

remember that you have only begun to know what is Masonry, you have, as yet, only received the elementary details of that universal language in which hereafter you are to converse with your brethren of all nations. Take with you as a staff, shield and scrip, a knowledge of the virtues which expand the heart and dignify the soul; amongst these will be secrecy, obedience, humility, faith in God, purity of conscience, economy of time. These are all inculcated by symbolic ceremonies too impressive in their character ever to be forgotten, and, lastly, as *charity* forms the chief corner-stone of all Masonic virtues, the beauty and holiness of this attribute are depicted in emblematic modes which no spoken language can equal. In Masonry, virtue is painted in the most beautiful colors and the duties of morality are strictly enforced. In entering your Lodge-room the world is left behind, and the chains of error and ignorance are broken. You who have passed the portals can bear me out when I say that nothing is begun, continued, or ended without the Divine blessing being invoked. Silence and secrecy with regard to the affairs of others is strictly enjoined and enforced, and as idolatry prevailed upon the earth immediately before the deluge, it became necessary for those who held to the worship of the true God to form themselves into distinct orders, so must we. The time arrived when openly to worship the true God was attended with *danger*, and then it was that our brethren had *special* recourse to hieroglyphics and symbols to preserve secrecy, lest they should be exposed to the arm of persecution." The Bible, the Holy Bible, is given to us, as well as the Christians, to be our rule and guide. The Bible is the light which enlightens the path of duty to God, the "square," that which enlightens the path of duty to our fellow-men, and the "compasses" which enlighten the path of duty to ourselves. People ask why Masons wear aprons? I would answer that the use of the apron or some equivalent mode of investiture was common to all religious systems of antiquity. Among the Israelites the girdle formed a part of the investiture of the priesthood. In the Persian mysteries of Mithias the candidate was invested with a white apron. In the Brahminical institutions of Hindostan and amongst the Essenians a white robe was used. Even the Japanese invest their candidate with a white apron. And as this white apron is an emblem of purity, I would urge you my "brethren of the craft" to keep it unspotted, and never to put it on unless you are at peace and in love and charity with the brethren. Can you all who are here assembled to-day put your hands upon your hearts and, looking up to God, say that you are in "charity" with all? If not, divest yourselves of the badge of innocence, and go to your brother and ask his forgiveness. Be reconciled before the sun sets in the heavens. Nothing short of this will do. It must be complete reconciliation, else Christianity and Masonry are, as it were, "tales that are told." Look well to your "jewels," and follow the teachings of the "square," the "level," and the "plumb," and by the exercise of "brotherly love" you will regard the whole human species as one family. "Seek truth and ensue it," and by the exercise of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice you will have a right to a place, and that an exalted one, amongst the people. And to you who have gained the second degree in Masonry; who have advanced a step higher, I would say walk uprightly in your several stations of life, order your actions by the "square" of virtue, not forgetting that you are travelling on the "level" of time to the unknown land from whose bourne no traveller has ever returned. Recollect that you represent a man starting on the journey of life with the great task of self-improvement before you. And to those who have attained to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, I would say you represent men when youth, manhood, old age and life itself have passed away as fleeting shadows, yet raised from the grave of iniquity and quickened into another and better existence; and the conclusion we arrive at is, that youth properly directed leads us to honorable and virtuous maturity, and that the life of man regulated by morality, faith and justice, will be rewarded at its closing hour by the prospect of eternal bliss. Remember that you keep your heart pure and, that you never sit down contented whilst your fellow-man is in want; ever be watchful and guarded in your thoughts and words and know that, although your thoughts may be hidden from your fellow-man, still the "All-seeing Eye" is ever upon you, and that, no matter how tempestuous may be the sea of this world, you have the Divine "Ark" to flee to, and it is provided with the "anchor" of hope, which will hold you fast in that haven where the "wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." Encourage the arts and sciences, and as the sands in your "hour-glass of life" run out, think of the "scythe" of time which cuts the brittle thread of life and launches us into eternity, which has no respect for either youth, manhood, or old age; and as the "spade" opens the grave to receive your bodies, may you, always cherish the memory of that "Cassia" which reminds us of the immortal part of man, that part of him which never dies. May you always extend the right hand of fellowship to a worthy "Brother Mason;" may your foot ever be ready to run in behalf of a brother in need; may you never bend the knee in private or public devotion without commending the craft and all mankind to