

Benevolence we minister unto others. We wish all the brethren in our domain, the merriest Xmas of their lives—and we bid the "True Knight" carry our sincere wish to you all.

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## CHARACTER.

Whose Character? Yours and mine, and everybody else's too. It consists of three parts, the Past, the Present, and the Future, these three so closely joined that we can scarcely see where one division ceases and the other begins. Let us speak of character as it is, and not of what it appears to be, for you and I know, characters, like things, are not what they seem. With most of them the good is only on the outside, veneer worn and very thing in parts.

Time is short, so let me speak but briefly of the past. Perhaps with you, as with me, that "past" has been more bitter than sweet. Let its failures and its errors speak, but as a lesson to warn and help.

The "Present,"—our "to-day." You and I are making our to-morrow: perhaps we are marring it: perhaps like some master-builder, we use circumstances and opportunities to rear our building, carefully setting each stone, looking continually at the plan, which shows the finished work. If so, it is well. If not listen. If not patiently, still listen. For, however unwilling we may be to admit it, still this truth remains: "Our characters are a something not yet completed; you and I are making them now—either good or bad."

The Future—The future, which the Supreme Chancellor alone sees as it will be seen, you and I see it as He wants it to be; also as He hopes it will not be. Which shall it be?

We love the beautiful, we long to attain thereto. Each has his "ideal" set as a goal, an ambition, an object in life: and each one strives and falls, to rise and strive again, and God grant, attain. And has not our Order characters for us to follow, into whose likeness we may grow? What about the man who gave his life for his

friend, and that is the character of characters to which we do well to strive. We can give our lives every day, and all day long. It is true self must die; yes true it does, but rises again in that new and better self, glorying in a character; approved, perhaps, not of mankind now, but earning the approval we most cherish—that of the Supreme Chancellor and Chief.

ROBT. BROOKE.

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## "THE EFFECT OF LOVE."

Thinking—Yes, I have been thinking of what to write. Shall it be of the Lodge, of some individual, or shall it be on some subject that will interest you all? The latter, perhaps, will be the most appropriate. The subject of which I am about to write is one which I myself am hardly capable of expressing it's true feeling—"Love"—and I do not think I shall be far wrong when I say that there is not a man or woman living to-day but what has had more or less experience of the subject, whether it has been in courtship, or in childhood, the love of home, the love of mother and friends, the love of a wife, the love of earthly possessions, or, greater than all of these, the love of God.

Our Order was founded on these great principles—brotherly love—taking as an example the love of Pythias for his friend. What was more noble, or greater than this.

Shakespeare says: "Although time with its sickle can rob ruby lips and sparkling eyes, let him reach as far as he can, he cannot quite touch Love; that reaches even to the end of the tomb."

Nothing is sweeter than Love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant.

Love oftimes knoweth no measure, but is fervent beyond all measure. Love feelth no burden, thinketh nothing of labors, attempteth what is above its strength, pleadeth no excuse of impossibility: for it thinketh all things possible for itself and all things lawful. It is, therefore, strong



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