

and enlighten you, that the grand old institution would be dearer to your hearts than ever. In order, however, to get together hurriedly some ideas for your benefit I took up the Book of Constitution, and in reading over the charges written therein, came across a few ideas which I will place before you.

"I find it laid down and clearly impressed on the candidate, that he must improve his intellectual powers, in order to qualify himself as a skilful Craftsman. To accomplish this he should not be satisfied with the little he hears at the lodge meetings, but become a reader, a student, and make the liberal arts and sciences his study, thus qualifying himself to become a useful member of society. In his researches after Masonic light he will find Masonry a science embracing the cultivation of the intellectual faculties, tracing them from their development through the paths of heavenly science, even unto the throne of God Himself. Knowing therefore that Masonry is a science, you will readily understand that it must be a progressive one, and keep abreast of the times, and this can only be accomplished by the intelligence of its members. A good Mason should therefore be a thinking man: he should be a student, and not be satisfied with merely studying the ceremonies, but should dig deep into the literature of the order, so that you and I and his less fortunate brethren, who may not have the like advantages, may enjoy the benefit of his knowledge; that we may have the reason why and wherefore of the symbolisms of the Order explained to us; that it may be more forcibly impressed and brought home to us, the ingredients it takes to make a good Mason; what our duties are to our Creator, to our neighbor and to our ourselves; what duties are imposed on us by the Creator of cultivating our faculties, so that His glory may be presented with dazzling brightness, and the welfare and happiness of our brethren be considered as a duty ever present to our minds.

"I claim for Masonry a bright position in this world as an educator of man; I claim that its graduates are capable of taking leading positions in the fields of science and morality; in fact that they should be missionaries to the ignorant and wicked of this world, giving aid and assistance to, but in no way usurping the duties and functions of religion.

"Do you recollect the charge given to you on being made a Master Master?

You were exhorted to correct the errors and irregularities of your younger brethren, and guard them against a breach of fidelity: to improve the morals and correct the manners of men in society; to inculcate universal benevolence, and by the regularity of your own behavior afford the best example for the conduct of others. In the face of all this can you still be of the opinion that ignorance should be tolerated, that wisdom should not be cultivated, and that you are performing your duties as a man and Mason by simply attending your lodge meetings, paying your dues and listening to the exemplifications of the work? Let me quote from our 'Great Light' the benefits of wisdom.

Happy is he that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

For the merchandise of it is better than silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.

"As you live, my brethren, in an age of advancement and opportunities, take advantage of all opportunities to store the mind with good substantial food. Be active men, let your superior intelligence and morality (which you should possess) place your loved order on such a pinnacle that the world at large may know it as an institution whose members practise morals and charity, who promote peace, cultivate harmony, and live in concord and brotherly love.

I will now endeavor to point out some shortcomings which may be corrected and some defects which may be cured, and which although apparently trivial and slight to unthinking men, when remedied and cured, will entitle us to the admiration and respect of the whole world. I am aware of my own shortcomings, but a knowledge of same should not deter me from pointing out yours, nor should it prevent you from listening to my remarks. Remember that one of our great models, King Solomon, said:—

Seest thou a man that despiseth instruction there is more hope of a fool than of him.

"Again, I find that you are charged to supply the wants and relieve the necessities of your brethren to the utmost of your power and ability. This doctrine of charity is impressed on the candidate: every step he takes in Masonry, the new