

Brethren, time fails us to notice a tithe of the instances which abound in proof of our statement with regard to our great Patron, the "disciple whom Jesus loved,"—that he more than all the other disciples of our Lord, was the great repository of the mysteries of Christianity, and that he more than all the others has explained and revealed them. Both his Gospel, his First Epistle and his Book of Revelation are overwhelming witnesses of the fact.

V. There is however one other point of view in which we desire you to contemplate the "beloved disciple," and in it to discern another and very striking feature, of the appropriateness of his being the great Patron of Freemasonry. *To him was committed the care of the widow and childless.* From the cross on which the Saviour was expiring he commended his holy mother to the care of St. John, who from henceforth, happy in having an opportunity of shewing his love to his Lord, "*took her to his own home*:" where we are told she continued till her death, treated by him with the duty and affection of a son. And may not the dying Mason, point his soon to be widow and orphan children to your Fraternity, and commit them to your care, in the assured confidence that you will help, protect, and relieve them? Is it not yours to bind up the broken-hearted, to rescue the helpless and the orphan from the prospect of want and ruin, and to comfort and shield the widow in afflictions **hour?**

Such then, are some of the features of St. John's character, marking him off as the "disciple whom Jesus loved," and shewing the appropriateness of Masons making him their Patron and Pattern.

Let us not imagine, therefore, that we are conforming to a mere idle conventionality of our Order when we commemorate his anniversary,—when we assemble, in obedience to ancient custom, to offer our yearly tribute of veneration upon the altar of Masonry, to the virtues and memory of one whose precepts and instructions are the very life blood of Masonry itself. Nor must we think our task is accomplished, our self imposed duties performed, by the attendance on a heartless and unmeaning ceremony, into which our souls and better feelings never enter, and the purposes of which we deem it unnecessary to comprehend or deliberate on. On no day more than this, should the lessons we have been taught by the "Great Lights" of Masonry, before us, more forcibly admonish us of the several and solemn duties they prescribe. On no day can our labor in the moral workshop of Masonry be more clearly defined, or the true Mason's mind be more attracted to a sense of the work assigned for him upon our *moral treadle board*, than on that which do honour to the name of one, who in his life was the bright exemplar of our Order, and in his death has transmitted to posterity the Freemason's creed and duty. This brethren, is what we have received from him, and as I think embodies the vitality and soul of our society. **PURITY, AND UNIVERSAL LOVE OR CHARITY, VIRTUE AND UNIVERSAL BENEVOLENCE.** And I need scarcely remark, that, in

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