

possessors of temporalities, that the Masons were foes to civil as well as religious liberty. This, however, is answered by the fact that of all things you may speak in a lodge—except religion and politics. Masons are more peculiarly bound to respect civil and political institutions than other men, but they cannot avoid sharing special political sympathies with the mass of mankind. Hence their ordinances enjoin the most scrupulous respect for that which exists, with the most heartfelt hope of gradual and orderly improvement in every direction.

In the family, Masons are taught to restrain their passions, to respect the ties of blood, and to enforce by precept and example the rules of temperance and good report. In the State, Masons are enjoined to have confidence in the appointed rulers and princes under whose guidance and government they find themselves; and to be a Mason, in the true sense, is to be a patriot of the purest character.

Thus it happens that a Mason entering the military state is ready, independent of other considerations, to encounter everything for the honour of his country. As a sailor, he shrinks from no danger that may be necessary to increase the security of his native land. As a minister of religion, he seeks to enlarge the boundaries of morality and true humanity. As a merchant to increase the wealth of his country. As a husband and father, a son or brother, his duty is without offence plain and straightforward; and while he more peculiarly respects and cherishes those to whom he is allied by the tie of Light, he is led to extend the hand of humanity to those beyond. "Many are called but few are chosen."

Those that say that Masons have no such duties as these, or that they seek mere self advancement, are far from the truth of the matter, and can only be pitied.

What has been written above may appear eulogistic, and indeed it is so, but it is no more than the fact, nor while the sacred landmarks remain can Masons act otherwise than thus. Of course there are individual exceptions, alas! to this rule, and some of the legends of the Order point to sad instances of this, but as evil has a mysterious though necessary existence, so occasional instances of erring brethren are to be found. But, as in the world, these do not pass without censure and punishment. If, however, a man on becoming a Mason is not ready to do as Alharbel, King of Canarre, is represented as doing in the merry romance of Rabelais, he can never be a Mason "in spirit and in truth."—*The Freemason.*

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UP HILL WORK.—A foolish fellow advised a friend not to marry a poor girl, as he would find matrimony with poverty "up hill work." "Good," said his friend, "I like to go up hill."