

concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates. He is cheerfully to conform to every lawful authority; to uphold on every occasion, the interest of the community, and zealously promote the prosperity of his own country. Masonry has ever flourished in times of peace and been always injured by war, bloodshed and confusion; so that kings and princes, in every age have been much disposed to encourage the craftsmen on account of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answer the cavils of their adversaries and promote the honor of the fraternity. Craftsmen are bound by peculiar ties to promote peace, cultivate harmony, and live in concord and brotherly love.

III.—OF LODGES.

A LODGE is a place where freemasons assemble to work and to instruct and improve themselves in the mysteries of their antient science. In an extended sense it applies to persons as well as to place; hence every regular assembly, or duly organized meeting of masons is called a lodge. Every brother ought to belong to some lodge and be subject to its by-laws and the general regulations of the craft. A lodge may be either general or particular, as will be best understood by attending it, and there a knowledge of the established usages and customs of the craft is alone to be acquired. From antient times no master or fellow could be absent from his lodge, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, unless it appeared to the master and wardens that pure necessity hindered him.

The persons made masons or admitted members of a lodge must be good and true men, free born, and