

Between Cedars



"GIVE HOPE TO THE HOPELESS"

"HELP FIGHT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY"

Christmas

May the truest spirit and meaning of Christmas abide with you and those whom you love during the coming Christmastide. May that "Peace on earth and good will towards men", of which the angels on the plains of Judea sang, resound louder and more clearly than ever before in the ears of all mankind.

"Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;
 East, west, north and south let the long
 quarrel cease;
 Sing the song of great joy that the angels
 began,
 Sing the Glory of God and of good will to man."

Whittier

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15 CENTS

"He who keeps back the Truth, or withholds it from men, from motives of expediency, is either a coward or a criminal, or both." Max Muller

Between Cedars

Published monthly in an endeavor to further the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and in urging readers and others to contribute liberally to the MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY FUND and thus aid in finding a cure for this "Killer Disease".

The cedars in Lebanon were considered the trees of God, permanent and ever lasting; like these cedars Masons are supposed to be men of God, adhering ever lastingly to God's commandments and the principles of the Craft. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Wm. Homer Carroll, EDITOR.

I N T E R W O V E N

Much has been said and written about Masonry, for what it really stands and its true objective. Historians have written volumes relating to its early history and pointed to the "operative aspects" thereof, and its history since the early part of the Seventeenth Century when Freemasonry as you and I know it came into being.

It is stated that Freemasonry was predicated upon those fundamentals contained in the Prayer Book of the Church of England. This fact alone should clearly indicate that our modern Masonry is spiritual in all phases as well as God-like. It was established primarily to bind all men closer together by an indissoluble chain of sincere love and affection; for their security and betterment; to unite men of every country, sect, and opinion into one sacred band or society of friends and brothers; to conciliate true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance; to practice charity; fulfill the reciprocal duties of brotherly love and affection; visit and care for the sick; sympathize with the unfortunate, compassionate their miseries and restore peace to their troubled minds; bring about true peace, equality, goodwill and harmony; care for the widows and orphans of the departed; bring about a closer walk with their Creator in endeavoring to fit themselves for immortality. In fine, conformity with the Will of God.

When Moses came down from the Mount of Sinai, he brought with him the tablets of stone upon which were

engraven the Commandments of God, which not only became the basis for the old Mosaic Law, but the Common Law of England and our statutory laws of today. These Commandments too, constitute the foundation for the Christian and Hebrew Faiths, and provide the foundation upon which members of the Craft, in fact all God fearing and God loving people, may and should erect their spiritual and moral edifices.

It is unnecessary to go into further detail for the purpose in view, namely, showing how closely these Commandments are interwoven with our Masonic teachings, and the assumed obligations and solemn vows of members of the Craft. One writer has summed all this up in one succinct and terse phrase, "Masonry is the doing of the Will of God and obeying His Commandments."

Let us take a look at that which was set forth upon the tablets of stone for the guidance of all mankind, and note how they are interwoven into the ritual of the Craft.

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.

Masonry demands of its members that a firm reliance upon and a belief in God must be paramount in their lives; that He must be looked upon as the Creator and the Supreme Architect of the Universe. He is deemed to be ALPHA in the Craft.

2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Masonry admonishes its members never to take His name in vain; to only mention it with that reverential awe due from we poor creatures of the dust towards our Creator, and to implore His aid in all our laudible undertakings.

3. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

Masonry emphasises and recommends a close walk with God; the living of a spiritual life in order that its members may fit themselves for the Celestial Lodge above; prayer, utilization of the Holy Bible as the rule and guide of their faith. In doing so it is essential that the Sabbath Day be kept Holy and that the members on such day worship at their respective shrines of Faith.

4. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work.

Masonry reverently adheres to the statement in the pages of Holy Writ that in six days God created the

heavens and the earth and rested upon the seventh day, and recommends that the members of the Craft do likewise.

5. Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God has given thee.

Masonry does not specifically deal with the honoring of parents. It does by inference in admonishing its members to be truthful, moral, temperate, to walk uprightly, to be good citizens, reiterates those lessons learned at our mother's knees and which parents expect of their offspring. In adhering to the Tenets of the Order, members do indirectly honor parents by being what they desired them to be. Whatever we do in life reflects favorably or unfavorably upon our parents.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

Masonry emphatically teaches this.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Masonry emphatically teaches morality and admonishes its members not to commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

Masonry by precept and example urges its members to be honorable, just and obedient to the law and not to take either the tangible or intangible from a brother.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Masonry requires its members to be ever mindful of a brother's welfare and his good name; emphasising truth, justice, sincerity and plain dealing; and teaches the members of the Craft not to bear false witness.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

Masonry succinctly and most emphatically forbids its members to commit such an act.

Neighbor and brother are synonymous, for according to Holy Writ all men are earthly brothers in the sight of God, and commanded to fulfill sacredly in all respects those reciprocal duties of friendship and love.

