

to coming generations this grand republic, our American country, than any other power. There is but one thing for us to do. If we who live to-day are true to the principles of the craft, I feel assured the future of Freemasonry will be, beyond all peradventure, rising higher and higher, until humanity shall have been lifted up, and man, who was created in the image of God, shall at last behold that reality in the beatific vision of the lodge above. — *Grand Master Klapp, of Rhode Island.*

### AN EVENING IN THE LODGE.

The spending of an evening in this consecrated place, in the enjoyment of brotherly love and concord, is infinitely preferable to passing it in frivolity and idleness. Here one retires from the noise and conflict of life, and is refreshed by the rich lessons our ritual presents. The carpet, canopy, altar, lights, furniture, with the ever-impressive ritual, pour unmeasured benefits into the receptive mind. The past with its history, written and unwritten, the present with its opportunities, responsibilities, and promises, and the future with its hopes, are here unfolded. Symbols, that generations of mankind have venerated for centuries, here disclose their hidden truth. The great drama of human life—youth, manhood and age—passes in tenderness and power, teaching the frailty of the flesh, and the hope of immortality. Is it not beneficial to enlarge and stimulate the mind by teaching these truths? Is it not beneficial to soften the heart and increase human sympathy by teaching such lessons? Like other sources of great good, Masonry is too often neglected. Its opportunities are too often unheeded, its responsibilities shunned, and thereby its benefits lost. Yet in its truth there are supreme possibilities. It will despoil old habits, conquer vice, allay strife, build manhood. It stands as a beacon-light on the shore of time,

casting its beams over the dangers around us and through the darkness before us, lighting up the pathway that leads to health and happiness, peace and love. — *Grand Master Howland, of Massachusetts.*

### DUTY OF MASONS.

Any Order, to become prominent, must practice what they preach. Of these, there can be no better choice than the Masonic Order. We are taught to be just to all men, to do good to one another, and have a generous and due regard for the happiness and welfare of others, while seeking to promote our own. We are enjoined to practice self-denial without self-abnegation; to relieve the distressed without privation and injury to those who are dependent upon our exertions. In fact, the Order of Masonry, as the handmaid of religion, is well designed to assist the pilgrim of life in contending against the trials of mortality, and accompanies him to the very threshold of whatsoever temple he may deem best suited to the worship and praise of our Father and our God. The very basis of Masonry is brotherly love, relief and truth, and "to do unto others as we would they should do to us." The true Mason's trust is in God, and to the man who finds it possible to entertain this hope, how different an aspect the world wears—casting his glance forward, how wondrous a light rests upon the future; the farther he extends his vision, the brighter the light—animated by a hope more sublime than wishes bound to earth ever before inspired—he feels armed with the courage to oppose surrounding prejudices and the welfare of hostile customs. No sectarian advantage, no petty benefit is before him; he sees but the regeneration of mankind. From the disease, famine and toil around him, his spirit bursts into prophecy, and dwells among the eternal and everlasting ages. Then let us practice what we preach, ever