

This opens a new and more glorious era to the Masonic Fraternity the world over, and especially to us of the OCCIDENT, to whom Masonic light has come in its ceaseless march of thirty centuries. We now unite in sending back the Masonic rays, in no wise lessened or weakened or corrupted, to the lands of the ORIENT, and the Golden City itself. Within six weeks we shall proceed to set up our ALTARS; trim, replenish and light our LAMPS; tyle our PORTALS; expose the Divine Name upon our EAST, and the Inspired Word in our CENTER; bow in ardent SUPPLICATION; sound our GAVELS, and declare THE ROYAL SOLOMON MOTHER LODGE "duly at labor," in the City of Jerusalem!

Every Master Mason, who is a member of the AMERICAN HOLY LAND EXPLORATION, is *ex-officio* an Honorary Life Member, without further fees or Dues, of this Oriental Lodge, and shall be so enrolled. Announcement shall be duly made to you upon the establishment of the Lodge.

With affectionate regards,

ROB. MORRIS.

A curious old craft is the Freemason's, with its quaint legends, its noble instances of rescue from difficulties and from death, and its grand charities which absorb the great revenues of the time-honored fraternity. What speculations have been wasted upon the weighty secret of the Mason since the time of the Roman occupation, to say nothing of the period of his older, but perhaps apocryphal, tradition; all the same speculations ending in the firm belief that he has no secret at all! What books too have been written, published, and bought, showing to all comers the full, true, and particular words, signs, and tokens by which to know a Mason!

If the early traditions of the craft be apocryphal, there can be little doubt that its existence as a guild is of very respectable antiquity. In 1827 a fragmentary sculpture (now preserved at Goodwood Park) was found at Chichester, which, on being pieced, was found to bear a votive inscription in which the College of Masons dedicate a temple to Neptune and Minerva and the safety of the family of Claudius Cæsar. Another has been discovered which bears the Masonic emblems, and which probably ornamented the lintel of a lodge-room. The first Master-Mason whose works are extant in England and his name authenticated is William of Sens, who was assisted and succeeded by William the Englishman in the completion of the choir of Canterbury Cathedral in the year 1179. Not far from this date we learn, from a Cottonian MS., that the Master-Mason William Anglus completed important restorations at Canterbury Cathedral. In the 13th century Adam de Glapham and Patric de Carlile, "magister cœmentariorum et carpentariorum cum septem cociis," were employed to build Caernarvon castle. In 1292 Henricus de Ellerton is called "magister operum," and in the same century Michael de Cantuarua "cœmentarius," is employed upon St. Stephen's Chapel. In 1306 Richard de Itowe was the Master-Mason of Lincoln Cathedral, and Nicholas Walton was "magister carpentarius." From 1300 to 1310 Henry Latomus is found employed on Evesham Abbey. Henry de Yeveley, who was burried in the church of St Mangus, near London bridge, is designated as "Freemason to Henry III., Richard II., and Henry IV." In the reign of Richard II. "Master Yevelee" was chief Mason of the new work then in progress at the church of Westminster, and received for his fee 100s. a year, with 15s