

masters, to be content with their wages, to do no villainy with the wives or daughters of their employers or their fellows; were to be free by birth, no bastards, to have the proper use of their limbs, and were not to consort with evil characters.

The like regulations, with slight modifications, applied to the fellows of the craft, or journeymen.

The masters or employers were to be true to their lords, that is, those for whom they contracted to do work; they were bound to attend assemblies of the craft when properly summoned; they were to take only a limited number of apprentices—none for less than seven years, and none that were bondmen. They were to pay apprentices not more than fair wages. They were not to take contracts without feeling assured that they could carry them to completion; were not to supplant others in the work they had undertaken, and were not to employ cowans or inferior workmen. If a travelling workman came to them for employment, they were to give him work or “refresh” him with money, to enable him to reach a place where work might be obtained.

All classes were to be true to the church, loyal to the king, obedient to the law, loving to their brethren and charitable to the poor and the unfortunate. They were to live honestly and reputably; the employer was to pay fair wages and the workman to give honest work.

So far as has been ascertained there was but one ceremony of initiation. Whether there was any difference between the initiation of an apprentice and the reception of an accepted Mason is not known.

Between the end of the fourteenth, and the beginning of the eighteenth century, many and important changes took place in the religious, legal, social and industrial condition of the people of England, and these changes had a marked effect upon the fortunes of the Masonic guilds. In 1536 and 1539 Henry the Eighth suppressed the monasteries and confiscated their property, and for more than a hundred years no more ecclesiastical buildings except churches were erected. The Roman Catholic clergy no longer had power