

upon our brethren, and to practice benevolence to all mankind. We have among us, concealed from the outside world, secrets which may not be revealed, but these secrets are honorable and in no way repugnant to either the laws of God or man. They were wisely and safely entrusted to the Freemasons of ancient times, and having been faithfully transmitted to us, it is our duty to convey them unimpaired to future generations. Our duties as Masons are, first, a reverence for the Most High God, and a strict obedience to His most holy will and word; obedience to the laws of the country in which we may reside; and, lastly, brotherly love, charity and truth to our fellow-men. On these grand principles has our Order been founded and reared up. It is limited to no sect, rank or nationality. Masonry, from its inherent goodness, has been diffused over the face of the habitable globe, and is patronized by all ranks. Its aims are, as far as human aid can effect, to promote peace and good-will by inculcating lessons of kindness and courtesy to all, in soothing the roughness of our temper and in refraining from allowing differences of opinion to disturb our worst passions. The Bible, ever open in our lodge, teaches us the duty we owe to our Creator and likewise to our fellow-men. It inspires us with awe and reverence for the Great Architect of the Universe; it directs us to practice truth, justice and charity to all alike. Unless the Craft were good and the calling honorable, it could not have lasted for so many centuries, nor should we have been honored with the patronage of so many great and illustrious men of all ages, who have ever been ready and willing to promote our interests and defend us from all adversaries. We are assembled here to-day, in the presence of you all, to lay the foundation stone of this edifice, which is to be dedicated to the service of God. May the work prosper to completion, and may the word preached within these walls be instrumental in bringing many from darkness unto light, and finally lead them to that great congregation above, where the world's Great Architect lives and reigns forever.