Every Mason in being admonished to take the Holy Bible for the rule and guide of his faith, has his attention drawn to the fact that Freemasonry is so closely interwoven with religion as to lay him under obligation to pay that rational homage to the Deity which be-

comes his duty and his happiness. As has been said by students of Freemasonry, the Light thereof, in fine, is God. The divine worshiper at his shrine of Faith makes a good Mason, and by the same token, the consecrated and loyal Master Mason makes a good Churchman. The two go hand in hand and are truly inseparable.

Not so long ago it was the privilege of your Ed to once again grace the East and confer the Master Mason's Degree and to deliver the lecture pertaining thereto. After the communication officers of the Lodge came to him and stated - "They did not know the work was so beautiful and inspiring, that now they understood why so many members of the Craft had stated that Masonry was their religion." This statement no doubt has been heard many times. Masonry was not meant to supplant religion; on the contrary it was established as an auxiliary to it. The more one studies and delves into them the more beautiful and inspiring they both become. Each has its respective mission.

Brethren, sad to relate, there are those who have failed completely to grasp, or if they have, have lost, the true meaning, significance and objective of Masonry; who by word and deed have pushed into the background the solemnness and beauty of the ritualistic work, and concentrated their thoughts and efforts upon those things which are foreign to the teachings and tenets of the Craft. There are those, unfortunately, who manifest a dislike, which almost assumes the aspects of hate, for those who strive to live up to, and strive to maintain the solemn, wholesome and moral aspects of the Craft. Perhaps the following verse from Proverbs is apropos and one to bear constantly in mind: "Remove not the ancient landmark which they, thy fathers have set."

In recent months it has been the blessed privilege of your humble servant to address Masonic gatherings along the above lines, and upon the thoughts set forth in the article "IS THE LIGHT FADING?", which appeared in the previous issue of BETWEEN CEDARS. On each occasion he has addressed a hushed gathering, a most attentive one, and afterwards with a warm and sincere handclasp thanked for bringing an inspiring and helpful message regarding the Craft; that they knew there was beauty in Masonry but this was the first time that they had experienced it.

The Craft has so much to offer and because it is interwoven with religion can accomplish so much if it is properly presented. We must have it deeply rooted in our own hearts before we can properly transmit it to others. In order to have the true spirit of it in

our hearts must do more than merely memorize the ritual - we must drink deep and absorb its true meaning and live according to its dictates. The more we study and live Freemasonry the more inspiring and the more beautiful it becomes. There can be no denying that Freemasonry and Godliness are synonymous.

MASONRY:--

"Its existence is LOVE,
 Its religion is WITHOUT SECT,
 Its being is UNIVERSAL CHARITY,
 Its patriotism is WITHOUT PARTY,
 Its creed is the HOLY BIBLE
 Its aim is PEACE ON EARTH and GOOD WILL
 TOWARDS MEN,
 Its embodiment is LIBERTY, and
 Its enemy is DESPOTISM.

Jeremy L. Cross

L iberates those imprisoned in darkness
 I nspires those who find it
 G uides those striving to find their way
 Hinders the doers of evil in their nefarious acts
 T endsers hope to those lost who seek after it

WHC

DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, a season of giving, we should give a thought to the unfortunate victims of that Killer Disease MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, and the two hundred thousand victims of it who are doomed to die, because no cure for the disease has been found. LET US BRING NEW HOPE AND JOY this Christmas by liberally contributing to this worthy cause, thus GIVING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS. When making up your shopping list for the coming Yuletide Season, revise the price of a gift or two downward and give the amount thus saved to the MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY FUND. You will be much happier this Christmas if you make this sacrifice and give to this worthy and most deserving project. Will you not make this sacrifice and contribution dear reader? Thanks.

"For life is the mirror of king and slave,

'Tis just what we are and do;

Then give to the world the BEST YOU HAVE

And the best will come back to you."

Mary Ainge de Vere.

 And the greatest of these is CHARITY - Give to MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY - like bread cast upon the water, this act of charity will return to you four-fold. There is real joy Brethren in giving - it is a Mason's duty.

DISCARDED???

God gave to man for his guidance the greatest measuring device the world has ever known, CONSCIENCE.

It is apparent that in this modern day when far too many concentrate their thoughts upon, and the seeking of, the mundane things of life and the satisfaction of selfish desires; the accumulation of wealth and the attainment of office, power and social entree, this God-given "determiner" of what is wrong and what is right is cast aside and more or less considered a part and parcel of the horse and buggy days. If this were not the case, we would not observe people doing the things which they do in distorting and misrepresenting the true facts. Not one phase of our daily lives is exempt - it is manifested in all walks of life.

