

having full confidence in your skill in our royal art, it remains for me to finish the work." Three knocks were then given upon the stone with the gavel. "Well made, well proved, truly laid, true and trusty, and may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the craftsmen, according to the Grand Plan, in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love."

Response.—"So mote it be."

Corn, wine and oil were then placed upon the stone, the acting Grand Master at the same time saying :—"I strew corn upon the stone as an emblem of plenty ; I pour wine upon it as an emblem of joy and cheerfulness ; I anoint it with oil as an emblem of comfort and consolation. May corn, wine and oil, and all the necessities of life abound among men, and may the Great Architect of the Universe, who has so kindly blessed us in our proceedings of the day, enable those engaged in the erection of this building to complete it ; may He protect the workmen from accident, and long preserve the structure from ruin or decay, that it may serve for generations yet to come the purpose for which it is intended."

Response.—"So mote it be."

The public grand honors were given. A liberal collection was then taken up, while the choir joined in singing an appropriate hymn, after which the acting Grand Master spoke as follows :

"Men, women and children, by invitation we are assembled here to-day to lay the corner stone of an edifice to be erected to the glory of God, the Great Architect of the Universe. Know all of you that we are lawful masons, true to the laws of our country, and professing to fear God, the Creator of all things, to honor the queen, to confer benefits upon our brethren, and to practice universal benevolence towards all mankind.

It is true that from time immemorial our Order has had certain secrets which are only known to members of our ancient and honorable society, and in order to disabuse the minds of any who may have doubts as to the basis of our faith and the

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