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AN EVENING WITH MY MASONIC BRETHREN.

It would be difficult to find a Freemason who thinks that life is not worth living. Ordinary life sometimes may not be worth living, but Masonic life—that is a different matter. There is a new birth in Masonry, a new sphere is entered, darkness is vanished, and behold all is light! When once the threshold of the inner door of the lodge is passed, a new life is entered upon. The associations are different from those of the world, the greetings are different, the conduct is different. Selfishness is the law of the world, while generosity is the law of the lodge. When the character of the membership of Masonry is considered, together with the lessons of religion and morality taught within the lodge, the spirit of charity which ever prevails, the duty strict obedience to law and authority which is inculcated, and the delightful harmony which distinguishes the brethren, both in the lodge and when they surround the social board—when all these things are considered, is it a matter to occasion surprise that an evening with my Masonic brethren is an occasion of the highest enjoyment—intellectual, moral and social?

Let us endeavor to resolve this enjoyment into its constituent elements. The element that is perhaps most noticeable, is the absolute unity which prevails in the lodge—and not only in the lodge, but throughout the fraternity. We are at one with each other. In the world we differ con-

tinually one with another concerning religion, politics, and a thousand other subjects, while here upon the chequered floor, all appear to be of one religion, one politics, and one mode of thinking upon every controversial subject. The spirit of Masonry acts like oil upon the troubled waters. The Tyler's sword not merely keeps off cowans and eavesdroppers, but it seems to drive away the mephitic atmosphere of profane contention. The air of the lodge-room may be close, but so are the brethren—as close to each other in heart as they often are in body. The air of the lodge-room is morally healthy. No evil is tolerated there—unless there be, as in some jurisdictions, a public installation spectacle, and then the mixed company makes the conduct mixed, and the solemn and serious in Masonry are in peril of becoming a subject of burlesque and ridicule.

An immediate resultant of this spirit of unity, is the unaffected and sincere affection which prevails among brethren throughout the craft. This is displayed both in the lodge and in the world. In the lodge it leads to enjoyable confidences, to whole-hearted conduct in joy and sorrow. When the world is heaping honors upon a brother, when wealth comes at his call, when health mantles his countenance, and disease, misfortune and death are all far-away strangers, his companions in Masonry rejoice with him, and seem even to share in