



Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office

Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta



M.W. Bro. T. G. Powers



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Christmas is just around the corner and there is no doubt we are all hoping it will be an enjoyable one. Perhaps we are looking forward with much anticipation to all that we are going to receive, or to those presents we are going to give to those we love most. This is good and is highly commendable but we must remember that we are never actually giving anything as long as we are anticipating something in return. This is only an exchange of gifts or presents. Only when we give without any thought of something in return are we actually giving, and we as masons should remember that the only thing that a man can lay claim to is that which he gives away.

In the light of this, is it not evident that too often we are shortchanging our fellow being by presenting him with material gifts when actually what is needed and desired is a portion of ourselves? Did not an apostle say to one who asked for a gift, "I have no silver and gold, but what I have I give you." The recipient received more than he ever dreamed of. Up until then he had to be satisfied to depend entirely on his fellow man not only for a livelihood but also for assistance to be moved about. It was little wonder that he leaped with joy when he discovered the benefit of the gift.

My brethren I would not be so presumptuous as to suggest that we of the masonic order have the same powers of gift as the apostles but nevertheless let us not sell ourselves short in our ability to give our fellow man a 'gift.' First we

must be able to assess properly what is in our power to give and also that what we give is needed and worthwhile. There is one thing that is always acceptable to everyone—goodwill!

This is a gift that is not always easy to give. On occasion it takes a great deal of self control and self discipline to be able and willing to extend the right hand of fellowship in a spirit of goodwill. It takes a lot out of a man to bear down on himself hard enough to do this successfully as certain occasions arise. Nevertheless we must get on with the job for we have been charged with this as a responsibility.

This does not mean that we have to flatter people but rather to recognize them, for every man likes to be recognized. Perhaps this will take nothing more than a friendly nod or a kind word, or perhaps take the advice of the sage who said, "If you see a man without a smile, give him one of yours."

In the promotion of goodwill with mankind we must never compare ourselves with our fellow being, for if we do we will become bitter, as we will always find greater persons than ourselves. In the light of this let us always remember that the level of Freemasonry affords us an excellent opportunity of presenting to everyone our best—OUR GOODWILL.

T. Gordon Powers

EDITORIAL

*"The heart, the heart that's truly blest;
Is never all it's own.
No ray of glory lights the breast
That beats for self alone."*

The sentiment that is so clearly expressed in the words of the anonymous poet above is one that speaks forcibly to us, particularly at this Christmas Season when the hearts of men and women glow with the spirit of love and fellowship.

There are times, perhaps, through the year, when something of selfishness mars our approach to the well being of those about us, or when the interests of others may be subject to personal desires; but as the Yuletide season approaches, our minds lead us to think reverently of the great Christmas story which has come down to us through the years to more and more impress itself upon us and to lend to us the ability and the desire to extend the right hand of fellowship to those with whom we come in contact.

The teachings of Freemasonry as conveyed to us through the beautiful ritual to which we owe so much are such that we should not fail to live strictly in accordance with the tenets and principles of our great Order and that we should extend to our fellows that Charity which is exemplified throughout the Masonic structure and to which we owe much of the pleasure that surrounds adherence to our Craft.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas said recently in an article in the monthly magazine issued by that Grand Lodge—"Charity—as the word is used in the Bible and by Masons—means more than just giving. It means loving one another. From the beginning to the end of life's road, Masonry and Charity walk hand in hand."

There is no time of the year when Charity is more to the forefront than at the Christmas Season; our own Grand Master, in the leading article in this issue of our Bulletin impresses upon us the desirability of giving with an open heart and as the joys of Christmas bring to us the happiness which we so greatly need to enable us to live in accord and peace let us see that Brotherly Love prevails and that Christmas is, indeed, not merely a day, a week, a season, but that it's spirit throughout all of the year makes it possible for us to feel the heart that is blest, the heart that beats for others and not alone for selfish or personal interest.

The Editor of the Alberta Masonic Bulletin takes this opportunity to extend to our readers a very sincere wish that Christmas 1966 will bring happiness to all members of the Fraternity and to their loved ones. The numerous expressions with respect to this little paper are very sincerely appreciated; the unstinted co-operation of the Grand Master and all associated with him in the conduct of Grand Lodge make the editing of the Bulletin a pleasure and a privilege and we say, at this particular season of the year—Blessed be the ties that bind Masons, one to the other, in the privilege of their mutual love and respect of the Craft.

S. C. H.

Within The Craft in Alberta

Cavell Lodge No. 125, Delburne, Honours Aged Member



R.W. Bro. G. W. Spires

The members of Cavell Lodge No. 125, Delburne met with a number of visitors during the past spring to pay tribute to R.W. Bro. George W. Spires who has attained the age of 85 years and who has been a devoted member of the Fraternity over a long period of time.

R.W. Bro. Spires was initiated on December 13, 1904 in St. George Lodge No. 200 on the Grand Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, located at St. George's, Bermuda Islands, while serving with the British Army.

He affiliated with Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 in 1909 and became a Charter Member of Cavell Lodge in 1929. He was elected District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 15 for the 1927-28 term.

