

ly by the venerable Grand Secretary, whom I shall long remember after our official intercourse has ceased, for his kind and invaluable support. The Grand Lodge of Quebec, at whose foundation I was proud to assist eight years ago, is now too firmly established to need further help from any one individual, but rest assured it has no more ardent well-wisher than myself. May it go on and prosper.

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS.

After the ordinary routine the Grand Chaplain's address was read as follows:—

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

In addressing you for the fifth time as your Grand Chaplain, I cannot pretend to advance anything very new, as the field of Masonic ethics has been pretty thoroughly explored in previous discourses by myself and my worthy predecessors in this office. The utmost that I can hope to do is to clothe some of the old, familiar truths in a new garb, and to re-awaken your interest in subjects which, by reason of their frequent repetition, may, perhaps, have grown tame and wearisome.

One of the most striking and attractive features of our order is its social character. It is its high privilege and duty to go forth into the midst of a dark and selfish world as the herald of a broader charity and more active benevolence. Freemasonry not only inculcates the principles of love and benevolence, it seeks to give them an actual and living presence in all the occupations and intercourse of life, so that wherever the lot of a good Mason may be cast the invisible but helpful arms of his order may surround him to protect him from danger and to help him on in his wanderings through the crooked paths of this mazy world.

Like the fabled deities of ancient story Freemasonry surrounds all her children with her fostering arms, watching over their struggling footsteps with maternal care, and in the hour of peril, sickness or distress, revealing herself in all her heaven-born beauty and power. By her gracious ministrations the weary pilgrim's load is lightened, his path cleared before him, and should death overtake him on his journey, away from kindred, home and friends, her soft hands smooth his pillow and wipe away nature's last bitter tear. This, my brethren, is no mere rhetorical picture conjured up by the

speaker's fancy, of a Utopian institution such as the world has never seen; it is the simple experience of many a worthy brother, who under the ægis of our order has passed from darkness into light. Such deeds of kindness seldom meet the public eye, or gratify the public ear but they are being daily registered in imperishable characters in the records of the Grand Lodge above.

It is sometimes said that Masonry is selfish, that masons confine their benefactions to themselves. Were this true to the fullest extent, it would be no serious imputation, for all will admit that our charities or benefits must be limited by our resources, and it is in no wise derogatory to the Masonic body if their "charity begins at home." Freemasonry, undoubtedly, gives the first place in its regard and benefaction to its own children, but its principle is that of unrestricted philanthropy; and, beyond its pale, many a heart has been made to throb with reviving hope, and many an eye to sparkle with joy by its timely aid. The true Mason's ear, while it is peculiarly alert to catch the faintest cry of distress that is wrung from a brother's heart, is never closed to that cry from whatever quarter it may come. The spirit which animates, our order, inspiring all its faithful members and controlling all their acts, is the spirit of love—love deep as the fatherhood of God, and wide as the brotherhood of man.

It is not only to each other, therefore, that we are to exercise the virtues of charity and *forbearance* (for the former includes the latter); but to all mankind, to all who need our sympathy, our kindness and our assistance. And in a world so suffering as this, we are never at a loss to find an ample field for the exercise of those graces. In every corner of our cities, towns and villages we see honest poverty struggling with the most adverse circumstances. Everywhere we tread in the midst of indescribable misery, everywhere open before us the dwellings of hungry poverty, where oppressed and suffering virtue hides herself and weeps. The field for the exercise of our charity is unlimited, and it is the special glory of Masons that they belong to an institution which is as widespread as the evils which it seeks to remedy.

There is another distinguishing feature of our Order which, although I have alluded to in former addresses, I cannot pass over on the present occasion. It is