

*To the Officers and Members of St George's  
Lodge A. F. & A. M.*

"A pleasant duty devolves on me this evening, although I regret it has not fallen in more competent hands. The ladies of St. George's Lodge, No 41, or rather the wives and daughters of the same, have invaded your sanctum this evening to request the acceptance by St. George's Lodge, of this cushion and Bible as a token of their esteem and respect, for the institution of Freemasonry. This Bible, being the light of the world, and consequently of Masonry, we trust that all your actions may be regulated by the divine precepts it contains; that you all may have wisdom to direct you, strength to support you and the beauty of charity to adorn all your undertakings, and may the Great Architect of the Universe grant you all long, useful and happy lives in the prayer of the donors."

Dr. Allworth, in accepting the presents on behalf of the Lodge, said, Ladies— The position in which I find myself placed this evening is, somewhat an embarrassing one to me, it being the first time that I have ever had the opportunity, within these walls, of addressing an assembly other than that composed entirely of members of the Masonic fraternity, and, therefore, if I should inadvertently give any of our mystic signs or betray any of our time-honored secrets, I trust, ladies, that you will, with your usual generosity, refrain from taking undue advantage of the error thus committed. The duty devolving upon me, as Master of the Lodge, of cordially welcoming you, as I now do, to our hall is really a most pleasing one. The object of your visit here this evening, at this convenient time, when we have just completed the internal improvements and decorations to our hall, not only fills our hearts with the utmost gratitude towards you, but causes us to feel that although the nature and calling of the laws of our Order make it incumbent upon us to absent ourselves from our domestic circles on stated evenings, and for a time to be enshrouded in secrecy in our lodge room, we possess your warmest sympathies and kindly interest in our good work, and, therefore, ladies, it is with the greatest pleasure that I, on behalf of the members of St. George's Lodge cheerfully and thankfully accept your beautiful offering and presentation address, assuring you that your kindness will be long remembered by us as a lodge, and that while this cushion, besides being an ornament to our altar, proves its usefulness in supporting that sacred volume, without which our beloved order would have had no existence, a from what is contained within its sacred pages, Masonry not only owes its origin, but also, in spite of the many and varied difficulties

which have in past years beset her path, is likewise indebted to its divine teachings, for its continued life and steadily increasing prosperity. The Dr. again thanked the ladies, and expressed the hope that he might have many opportunities in the future of welcoming them to the Masonic Hall.

Miss Maggie McDonald sang "No one to welcome me home" in excellent form.

The Rev. E. Russ, who is an enthusiastic Mason, gave a very interesting account of the rise and progress of the Order, which was highly appreciated by those present. We regret that our space will not permit our giving it in full.

Miss Laura Mallott gave a well-timed selection on the organ.

Bro. E. R. Shepley had often heard the remark what was the use of Freemasonry to the ladies. He would, that night, explain it to them as well as laid in his power. The noble order to which they belonged were in duty bound to protect the wives and sisters of members of their craft, and if their characters were assailed they were bound to uphold them. They were also bound to protect the widows and orphans of deceased members and keep them from want; to carefully watch the rising of the orphans to see that they received a proper education, and that they were trained up in a Godly and sober life that they may be a credit to the universe. Look at the number of widows they had provided for. The only privilege denied them (the ladies) was that they were debarred from attending the lodges. He did not mean to say that by their being debarred from attending the lodges they were not capable of keeping secrets. Woman's nature needed no restraint to keep them in subjection, but with men they were of such a different nature that it was absolutely necessary for them to assemble in lodges in order to maintain the discipline that was necessary in conducting the business of the order.

Miss Maggie McDonald—"Sweet spirit hear my prayer."

Dr. Allworth read a piece entitled "Santa Claus."

Bro. C. Fox thought that when they were assembled in lodge he was quite a speaker, but he had found out his mistake on this occasion.

Bro. Geo. Mallott was delighted with the improvements that had been made in their hall, and was pleased to see so many good-looking faces with them.

Bro. Peterson, in a very happy manner, said he was no orator, but he was fond of the ladies. He did not know whether the ladies were fond of him or not. He was there to enjoy himself, and considered it a privilege to meet the ladies there on so pleasant a mission, and hoped to meet them again at no distant date.