

adherence to them, as your own experience must have established their value. It may be sufficient to observe, that as your past behaviour and regular deportment have merited the honor which we have conferred, in your new character it is expected that you will not only conform to the principles of the order, but steadily persevere in the practice of every virtue. The study of the liberal arts, that valuable branch of education which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration, — especially geometry, which is established as the basis of our art. [Geometry, or masonry, originally synonymous terms, is of a divine and moral nature, enriched with the most useful knowledge, so that while it proves the wonderful properties of nature, it demonstrates the more important truths of morality.]

As the solemnity of our ceremonies requires a serious deportment, you are to be particularly attentive to your behaviour at our regular assemblies. You are to preserve our ancient usages and customs sacred and inviolable, and induce others, by your example, to hold them in due veneration.

The laws and regulations of the order are strenuously to support and maintain. You are not to palliate or aggravate the offences of the brethren; but, in the decision of every trespass against our rules, judge with candor, admonish with friendship, and reprehend with mercy.

As a craftsman, in our private assemblies you may offer your sentiments and opinions on such subjects as are regularly introduced in the lecture, under the superintendence of an experienced master, who will guard the landmarks against encroachment. By this privilege you may improve your intellectual powers ;