

are placed in the custody of Masons, who alone have the keeping of them to the end of time.

We admit into our Order only such as are reported to be good men and true: of a lawful age, good morals and sound judgment. We meet upon a level and are constantly instructed to square our conduct by the principles of Morality and Virtue. Men of every class and rank of life, without regard to race, religion or nationality are enrolled as members of our ancient and honorable fraternity, even monarchs, the most powerful and enlightened, have in all ages been active promoters of our art, and have not thought it derogatory from their dignity to join our assemblies and participate in our mysteries.

The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Even the Temple of Solomon, so spacious and magnificent, and constructed by so many celebrated artists, escaped not the unsparring ravages of barbaric force. Freemasonry, notwithstanding, still survives. The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue, and the mysteries of Masonry are safely lodged in the sacred repository of faithful breasts. Tools and implements of architecture are selected by the fraternity to imprint on the memory wise and serious truths; and thus, through successive ages are transmitted pure and unimpaired, the excellent tenets of our institution.

The laws of Masonry are reason and equity; its principles, benevolence and love; its religion, purity and truth; its intention, peace on earth; and its disposition, good will towards all men.

Unless our Craft were good and our calling honorable we should not have existed for so many centuries; nor should we see to-day, as in all times past, so many distinguished