

times, because they were men who were *Free*, who would have no excuse for telling of the plans or the secrets as *slaves* might have been forced to tell.

As the wall grew, none but free and accepted Masons were admitted to the enclosure surrounding the Temple. As the elder members of the Brotherhood needed assistants, they *vouched* for the *character* of those who became apprentices, and who were afterward made *fellow-craft* or workers under instruction, and finally elected and made *Master Masons*.

Then they could come and go. Free of delaying at the gates. When called to their homes, they could obtain employment and wages on their return. When travelling in foreign countries they could tell who were impostors and who had been really workers on the Temple.

As the Temple was dedicated to the glory of God, no person who did not openly profess the belief in God or the Great Power of Light, Love, Power, Wonder and Mercy could be engaged on the edifice, lest it be profaned; the character of the builders was strictly in accord with the design of the Temple, a grand, a glorious edifice, with none but God-like influence suffered to touch its material. Hence you see the necessity for *secrecy*, as the builders were sworn not to reveal the plans, nor to admit as helpers persons not made Masons by the solemn ceremonies of the Lodge room.

The Brotherhood grew and grew. Men who died while at work were buried. Men who were sick, were cared for. The families of these Free Men, were held sacred among Free Masons. They became a grand, united, harmonious Brotherhood, keeping the secrets of Solomon, doing their best work on the Temple, caring for each other and the various jewels given them as presents by the king, and the jewels of children given them by God, while at work on the wondrous edifice.

The institution grew apace and took rich root in the minds of men that it has outlived the Temple built by the free and accepted Masons, as the *spirit outlives the material* it once actuated. As Solomon wished to glorify God, so did Masonry arise and grow under the same inspiration.—*Pomeroys Democrat*.

THE PLATFORM OF FREEMASONRY.

THE cardinal virtues of Masonry, are Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. Each one of these constitutes a plank of equal importance in the Masonic platform. Securely dovetailed together after the plan of a wise architect and builder, and strengthened with the cement of love and unity, they form a structure not only strong but enduring. With its four corners resting upon four imperishable stones, Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth and Charity, firmly planted upon the solid rock of Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man, it forms a foundation for the institution of Freemasonry that has stood the test of many centuries past, and that will endure until time shall be no more. It has needed no repairs in the past; does not need any in the present, and will never need any in the future.

Time but adds to its strength, and years to its durability. The waves of fanaticism break harmlessly over it, the winds of bigotry cannot shake it, nor the fires of intolerance destroy it. All these elements of discord and dissolution are powerless to accomplish its destruction.

Freemasonry has nothing to fear from its enemies without, so long as Masons are true to the noble principles which constitute its foundation, and which are found in every stone in this beautiful Mystic Temple, even up to the cap-stone itself. To be true to them they must have a thorough knowledge of their import, and this information is essential to a proper discharge of their duties as Masons. In Operative Masonry no one can become a skillful workman who does not apply himself diligently during the term of his apprenticeship, and the same is equally true of Speculative Masonry. Masons must learn Masonry before they properly practice it themselves or teach it to others. This can not be done in a day, month, or a year; but years of study are necessary. Some learn the ritual quickly and think that is all there is of it. Others go through without learning anything at all. A few only ever become well-informed Masons. In this lack of Masonic knowledge among so large a portion of the membership lies the greatest danger to the Institution itself. They are in a position to do it much greater harm than those who assail it from without. Once inside they become an element of weakness, for they are just as liable to go wrong as right. They have never learned how to observe the cardinal virtues of Masonry, or to practice the tenets of their profession. They are apt to think the platform needs some changes or repairs, and imagine themselves competent to furnish the plans. Some seem to think the Temperance plank of more importance than all the rest, and are ready to sacrifice Prudence and Justice in their efforts to enlarge its dimensions. Brotherly Love and