

before the exceeding brightness, and the very nests of the living God fled for their lives from before his visible presence. What Mason of the higher degrees does not know the profound significance of these great facts—the important lessons embedded in this history?

"With the completion of this august structure, and the traditional record of the events which preceded, accompanied, and followed it, commences the dissemination of Masonry.

"From Palestine to Phœnicia, and thence by easy and natural stages to each several nation distinguished by its love for arts and sciences—the instructed eye of the well taught Mason sees in distant times that still survive the devouring tooth of time, the dim pathway of our Order.

"The great principles of association binds all its elements together.

"The need of help and the readiness to bestow aid, the one as far spread as the human family—the other the child and creature of liberal education and trained humanity, were and are the springs and sources of the Masonic brotherhood, and the close alliance of the mystic tie, invented and enforced for the defence and support of the operative Mason, became at length the distinguishing beauty and the peculiar characteristic of the speculative.

"And thus down the rushing current of Time, sometimes submerged and out of sight in the whirlpool that engulfed empires, and made nations their playthings—sometimes stamping its existence in the minsters and abbeys, cathedrals and palaces, which piety or luxury loved to erect—we trace the footprints of the successors of those who erected the pillars, one on the right and one on the left of the beautiful porch that yielded access to the Temple of God.

"Kilwinning and Melrose, York and Westminster, Strasbourg and Notre Dame are memorials of our fathers in this great society, and are each canonized and made holy by all the gentle offices of kindness that distinguish and adorn the Fraternity.

"These strong old days are gone. No longer now does the Free and Accepted Mason in very deed work out his apprenticeship, and hew out his testimonials from the solid rock. No longer now does the Fellow Craft adjust with square, plumb and level, the rough work of the apprentice. No longer does the Master or overseer of the work supervise the actual labor of his inferiors.

"But modern Masonry, abandoning all these grosser elements of toil, teaches all the great principles of religion and morality, of common brotherhood and universal charity, through the medium of these symbols and tokens of an elder time.

"Deep in the mystic vaults of her representative temple, she rehearses the lessons of bygone ages. From the very ground-floor on which her acolyte presses his first step—on through the glorious porch the Winding Stairs, the Middle Chamber, the unfinished Holy of Holies—every footprint of the initiate is on hallowed ground.

"The absolute and final belief in God, which admits him, is deepened and intensified as he goes on, and the life that is within the man is cultivated, educated, and fitly taught in lessons of never-dying import, until the immortality that has been enforced upon his soul by material impression, becomes his actual and unquestionable belief.

"Along with this faith in God and Hope in himself and mankind, Masonry teaches to her followers the largest charity for all—charity in that true and original sense, which means unselfish love—that affection of the soul which survives the wreck of matter and the crush of worlds, and is nearest akin to Deity.

"The system of words, signs, tokens, grips and symbols, which were the protection and the evidence of the operatives who traveled in foreign lands, remains—but etherealized and spiritualized into a higher meaning, a more effective union.

"Masonry is meant to be as universal as the world, its love all embracing, extending wherever

the cry of suffering and of innocence goes up to Heaven.

"No miserable per centage of profit contains it; no petty calculation of life and health insurance bounds it. It combines the largest liberty of individual benevolence with the advantages of association—rendering strength to each and dwarfing neither.

"Fully combining in its own existence this great original system of teaching by symbols, and this other great element of enlightened and systematic charity, Masonry survives to-day, in all the magnificence of its superb proportions, glorious in its original beauty, enriched by the labors of twenty centuries, filled with the spirit of all nations and tongues, founded on the solid rock, course upon course of Solomonian Masonry, bearing aloft the glorious fabric, with doors inexorably closed against the base, the cowardly, and ever opening for the true and faithful; there stands the edifice of modern Masonry.

"What son of hers that has ever penetrated the sacred portal, and ranged along the mighty walks, but bids her God speed?

"Advance then fearlessly on thy mission of mercy—call in from all haunts of crime and of suffering the broken hearted and the weeping children of the Great Father. Inaugurate again in this world of ours the reign of Love, and in the pathway which Religion opens before thee—press on noble Order of our affections, and as the heaping harvest of good deeds crown the progress, each humble, grateful heart of thy children shall say—AMEN, SO NOTE IT BE.—Crystal.