R.W. Bro. Spires was honoured with the presentation of his 50 Year Jewel in 1955 and the 60 Year Jewel in 1965, the presentation being made by R.W. Bro. Jos. Rushfeldt, D. D. G. M. of the District.

Bro. Spires has given freely of his time and exceptional talents in prosecuting all the good work of Freemasonry and the Bulletin joins with the members of Cavell Lodge in paying well deserved tribute to him.

DISTRICT MEETING POSTPONED

The annual meeting of Masonic District No. 14, scheduled to be held in Oyen on Monday, October 31st has been postponed to Monday, November 28; the postponement was found necessary due to the illness of R.W. Bro. Jas. Taylor, Cereal. Members of the District Lodges are asked to take notice accordingly and to advise interested Brethren.

LAMONT LODGE MARKS 50th ANNIVERSARY

Some one hundred and twenty five Masons gathered at the Lamont United Church Hall on October 17th in celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Lodge.

W. Bro. Ross R. Shears, Master of the Lodge, extended a welcome to the numerous visitors and the delightful banquet was followed by a pleasing organ recital by Bro. Peter Delicate of Edmonton. At an evening session of the Lodge an impressive Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by Rev. Bro. L. J. Musto.

R.W. Bro. R. S. Harrison gave a history of the

(Continued on page 15)

Masonry Adequate To The New Age

Thomas Edward Doe
Grand Master, Tasmania

To the question raised, "Is our Masonic system adequate to the new age?" "Can it meet the demands of the conditions, the stresses and strains of modern life," we reply Yes! If it were a system of science, biology, astronomy, nuclear physics and so on; if it were an attempt to penetrate the physical secrets of the universe, it would very soon be behind the times. Rather, Freemasonry is a system of morality, not a religion, but religious in essence. It teaches that a kind of character is required for Masons, based on a belief in God and His requirements for men, as laid down in the Volume of the Sacred Law. And as we live our lives in this marvelous yet mysterious universe it is being borne upon us more and more that, for our peace and real progress we are at the mercy, not of blind forces, but of men. With all the wonderful progress of this technological age, with all the devices and gadgets of nuclear science, it is men who must push the buttons and work the gadgets.

Here is the answer to our questions. The principles and tenets of the Craft are unchanged and unchanging, old yet ever new, because they deal with the real nature of man and meet his needs in every age. It is by the quality of character developed in Masons, and exemplified in their approach to the conditions of this new age, and the people who must live in it, that the persuasive influence of Masonry will be felt and our "public relations," our "image" vastly improved.

The "Grand Principles" of Masonry are essentially Brother Love, Relief and Truth and the display of these qualities is still the distinguishing characteristic of the real Freemason both in his dealings with his brethren and in his associations with the "uninstructed and popular world."

In addition to the above considerations the worthy Mason should remember the ancient landmarks of our Order—the ritualism, the ceremonial and the traditional modes of conduct which all combine to peculiarly characterise our ancient Order. These will admit no innovations without threatening the very foundations of Masonry. The allegorical practices have been handed down to us from time immemorial and we are custodians of a sacred trust. Our duty is clear, we have an obligation to maintain and preserve, pure and unadulterated, the ancient usages and established customs of the Order. This obligation devolves squarely on every Member of the Craft, inasmuch as any departure from or modification of the ceremonial is a step on the downward path—away from our lofty traditions and towards a nondescript organization which has lost its essential character.

It is appreciated that apart from the general order of procedure, many Lodges, old and new, have adopted certain traditional practices within the general frame

work. Let us say at once that it is not the purpose of this article to discourage or interfere with in any way these traditional "embellishments" which in most cases are commendable and characterize the particular Lodges. It is rather our purpose to stimulate individuals to practice with greater precision, those things in which they have been instructed. Apathy and sometimes (we suspect) sheer laziness can make a mockery of our symbolic ceremonial. Steps, signs and processional movements, as well as modes of conduct and address can so easily become slovenly, and in this respect the older Mason is not always free from blame. Thereby a poor example is set for the younger brethren who may consider it to be a mark of experience to be "casual" like their elder brethren.

Let each brother search his heart and indulge in a little self criticism. Thereafter let him faithfully observe the rules with meticulous care and with no fear of criticism from others. His brethren will follow his example and his Lodge will become an "object of admiration." Other brethren and Lodges will hasten to emulate this fine example.

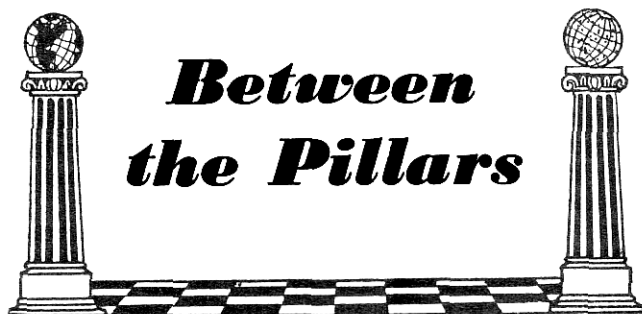
Our final comment in this short article is to call attention to an increasing tendency among some brethren and Lodges to abridge the ceremonies by curtailing and sometimes by omitting parts of our beautiful and impressive ritual. The obscure excuse for this is, we suspect, to enable us to hasten to the cocktail bar and thence to the after proceedings. This is no valid reason as a realistic appraisal of this will often reveal that the mutilation of the ceremony has shortened it by less than ten minutes and cannot therefore be honestly justified at such a price.

