

It has (in the language of an eloquent brother) gone forth from age to age, the constant messenger of peace and love ; never weary, never forgetful of its holy mission, patiently ministering to the relief of want and sorrow, and scattering with unsparing hand blessings and benefits to all around. It comforts the mourner, it speaks peace and consolation to the troubled spirit, it carries relief and gladness to the habitations of want and destitution, it dries the tears of the widow and orphan, it opens the sources of knowledge, it widens the sphere of human happiness, it even seeks to light up the darkness and gloom of the grave by pointing to the hopes and promises of a better life to come. *All this Freemasonry has done, and is still doing.* Such is Freemasonry, and such its mission ; and we shall never forget, while enjoying its benefit and appreciating its value, the duties we owe to the Order ; for there is no *right* without a *parallel duty*, no *liberty* without the *supremacy of the law*, no *high destiny* without *earnest perseverance*, and no *real greatness* without *self-denial*.

"A Freemason's lodge is the temple of peace, harmony, and brotherly love ; nothing is allowed to enter which has the remotest tendency to disturb the quietude of its pursuit. A calm enquiry into the beauty of wisdom and virtue, and the study of moral geometry, constitute the chief employments in the ty'ed recesses of the lodge. The lessons of virtue which proceed from the east, like rays of brilliant light from the rising sun, illuminate the west and the south, and as the work proceeds, are carefully imbibed by the workmen. Thus while wisdom contrives the plan, strength lends its able support to the moral fabric, and beauty adorns it with curious and cunning workmanship. All this is accomplished without any compulsory or coercive means, but on the principle of friendship and brotherly love, which guards the precincts of our temple that nothing may enter to disturb the peaceful sanctity of that holy place.

"The object, however, of meeting in the lodge, is of a two-fold nature, namely, *moral instruction* and *social intercourse*. Our meetings are intended to cultivate and enlighten