

brotherhood has been accepted by his lodge, after due inquiry, as a fit and proper person to join "a society of upright and true men, of mature age, of sound judgment, and strict morals," and relying upon his declaration that his candidature is "uninfluenced by unworthy motives," and is prompted by "a sincere wish to become more extensively serviceable to his fellow creatures." Each of us has been pledged to upright conduct, to purity of life, to good citizenship. Belief and trust in the Great Architect of the Universe lie at the foundation of our faith, and we acknowledge the Volume of the Sacred Law to be the guide of our lives. Professing "a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols," the true Mason does not rest satisfied with a cold theoretical belief. He transmutes his belief into practice, into "brotherly love, relief and truth." Although our society, like all other human institutions, may fall short of its ideals, the lives of a large proportion of its members are beneficially influenced by its sanctions. There is abundant reason to rejoice that in these young Australian commonwealths the pure light of Masonry has shone all along their history with ever-growing brightness. Our lodges are doing their beneficent work in every city, in every town, and in almost every considerable village throughout the land. Even in the most distant outposts of settlement you will find members of our Order trying to square their lives according to the rules of the Craft. Building up as we are in these colonies a young and vigorous national life, it is well that our undertaking as citizens should be participated in and aided by a society which, whilst concerning itself with the profoundest problems of our being, does not disdain to encourage the old-fashioned virtues of honesty and fair dealing, of industry and thrift. Allying itself to no sect or party in religion or in politics, but welcoming good men from every side, of every condition in life, and of every race, witnessing for toler-

ation, cultivating loyalty, love of country, and a fraternal spirit, our society cannot fail to be a powerful agency for good in the community, both in its internal and external relationships. At home it tends to promote friendly co-operation between capital and labor, employers and employed, and seeks to prevent class animosities and intestine strife. Reaching again into a wider scope, and disregarding political or geographical divisions, it will help to unite these sister colonies together with yet firmer and more indissoluble bonds, and to maintain a perpetual union between our island continent and our dear old mother country. This gathering of the Craft, at which you, the Freemasons of Victoria, welcome your brethren from the other colonies and all parts of the world, and honor some of us with the privilege of taking part in this great ceremonial, is an object lesson to politicians and to statesmen that the completest local autonomy is not inconsistent with the closest fraternal alliance between territories, however divided from one another by distance or by artificial bounds. Standing on the floor of this Grand Lodge—breathing the serene atmosphere of brotherly love, undisturbed by "wars or rumours of wars"—we hold fast to the great principles of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and confidently look forward to the golden age when our labors shall find their happy consummation "In the Parliament of man, in the Federation of the world"—"when they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." And now, Most Worshipful Grand Master, it is my privilege, as installing officer, of which I gladly avail myself, to be the first to congratulate you, as I do most heartily, on behalf of your South Australian brethren as well as on my own behalf, on your assumption of the Grand Mastership. A long experience of the Craft in Vic-