

disappointments. He is as true in his attachments as the magnet to polarity—always the same, in joys or sorrows.

We, my Brothers, profess to cherish this Faith; we have all bowed around altars consecrated to its holy and sacred principles; we have all lifted up hands without wrath, asking the Father's choicest blessing to strengthen our resolutions—to support us in maintaining its dignity, its purity and loveliness. Such is Free Masonry—a noble institution truly! It was founded in mercy, and its magnificent superstructure erected, and its *capstone* Charity, placed upon its lofty summit by and through the holy influence of love divine. Its principles are deep and all controlling, and in them lies the strength of the Order. They are coeval with creation; for, when the Lord by his power and wisdom formed this world with all its beauty and grandeur—the three great pillars of Masonry had their origin. Around these unbending columns, in the full development of these sublime principles, cluster our highest hopes, our sweetest joys and holiest aspirations. When these give way beneath the accumulated load of folly and corruption, which the ignorance and wickedness of men may place upon them; when our holy principles become utterly forsaken by those who are placed as its defenders, great and terrible will be its fall. But we dare not entertain the idea that such will ever be the fate of Masonry. Brothers, let us profit by the teachings and requirements of the doctrine of the Brotherhood of man. We are called by many selfish and cold-hearted, and accused of confining our charities exclusively to our own. It is true we are bound by sacred obligations to look after the interests and welfare of those who are associated with us in bonds of *special* Brotherhood; but, at the same time, we are under lasting obligations to help and succour the suffering child of misfortune, whether he is a Mason or not. Let this admonish us to be as impartial in the bestowment of good deeds, as the circumstances of the case will admit. Let us comfort those who mourn, sympathize with those who travel in sorrow, life's rugged pathway, for they are brothers.

In conclusion, let me say, that man *is* actually learning to look upon his fellow-man as a brother. And what more ennobling and better calculated for the uprearing of humanity can be known, than a law that shall crush beneath its sway the only vice for which man has ever suffered, and rear in its stead that virtue—that attribute of God which has ever been a blessing—the virtue of Love. May the day speed rapidly on, and let those who have taken to themselves the *three great lights* in Masonry be the first to make sacrifices, if any are to be made, in the work of urging forward the time when “the tears of this world shall be submerged in the healing tide that shall flow from the fountains of benevolence and peace! Then one law shall bind all nations, tongues and kindred of the earth, and that law will be the law of *Universal Brotherhood*.”