Tearmes; The Third is Lodgicke which teacheth to discerne truth from Falshood; The Fourth is Aretmaticke that teacheth to accompt and reckon all manner of numbers; The Fifth is Geometrie which teacheth to meete and measure of the Earth and of this Science is Masonry; The Sixth is Musicke which teacheth Songe and voice of Songe Orgaines and Harpe, The Seaventh is Astronomie which teacheth the course of the Sun and Moone and other Ornaments of the Heavens; The Seaven Liberrall Sciences which be all by one Science that is to say Geometrie;

Thus may a man prove that all the Sciences in the World are found by Geometrie for it teacheth Measure Ponderation, or Weight of all Manner of Earth, and there is noe man that worketh of any Craft but he worketh by some measure nor noe man that Buyes and Sells but by Measure and Weight and all this is Geometrie And Craftes men and Merchants find other of the said Sciences and especially Plowmen and Tillers of Ground as Corne, Vines plants and Setters of Fruites for Gramer nor Astronomie, nor any of the other can finde a man one meat, or Measure without Geometrie where fore we thinke that Science