We are repeatedly charged to "please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness." This is plainly of paramount importance but we shall be better pleased with ourselves if we unite in jealously preserving the dignity and high importance of our ancient and distinctive customs. This is one of the important obligations of the Freemason today and the penalty of violating it—positively or by indifferent acquiescence—is to undermine the very future of Freemasonry and destroy its attraction in the eyes of intelligent and worthy men. It is easy to let standards slip. It is difficult to regain a lost position. Let us see to it that our standards measure up to the highest traditions of the great Order of which we are privileged members. Each one of us is a steward of a sacred trust.

Within The Craft (Continued from page 14)

Lodge since its institution in 1916, the history proving of major interest to all in attendance.

M.W. Bro. Morley Merner, Past Grand Master, delivered a most interesting address on this auspicious occasion and the fifty fine years of progress and service to the community were fittingly marked. Masons throughout Alberta will join in extending the warmest congratulations to Lamont Lodge for their splendid achievement.



The Unchanging Ideals of Freemasonry

By M.W. John S. Harker
Past Grand Master of Masons in New Zealand

No secular institution on the face of the earth has preserved its original objects so strongly as has Freemasonry. The aims, principles, ideals, discipline and procedure of today are as they were many years ago. Freemasonry has been, and still is, a pioneer of the highest type of civilization. Equality and Fraternity are its watchwords. Within the doors of a Lodge, prince and peasant meet on a common level. Merit, and merit alone, is the passport to its privileges. Distinctions of social rank are abolished.

It seeks to improve the condition of the humble and lowly. It impresses upon the mighty the duty and obligation of the brotherhood of man. It fosters liberty and justice. It demands virtue, respect and honorable conduct from its votaries. Its influence is felt in every part of the globe, and that influence is invariably directed to the preservation of law, order and sound government.

Through the ages it has ever kept its ideals unchanged. It does not deal in politics, and in no way encroaches upon religion. But it always strives to mitigate or destroy international and internal animosities, and to bring the peoples of the earth into a closer and more harmonious communion with one another. It is a world power whose object is peace and good will among men. It seeks not individual aggrandizement, but endeavors to sow the seeds of Faith, Hope and Charity, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and to aid man towards a nobler conception of a duty that man owes to man.

Today a great social unrest is agitating the minds of men throughout the world, and never has the beneficent and ameliorating influence of Masonic principle been more needed than is the case at the present time.

The evolution of humanity is proceeding at an ever-increasing pace; men are striving for a higher plane of existence and for greater opportunity of advancement. Human aspiration is soaring higher and higher is pulsating with new life and new ideas, and in the consequent struggle many hard things are being said

and done. Would it not be wonderful if all men could view the social movements of the day with the disciplined evenness of mind of the Freemason!

Would that Freemasonry could plant its faith in the fatherly guidance of the Most High, its hope of the ultimate regeneration of mankind and its sanctifying charity of speech, of thought and of action in every breast. Then, indeed, would the doors of the millennium open, enabling men to realize the Masonic ideal that this great world of ours is one huge cosmopolity, founded on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man!

MASONRY IN ACTION

Roman Legions, left behind to rule a defeated Spain, built an aqueduct in Sagovia in A.D. 109 which rendered service to the inhabitants for 1,800 years, carrying sparkling water from the mountains to the hot and dusty Sergovians, writes Cecil H. Willis in an overseas magazine.

About 1900 the Spaniards decided that the age-old masonry deserved a rest from its labours that it might be preserved for posterity. They laid modern pipelines to carry the water that had flowed through the aqueduct for more than sixty generations. Shortly thereafter the aqueduct began to fall apart. The blazing sun dried the mortar and the stones fell in ruins. What ages of service could not destroy idleness rapidly disintegrated.

Masonry, whether it be structural or speculative, needs must have action. Machines—human, mechanical or fraternal—will rust out in far less time than they will wear out.

Think it over. Our fraternal ancestors thought, lived and talked Masonry. They made our lodges and other Masonic bodies places of interest. They created interest that brought the members together. They lived Masonry in their homes and their sons looked forward to the time when they, too, could follow in fathers' footsteps. They talked and lived Masonry in the highways and byways of life and their associates eagerly sought the privilege of petitioning for membership.

"Whilst at Labour . . ."

If we work with marble, it will perish;
If we work upon brass, time will efface it;
If we raise Temples, they will crumble into dust;
But if we work upon immortal minds,
If we imbue them with principles—
With the just fear of God, and
Love of our fellow-man;
We engrave on these tablets, something
That will brighten to all Eternity.

(Daniel Webster)