

its labor and discipline, I have but little to do; to the Master of the Lodge attaches the duty of seeing that all things are done decently and in order, and that in the Lodge and out of it there is no breach of our laws. But it is my most solemn obligation, so to blend Christianity with Masonry as to make you realize that, though there are thousands of good Christians outside our Craft, there can be no perfect Mason among us who is not only a professing Christian, but a faithful Christian also. It is with this end in view that no Lodge is complete without its Chaplain, no Lodge is furnished without its book of Sacred Law. No mere code of ethics from the noblest of Pagan writers, no rule of morals by the most perfect of human hearts and minds, could satisfy the requirements of the Craft, and I ask only that you will begin by earnestly considering the first of your obligations as Masons, to be quite sure that you will end, by the unerring guidance of God's Holy Spirit, in securing for yourselves an abundant entrance into the inheritance of the saints. In our Lodges we find no difficulty in enforcing forbearance and charity and benevolence; during the twelve years that I have been a Mason I have never heard a word spoken in anger, or an unkind interpretation put upon a brother's conduct, or an appeal for help refused. But how many of us lay aside these virtues with the emblems of our labor and the insignia of our rank? How many of us, or, rather, how few of us, carry them out into the world, and scatter alike to all the children of our one Great Father even the crumbs of our superfluity of blessing? Let us ever remember that a knowledge of even the rudiments of Masonry adds to our responsibility as Christians, just as a knowledge of Christianity adds to the responsibility of a heathen. There are doubtless multitudes of nominal Christians who know little of creeds and doctrines, there can be no Mason

who is not well informed on all points of duty and observance; but not until this truth is acknowledged and acted upon will Masonry fulfil her perfect work. Not alone in the exercise of benevolence and generous sympathy, not alone in the security of our fraternal bands, not alone in the fidelity of the brethren to each and all their Masonic obligations, does true Masonic life consist, but in heart-felt love for the Great Master, in reverence for all His laws, in unshaken faith in His own dear Son; in blessed hope of the resurrection to eternal life through the merits and atonement of the Saviour. Let them take root and develop in our midst, and the old virtues of chivalry and truth, and piety, which prevailed in the early days of the Knights Templar will revive amongst us. Let these prevail, and the silly revilings of those who lack even the physical courage to gratify their unworthy curiosity will never more be heard, but kings shall be our nursing fathers, and queens our nursing mothers. We are thankful to observe how the Craft is gradually making her influence felt in legitimate undertakings; that for the first time in many centuries a Cathedral Church in England is being designed by a free and accepted Mason; that its corner-stone has been laid by the heir to the first throne in Europe, not, be it understood, as Prince of Wales, but as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons; and we trust that the skill and genius which in King Solomon, the first Grand Master, showed itself in the erection of the first temple dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, may find a humble, though not unworthy, imitation in that temple which, under the auspices of the present Grand Master, is now gradually being raised in southern England. Brethren, do not let us be unworthy of our great traditions. I believe that for centuries the influence of Masonry was greater and more dominant than that of any empire; it may be so once