

*A.* Because, in times of prosperity, as it is then easy to assume a friendly demeanor, mere professions of love and esteem may exist with the most hollow and superficial sentiments; but in the seasons of adversity, the professed friend is called upon to show the depth of his attachment—to abandon ease, to part with a portion of his goods, or even to risk his life. Genuine Friendship will endure this test; and when all adventitious circumstances are removed, it will abide the storm and shine brightest in the darkest hour,

*N. G.* Brother, are you willing to enter upon an obligation that may expose you to such tests of Friendship as have been described?

[Answer by the Candidate.] I am.

*N. G.* [Presenting a blue rod.] Then receive this rod, which is emblematical of the rod of Moses, one whose life exhibited a just illustration of true Friendship and self-sacrifice; for he forsook honor and riches to deliver from captivity his persecuted Brethren, whose afflictions he willingly shared for the love he bore them. Holding that rod as a memorial of his virtues, repeat after me the Obligation appropriate to this Degree.

*N. G.* I [name], of my own free will and accord, do, in the presence of the Brothers of the Degree of the Royal Blue now assembled, most solemnly promise, declare and say, that I will conceal and never reveal the signs, secrets or mysteries of the Degree of the Royal Blue to any person or persons, no, not even to