

Charity are rolled out from under it, leaving it to topple and break in pieces. The beautiful structure, contrived by Wisdom, constructed by Strength, and adorned by Beauty, in their hands becomes a shapeless mass, with scarcely a trace of its former grandeur.

Let the platform remain with all the planks as originally placed in it. Let it continue to rest upon the four corner-stones firmly planted upon the bed-rock of Masonry. Then shall Masons everywhere continue to enjoy the rich blessings which have so long been their portion, and continue to show to the world, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.—*Masonic Advocate*.

LIVING STILL.

CONFUCIUS still enacts the law for China, Plato and the other great sages of antiquity, still rule and reign as kings of philosophy. The temple built by Solomon and our ancient brethren has sunken into decay. The Holy City is a mass of hovels under the domain of the Crescent, and the Holy Land is a devastated desert. The kings of Egypt and Assyria, contemporaries of Solomon, have passed into oblivion and are forgotten, their histories are known as mere fables. The ancient Orient is a shattered wreck, bleaching upon the shores of time.

The wolf and the jackal howl amid the ruins of Thebe and Tyre. But the mysterious, quiet and peaceful Order, of which the son of a poor Phœnician widow was one of the Grand Masters, with the Kings of Israel and Tyre, has continued to increase in stature, strength and influence, defying the angry waves of time and the storms of persecution.

Age has not weakened its foundations, nor shattered its columns, nor marred the symmetry and beauty of its harmonious proportions.

This is Masonry, and she is still there. And as we proceed onward through the sublime mysteries of its degrees, well may it be said of her, too, "I have many things to tell you but ye cannot bear them now." And as one by one of her noble representatives pass away, assuming the robes of immortality, and receiving that last degree of investigation of the hereafter, let it be a lesson to us to so deport ourselves in life as to entitle us to a peaceful death, so that finally it may be said of us, "Farewell faithful brother, here is the end of an upright life of toil, devoted to the cause of justice, humanity and brotherly love, his life was free from the stain of sin, and his final rest as peaceful as that of the noblest dead.

Therefore let our watchword be, Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith, that we may prove our fidelity to our highest and holiest ties and obligations; Hope, that we may rest content in the sublime belief of the promised hereafter, and Charity, that we may be charitable to all our fellow men, that he who doeth all things well may ultimately be charitable to us.

Thus we are taught by Masonry, these sublime attributes, Faith, Hope and Charity, but the greatest of these is Charity. So saith the genius, Masonry.—*Hebrew Leader*.

BE COURTEOUS.

WE some time since treated of this subject, and constant intercourse with the Fraternity in all parts of the State, within the past few months, convinces us more than ever of its importance. There is nothing that makes a stranger feel more at ease than for the Brethren to seek him out and extend to him that Masonic cordiality that is due from one Brother to another. Not only does it give him companionship in a strange community, but it insures a more favorable opinion and pleasant remembrance of a place because of such kindness.

We have had better tests of Masonic *professions* in this way than any other. Sometimes we have been received with a whole-souled courtesy that made us feel, deep down in the heart, the life and power of Masonry; then again with an indifferent politeness that showed very little concern for Masonry or Masons outside of the Lodge room, and sometimes with almost rudeness by those whom we were taught to regard as Brethren. It does not require a fertile mind to contrast the feelings produced in each case, or the opinions formed of both place and people.

No, Brethren, be courteous to the stranger. It costs you nothing and may add greatly to your interest, besides making both you and him feel good. And remember, it is his *just due* and your *Masonic duty* to render it.—*Greensboro Masonic Journal*.