

throw around him a fraternal shield, and let the light of hope beam on his path, and the power of a pure example encircle him. If he is found worthy, there will thus grow up a more generous fellowship—a new link in the golden chain which is to draw into closer union the sons of earth. But it is in the day of sorrow and the hour of danger that this great principle of brotherly love most strongly asserts itself. When cold penury or wan disease has laid its hand upon us, then it is that we most feel the necessity for sympathy—for the brother's kind word, and the brother's protecting arm. Masonry ministers to this want, wherever members are true to their obligations and are governed by their principles. They may meet as strangers, but they have only to drink the *cup of sorrow* and give signals of *distress*, to find cordial sympathies leaping to the bed-side of sickness and the chamber of death. Let the husband and father come down to the borders of the grave and encounter the grim tyrant of the dark domain, and he can somewhat more cheerfully speak the last farewell to wife and children, if he may leave for them the legacy of a true Masonic life, encircled by living men who have worthily knelt around the altar of Masonry. Masons are untrue to their trust and unworthy of their order if they do not encircle a brother's grave, and a brother's sorrowing household, with a somewhat intenser sympathy and a somewhat livelier charity than they would have felt without the discipline of the order. It is sometimes urged that the obligations and duties to which I am now referring are inconsistent with the general good. That, because we pledge special aid and fraternity to each other, we shall be less fraternal and benevolent to others. But is this a natural and necessary result? Because a man has, and provides well for a family of his own, is he a worse neighbor and citizen? If he is a useful inhabitant of a town or village, is he therefore at variance with the interests of his country or his race? Because he is a useful, active member of a particular religious organization, is he, therefore, a worse neighbor, friend, or citizen? Because he loves his *home* and *country*, and is true to them, is he thereby an enemy to the race? Just the reverse of this is true in other matters. It must be so in masonry, unless a man violate his vows. The stream of Brotherly Love, while it will flow most freely and richly towards those who are bound to him by special ties, will not be confined within any boundaries, but will grow, and

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