

(Here the speaker related an incident which occurred in Missouri, and which attested fully the power of Masonry.)

Brethren, let us as Masons to-night pledge ourselves anew to stand by the grand old institution that has stood by us through the storms of past centuries; let us stand by the institution that from its origin has stood by the distressed of every land, and pledged its support to the helpless widows and orphans of every nationality.

Ours is an aged institution, and yet not too old to do good; still its mission has not yet been accomplished, nor will it be until sorrow and suffering have left the world. We delight in its antiquity, because there is an irresistible enchantment about everything that is hoary-headed and aged. The good old Mason whose head is silvered o'er with the frosts of many winters, and whose body is curved by the weight of years, is more to be respected than at any other period of life. The old arm chair and the old family relics all scarred and torn are treasured all the more because of their scars, their age and their history. Thus it is with Freemasonry. We revere it because it is the oldest secret society on the globe, and its age alone should make it honorable. Let us see to it, my brethren, that we so act that we may bring no discredit upon Ancient, Free and Accepted Masonry. The institution is old and hoary from the dust of many centuries. The old battle flag shot asunder by the bullets of the foe is revered and loved by every true soldier as he loves country, yea, more than he loves his life. Decay and death are written upon everything in nature. Nations, thrones, kingdoms and governments have yielded, and are now yielding to this law. The grand cities, temples, towers and obelisks of antiquity, which were intended to immortalize the names of their builders, have nearly all crumbled into dust, notwithstanding Masonry still endures. Still the attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue, and still our mysteries are lodged in the repository of faithful breasts, and the names of S. K. of I., H. K. of T. & H. A. are not forgotten, and our glorious temple of Freemasonry grows stronger and brighter with the roll of years. May it be our aim to add to its strength and aid in its brightness.

Then around this altar chosen well
Brothers with fraternal hail
Gather in your mystic ring
Mystic words and joyful sing:

Round this hall may PLENTY reign,
PEACE with spirit all benign,
UNITY, the golden three
Here their influence ever be.

Round this altar where now we stand,
Soon will be another band;
We to other worlds must go,
Called by Him we trust below.

Happy indeed shall we be, if not only our foundation stands, but if the superstructure of individual character which we have reared proves acceptable to the Grand Architect and is found worthy of a place in that temple not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

Rev. Bro. Canon O'Meara delivered a most eloquent address, to which I regret to say, my space will not permit me to do justice. He referred to the dedication of this hall as a meeting place for the brethren, and said it would give them an opportunity of working heart to heart. From this lodge Freemasonry would go on and conquer. But they must not stand still. Masons should gird themselves up for renewed efforts. We stand in the vista of future events. We are taking our share in the formation of a mighty new nation, a nation which shall yet take its part in the history of the world. And in developing that great future, shall not Masonry be a great factor? What power is there more potent? Hand in hand shall go the church, the school-house and the lodge. People are coming to us from all over the world. We must be prepared to lend them a helping hand. Out of the diverse mass we must evolve one grand nationality. The speaker here dwelt on the benefits of Masonry in the production of such results. He believed that Masonry was destined to be a real power in the future history of this country. In conclusion, he referred feelingly to the great services to the craft of the present Grand Master, Bro. John H. Bell. The speaker was frequently and heartily applauded.

The next feature of the evening was a song from Bro. D. B. Murray, which, it is needless to say, was excellently rendered and much enjoyed.

The Hon. C. P. Brown, A. M. Sutherland, M. P. P., and Hon. A. G. B. Bannatyne then spoke, each of them briefly but pointedly, after which a musical interlude varied the proceedings.