

to look up this day and be thankful, as he sees this highly-favored old sea-beaten craft, still worthy from rudder to mast, and proudly riding the waves. Let Him who plants his footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm be her Helmsman evermore!

In all the fury and rage of evil passion and corruption, not a single voice charged this Institution of aberrating from its true sphere. I could entertain you till another sun with living trophies of its worth. In the prison, on the field, and along the desolate and cindered walks of destroyed homes, full many a sufferer found rest, refreshment, shelter, and a friend beneath its old ivy-grown arch. Who does not rejoice to know that there is a bow of sympathy and hope too high to be reached by the evil thunders of human passion, or obscured by the gloom of the sins of men? "We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen."

In our ardor to accomplish the noble ends of this Institution, we must be fairly understood. We are not so dazzled with the splendors of its virtues, that we are blind to its misfortunes. Like all other associations, frailty and infirmity are a part of our earthly inheritance. We have no infinite prescience to guard us perfectly against imposition. We have much to encourage and cause us to rejoice, but we have our causes of grief and shame also. Earth produces no goodly tree that has not its deformed and distorted branches, and we have ours too. Many hold membership in our Fraternity whose lives make no part of an unsullied reputation. These we must endure as the Apostle did his buffetings, and use them as did he his thorn in the flesh. We have not time, on this occasion, to specify these afflictions, but simply acknowledge that they are many and grievous. Among the most hurtful of all these is the man that leaves not his private and personal prejudices outside. He prevents many a better man from entering, and is to bring in many like himself; and one such is much, too much for any one Lodge.

But with all its frailties, Masonry is an asylum for the true man. It is the home and hearthstone of fraternity. There are many ties that bind together the hearts of men; and 'tis well, for without this there would be no society. Human selfishness would reign supreme, and brevet itself beyond Satanic power, and out-devil the heroes of pandemonium. But it is true that

"Some feelings are to mortals given  
With less of earth in them than heaven."

Every human being wants a friend—some bosom listener to his trials and woes—some welcome sharer of his joys.

Old soldiers in a common cause must sit down in the cool evening of old age, and then with friendly, faltering accents, fight their battles over again. Let them alone, for their ties were forged and drawn whilst shoulder to shoulder they faced the fiery storm. Those stewards of the cross of CHRIST, that toil and suffer on pagan shores, have a brotherhood all their own. Those humble heirs of GOD, and joint inheritors with his Son, whose tear-bedimmed eye is fixed upon the same guiding star, have their holy and blood-bought ties. And we, too, have our common and sacred bond, unbounded by national interests or political distinctions. Our principles girdle every interest of virtue and hope, and will culminate in the universal dominion of that charity that survives faith, and is greatest of all.

## GOOD WORKS ARE IMMORTAL.

If every member of the Masonic Fraternity could have the idea indelibly stamped upon his mind, that deeds of goodness, in all future ages through which he may be directed to pass, will always live, and be the evergreen sprigs of his existence; it seems that a truer life, harmonizing with the principles of Masonry, would be the life of every Mason. When a Mason candidly reflects upon the great moral precepts of the order, he finds that it is utterly impossible to shut out or obliterate the works of love and mercy forever.

There is no philosophy in the dark thought that the dead swallow every thing which was once dear and valuable to them, or was valuable of them. The high and lofty thought, the manly and magnanimous endeavor that gushes forth like a living fountain from an overcharged soul, can never cease to vibrate harmonious sounds upon the side of good. That sweet music, which ever refines the soul and lifts it up to God, which elevates the thought, purifies the mind, and divinely quickens the spirit, can never be lost amid the multitude of inharmonies which may be produced in human life.

It appears, then, that Masons, as they are privileged to know and enjoy all the advantages of the moral teachings of Masonry, should present a faultless life of unselfishness. One which will contribute to good, and that will harmonize with the lessons constantly inculcated in their social entertainments. In those lessons of good, which, in their tendency, direct the mind in holy contemplations, is the Acacia; a fitting emblem of immortality. But as that evergreen can not always bloom at the head of our graves, let every Mason, by his upright life, place upon every page of his mortal existence, deeds of righteousness that will outlive all the fleeting things of time, and record in history, deeds of immortality which may be ever green throughout the wasteless seasons of eternity.

The wealth that we may accumulate, the struggles for worldly fame will vanish and disappear with the tinsel trappings of earthly glory. But every act, thought and consideration for good, will bloom forever upon the banks of the river of life—continually producing happiness here in this world, while anticipating the reality in the life to come. It is from all that we find beautiful, good and true, and everything which contributes to moral and spiritual elevation, that we weave the web of our destiny and being. When we perform a good deed, utter a noble thought, produce a harmonious sound, some fellow mortal will see the act, hear the words, and becoming attracted by the vibrating note, will catch the inspiration of song, and will be directed heavenward. The higher the members of the Order can elevate the moral standard, the nearer will they come to being true and upright Masons.

A Mason should never be content to live no better than those who have never been conducted across the threshold of the inner courts of the temple. Every act of a Mason's life should be worthy of being recorded as an immortal deed in his history. Every mental and moral stumbling block should be shunned as we would shun the den of the poisonous reptile. Every evil habit and practice, which, in their practical results, are likely to lead astray, should be abandoned. All things that prevent us