

"Never will I break the covenant
Plighted, brother with thee now!
One between us stands, attesting
To the fervor of my vow;
In his name, above his promise,
By his honor, for his cause
Here's my hand, the Lord confirm it—
'I will surely keep my vows."

And again :

"In distant land in olden time.
The Acacia bore the mark sublime,
And told to each discerning eye
Of deathless constancy;
So may these green leaves whisper now,
Inform the heart, inspire the vow,
And link the chain fidelity,
'Twixt, brother, you and 'ae."

Having thus been pledged, and about to enter upon his duties, the mission he has undertaken to perform is thus impressively placed before the true Mason :

"Come where sorrow has its dwelling,
Comfort bring to souls distressed;
To the friendless mourner telling,
Of the Rock that offers rest;
What would life be but for Heaven?
Come, to us the word is given.

"Band of brothers, every nation,
Hails your bright and Orient light!
Fervent, zealous, free, your station
Calls for deeds of noblest might!
Seek—the world is full of sorrow—
Act—your life will end to-morrow."

The man who freely takes upon himself the vows of the institution, who finds in its instructions and discipline the indications of a work to do, a burden to bear, a sacrifice to make; who sees in its ceremonies the outer courts of greater mysteries within, to be won only after patient vigil, to be exemplified only by earnest and self-sacrificing labor, will find his path laid before him in the following :

"By the hieroglyphic ten—
Wisdom, strength and beauty's plan;
By the mystic features seven—
Surely by the Master given;
By the covenant woven faith,
Strong in life and strong in death;
Every hope of foeman crushed!
Bow the back and pinch the flesh!"

So the brother who faithfully and earnestly strives to perform his duty, whose ear is never closed, and whose hand is ever open when the cry of the widow and the fatherless comes up to him, knows that in the infinite wisdom of the Father the hand of affliction may in turn be laid upon him, and those who had looked to him for assistance may some day be at the summit of fortune's wheel, and his feelings are thus expressed :

"I in life's valley, you on its crest;
I at its lowest, you at its best;
I sick and sorrowing, you hale and free;