

and dimmer as she bends above her work. To these Hope comes like an angel. A ray of sunshine, flashing through the lead-coloured prospects before them—an angel's whisper to their sore, tried spirits. The sorrowing mother hears it, and though her heart be faint and sick with its heavy burden, smiles through her tears as she listens. The wife, patiently waiting by the couch of pain, or worse, far worse, linked for life to an inebriate, grasps at a shadow when she hopes; and yet how sweet, how soothing to her sad heart, is its faintest whisper. Blessed Hope, thy presence is golden; a bright light follows thee; a halo surrounds thy head; and thy wings are like the roseate clouds that herald the sun's approach. God has implanted thee in the human heart for a wise purpose, and given thee as a beacon to cheer him when tossed on the wild-waves of doubt and uncertainty.

MASONRY does not demand impossibilities. Squares and circles both belong to Masonry, but Masons are not expected to square circles. Masonry has utility for its end as well as morality, and vain attempts are as remote from its proper scope as wicked ones.

A FEW HINTS ON BEHAVIOUR IN LODGE.—Think that you are among those who have bound themselves to act as gentlemen, and that the nearer your conduct approaches the same standard, the better. If wealthier and more distinguished persons be present, recollect that your Masonic equality with them can only be shown by your own strict propriety of conduct. If you are among those otherwise your inferiors, bear in mind that courtesy and easy condescension, not stiff and pompous patronage, are your best means of displaying your equality. Let ceremony neither be exaggerated nor forgotten; for in the one case you forget what is due to yourself, in the other you forget your duty to others, and those obligations of propriety, which belong to Masonry pre-eminently, as they do to all civilization.

ON LODGE DECORATION.—Where these are imperfect and in bad taste, do not sneer at or ridicule them, but think of two things:—1st Whether the funds that might have purchased better are not perhaps devoted to more serious and important purposes. 2nd. Whether you are able and willing to contribute to their improvement, if necessary.

ON DRESS WHILE IN LODGE.—By the custom of wearing full dress you recognize others as gentlemen, and prove your own desire to conform to their customs. Attention to small matters is often the readiest medium for showing our respect towards great ones.

ON STUDY OF MASONRY.—Believe that you have much to learn, and that your present ignorance is the first passport to the outer gate through which you enter into more glorious and deep mysteries. Feel yourself as a child wanting instruction and wisdom will perfect its work, patiently and kindly. Enter in simple and unpretending faith and that faith will speedily produce its fruits of knowledge and morality. Do not think to jump to conclusions by guessing what is to follow. Such conduct is like that of the schoolboy who tries to crib the answer to his sum from a key he has surreptitiously obtained, and copies down the wrong one. True knowledge comes only by honest means, and patient labour is the handmaid of honesty.

A Free-Mason must be a good man, one who duly fears, loves, and serves his Heavenly Master, and in imitation of the operative mason who erects a temporal building according to the rules and designs laid down for him, by the Master Mason, on his tressel-board, raises a spiritual building, according to the laws and injunctions laid down by the Supreme Architect of the universe, in the book of life, which may justly be considered in this light, as a spiritual tressel-board.

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