

chance his superior—at all events he is a brother, and as a brother he has the right to appeal to him if in distress, difficulty or danger.

No other organization can lay claim to this tangible brotherhood, because no other believes in the one common Fatherhood. This is the real secret of the difference between the Brotherhood of man, as taught and practiced by Freemasonry, and that of the Brotherhood of all other so-called secret societies. It matters not where the Mason goes, or to what branch of the Order or Rite he may belong, he can find a friend and a brother, if he himself be versed in our universal language. Thousands and tens of thousands of instances bear testimony of the real, true brotherhood that exists amongst Craftsmen. On the battlefield, amidst the roar of cannon and rattle of musketry, the H. S. of D. has been recognized and answered. In the plague-stricken hospital the Masonic tie has proved its worth. On the stormy deep, when death stared brave men in the face, the Masonic cry for help has been responded to with readiness and eager haste. This is that Brotherhood of man which Masonry, and which Masons believe in, uphold and practice. It is a Brotherhood based on a holy Fatherhood.

It is a strange sight to those who understand not our mysteries, to note how quickly men who are diametrically opposed to each other in politics and religion coalesce when they find they belong to the same noble Order. How can a Mason fail to feel and act as a brother towards every Hiramite, when he remembers the solemn obligations he has voluntarily assumed,

and the sacred pledges he has given to his brethren before the Most High God? It is impossible for a true Freemason to be a bad man. Of course, there are many Hiramites who never either care for or appreciate a single lesson taught in the lodge-room, and who consequently were never brethren. They were members of the mystic tie, but neither faithful Hiramites nor honest brethren. Only those who are brought to the true light understand this Brotherhood of man, which is our glorious inheritance from the forefathers and founders of the Craft. It is a grand and noble heritage, which it is the duty of every Freemason to keep and perform. It has been proved over and over again. We defy the world to deny it. We have stood by each other with death staring us in the face; we have breathed the atmosphere of pestilence and death in order to watch by the bedside of a brother; we have faced the lightning flash and the stormy billows of the deep, to rescue the famished, shipwrecked sailor; we have protected the dying, fed the hungry, clothed the widow, and educated the orphan of a brother; and we have guarded with a jealous, reverential care, and a brother's deepest love, the virtue of those near and dear to a brother Hiramite.

This Brotherhood of man is dear to every Freemason. It is part of that holy creed which points to God as the Father before whom we as children bow, to whom as Masons we offer up our prayers and oblations, and upon whom we place our hope of a glorious immortality when called to join the Brotherhood of the blessed, beyond