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SERMON AT HARRISTON.

The following sermon was delivered by R. W. Bro. Wm. Beaven, on Sunday last, 27th of Dec., before the members of Harriston Lodge, No. 262, G. R. C. It is an able effort, and we cordially recommend its perusal to every member of the Craft:—

"And He hath charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah; who is there among you of all His people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up."—2 Chronicles: xxxvi, 23 verse.

In addressing brother-Masons, it seems natural to talk of building. The text, as you know, refers to the re-building of the Temple at Jerusalem. This work was to be, to the returning Jews, an important undertaking, difficult and sacred—united and individual. The material Temple they were to build, was, in its outward beauty, to be a symbol of the love and honor which they owed to the Lord their God,—its order and arrangement were to be symbols of great and mighty truths. This is the first idea which men always form of the habitation of God. It is only part of the truth. The Most High is not confined to Temples made with hands. We may seek and we may find God everywhere. This great, glorious world is His Temple. The sky, with its driving clouds, is His; the sea is His, and He made it, and all that moveth therein. What we see around us, is not what fancied wisdom has often proclaimed to us, dull, dead matter and chance; but the work of Him who layeth His cham-

bers in the waters and maketh the clouds His chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind. This world is a grand cathedral of God, and only one of many. The dark and degraded intellect may try to turn the Great Architect out of His own creation, but the fact that there are blind people in the world, does not prove that there is no sun. The materialist may proclaim that there is no light at noon-day, but let him speak for himself,—it is useless to speak thus to a man with good eye-sight. But although the universe be God's Temple, yet He has a nearer and truer temple still. It is only spirit that can know spirit, and therefore "God's truest temple is the upright heart and pure." "Know ye not, every one of you, that your bodies are temples of God who dwelleth in you," temples, brethren, which, as true Master Builders, you should be consecrating as habitations for the Lord of Hosts.

I would dwell for a short time upon three important tools, with which this spiritual temple must be built, viz:—

1. Knowledge; 2. Truth; 3. Charity

Knowledge, dear brethren, is a vain thing when sought out of an unworthy motive, and applied to selfish ends; but it becomes noble and glorious when sought for the benefit of our brother-men and consecrated to the glory of God. "There are some," says, St. Bernard, "who desire to know with the sole purpose that they may know, that is base