

and to have continually in mind the Psalmist's resolve, "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will take no wicked thing in hand. I will not know a wicked person." I don't see how a Mason can fail to perceive the force of all this. But let us heap up proofs that it is so.

1. Take man as God has put the PLUMB-LINE to him. "God made man upright." The old sphinx made him out to be a very strange creature; walking on four legs in the morning, on two at noon, and on three in the evening. First a creeping baby, then upright, and at last needing the help of a stick. But the intention of God is that Erect Man shall represent the unerring, unfaltering, unswerving God. That is to be man's character: upright, sincere, true. He is not to "worm" himself into any advantage by creeping or crawling in dirty or false ways: He should not "stoop" to shameful practices. Since God has set him upright by nature, he is bound to keep himself as upright as possible by the help of that "plumb-line" of Scripture which God has given him. I know that some may say, "Because of the frailty of our nature we *cannot* always stand upright." But what is the promise? Is it not "Strength" for every need? Is it not "He will establish" and make firm those that trust in Him? When you hear the question, "What doest thou here?" Look to your perpendicular! A man who is not upright in conduct is no man, but a grovelling worm; and a Mason without uprightness is a contradiction and (one would hope) an impossibility.

2. Take man again, as God has LEVELLED him. Mixing in the world, we find men of every level. High, low; rich, poor; no two exactly alike. Yet, looking upon man, as he is in himself without the accidents which surround him; all are equal; coming into the world alike, and going out of it alike also. "We brought nothing into this world and we can carry nothing out." What then have we to be proud of? What hast thou that thou didst not receive?" Let the grandest, the richest, the wisest look back to that moment so long