#### *Presentation of a Past Master's Jewel to V. W. Bro. C. P. Ladd, by the Officers and Brethren of St. George's Lodge, 643, E.R.*

This Presentation was made upon St. John's day, after the installation, accompanied by a suitable address—the Jewel, a gold one, is of superb workmanship, and bears an appropriate inscription. We have only space to give Bro. Ladd's reply:—

#### *W. M. & Brethren of the St. George's Lodge,*

In all the lessons taught me in my masonic career, I have not yet learned the language whereby I am enabled to express my gratitude for the very acceptable and magnificent present you have made me, in return as you say, for my meritorious services. Let me ask you, W. Sir, and you Brethren of the Lodge, if any of you were in a boat and out at sea, if you would deem yourself any more meritorious in exerting yourself and pulling an oar, than your fellow voyagers. It is true, W. Sir, that I have occasionally pulled the oar with one hand, and held the rudder with the other; but in so doing, I have only done my duty, and duty should always be a pleasure to any one; and more especially to masons.

In alluding to the past of St. George's Lodge, we may indeed liken its history to that of the chequered scenes in the life of man. It has had its days of prosperity, and its trials of adversity and darkness; many days in which the smiles of approval from the wise and the good cheered them onward; and days in which the thick cloud of adversity lowered around them—when friends were few, and many of those, like Job's of old, stood aloof from it. But, W. Sir, although the pathway of this Lodge has been, and is yet beset with thorns, and its very existence been denied it, yet behind that dark cloud, there lights up a silvery ray, and we are led to rejoice in the anticipation of the hope of a brighter future, when all will unite with one grand object in view, in being happy

ourselves, and in communicating that happiness to others. Let the mantle of charity, therefore, of the St. George's Lodge, be as broad as the platform of our institution; and while we look at the petty differences which separate united hearts, let us join in the heartfelt wish, that the only rivalry existing among us, may be that generous strife, of who can best work and who best agree.

W. Sir and Brethren, in returning you my heartfelt thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me, in making me the recipient of these magnificent presents, I shall fall far short of expressing my feelings towards you individually and as a Lodge. We have long associated together, and the oldest among us cannot allude to the moment of the least strife or disagreement amongst us. "We have lived in love together." May this long be your happy boast. May your fellowship be closely linked with those whose hands are guided by justice, tempered with moderation, and whose hearts are expanded by brotherly kindness and truth. Let us be as merciful to the failings of others, as we would have others be to ours. Finally, my brethren, may your children's children, here celebrate our mystic rites in the same concord and peace, and when we shall be called to assemble by the Great Grand Master, may we all have those qualities, which will admit us within the portals of the Grand Lodge above.

#### MASONRY ELOQUENTLY EXPLAINED.

The following extract from the address of M. W. Brother Pierson Grand Master of Minnesota, to his Grand Lodge, which we take from proof sheets in advance of publication, is so entirely in keeping with the true intent of Masonry, that we call particular attention to it, and trust that it will be well pondered on by every brother into whose hands it may fall.

"I believe that Masonry has an earnest, practical mission; that its ties mean something; that when it says you shall not throw stones, it means just that, and should be obeyed accordingly; that our symbols mean some thing; that their teachings are not empty farce—of no use but to say to the world, see our teachings are Christian, come join us; that it requires its disciples to be honest men, demanding honesty in contracts, sincerity in affirming, simplicity in bargaining, and faithfulness in performing; that it requires us religiously to keep all promises and covenants though made to our disadvantage and though afterward we may find we might have done better. Nothing should make us break a promise unless it be unlawful or impossible. The obligations of Masonry are not fulfilled in contributing to the relief of brethren in distress. The objects and ends of Masonry are not accomplished in pecuniary relief—that can be done outside as well as within the Order. Something more, far stronger, is required; something to reconcile man to his kind, kindly sympathy in all its varieties, cordial and widespread benevolence. Where there is strife and hatred among the Brethren there is no Masonry, for it is peace, brotherly love and concord. The true Mason thinks no evil of his brother, and cherishes no designs against him. As to censoriousness and calumny most salutary and stringent is the curb which Masonic principles duty carried out, apply to an unbridled tongue. Masonry is not designed simply to pass away a leisure hour. It should be ever with us, enter into all our business, actions, sympathies, and affections, on all days, in every place under all circumstances. If it is a myth, a subterfuge, let it be so regarded; but if practical, act accordingly, or like honest men throw it up."—*B. Standard.*

An alderman having grown enormously fat while in office, a wag wrote on his back: "Widened at the expense of the corporation."