A certain gentleman resigned from a sales force in which he had been the leader, for his conscience would not permit him to indulge in misrepresentation and the uttering of untruths. In making known, upon inquiry, to the sales representative of a large corporation his reasons for resigning, this sales representative stated that one had to deal in a certain amount of misrepresentation and untruth in the sales game; there was a sort of sales code today in which these practices are included.

Several car dealers were asked why they were not on the up and up, and straightforward with their customers. They all made this statement - "People now a days are in the habit of dealing in sharp practices with others that they expect the same in dealing with us, they believe they are going to be taken for a ride and if we tried to be honest with them they would be gun shy."

The foregoing is truly indicative of the present in far too many instances and such an attitude has been reflected in our youth. Teachers alarmingly note it in class rooms; personnel officers detect it in their employee relationships; it is apparent in government - in every line of endeavor. Give a thought to what will be the result if it continues and gathers momentum like a rolling snowball. Are we unconcerned? Do we have no apprehension relative to its ill effects? Are we going to turn our heads and let it continue and mushroom into a destructive monster?

"No one has told the TRUTH if his words leave a false impression. Actions, inflection of voice, end sought, not the spoken words may be UNTRUTHFUL"

SECRECY GONE

In the pages of BETWEEN CEDARS from time to time reference has been made to the endeavors on the part of some to make innovations in the ritual of the Craft and to make of it an organization for purely social fellowship; also to delete certain parts which did not conform to their own likes and outlook upon life. Yes such efforts have been made and some Grand Lodges have been required to take affirmative action to combat it.

Attention has been directed to other organizations who have seen fit to modify their rituals and change the aspects of the order from that ordained by the founding fathers; to alter the real purpose for which founded. In some instances these changes have been made due to the fact that certain religious faiths forbade their communicants to become members of a so-called "secret" organization; in other instances the real brotherhood practices were set aside and the organization moulded along the lines of a club where the membership assembled primarily to imbibe, play cards, etc. It has been noted in such cases of which your Ed has knowledge through membership therein, less and less attention was paid to the ritual and the meetings grew shorter and shorter in order to indulge in the social phases decreed as paramount.

Recently an article captioned "The Modern Fraternity" appeared in the official publication of the Elks. This article promulgated the action of the Grand Lodge in recent convention, wherein it decreed the discontinuance of the use of a blindfold during initiation. The author of the article, through the verbiage used, seemed to reflect an air of jubilation over the fact that the last semblance of secrecy had been banished from the Order. Further, that members felt that no secrets had a place in the Order in the present order of things.

In the article attention was drawn to the fact that the regalia, apron, the grip (a poorly kept secret), secret password, the "goat", etc., determined upon and adopted by the founding fathers had all been tossed into the scrap heap. The item concluded with this terse sentence, "Whatever their origin, we are all well rid of them, for they have no place in a fraternity tailored to the modern American standard." It would indeed be most interesting and truly illuminating to ascertain the factors in making such a determination, and the conception of his "American Standard."

Freemasonry, after which practically all fraternal organizations and societies moulded their aims, purposes and ritualistic work, is the "Granddaddy" of them all.

Down through the ages the work, aims and purposes of the Craft have been transmitted unimpaired and unsullied, and it should be the consecrated aim of every Mason to so preserve them for posterity. At this point the words of that beautiful hymn which we all sing so often come to mind "Change and decay in all around I see, Oh! Thou who changest not, Abide With Me." While others persist for reasons personal to change the ritual of their organizations in keeping with the restless and turbulent acts in a chaotic world, let us as members of the Craft change not the ancient landmarks, usages of our Blessed Fraternity, but stand firm as the Rock of Gibraltar against the same.

Attention has also been drawn to the apparent indifference of some, the careless drifting with the mob. This indifference may well be attributed to the fact we have failed to imprint indelibly upon the minds and hearts of our candidates the true meaning and spirit of Freemasonry, due to the perfunctory and mechanical way we have exemplified the ritualistic work and instructed those who knocked at the door of Masonry.

Some reference has been made to the many subdivisions in the Craft, especially with regard to those constituting the playground of the Order. It becomes more and more apparent that far too many, who, after affiliating with these fun loving and frolicking groups, are prone to forget about their Lodge which gave them the eligibility for membership, with the result they never attend the communications of their respective Lodges and thus forget and drift from the teachings of the Fraternity. Many have never honored their Lodge with their presence since the night they were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Another result is their failure to remember the obligations solemnly assumed and often conduct themselves in such a manner as is contrary to the Tenets of the Order and foreign and grossly inconsistent with the conduct they bound themselves to assume.

Organizations in a great measure are judged by the words, deeds and acts of its members. When members fail to conduct themselves in conformity with the directives of the Order, as they promised to do in being admitted, three things, which are as inevitable as the setting of the sun, are bound to follow:

- decrease in attendance at communications
- destruction of interest, cohesion and solidarity
- decrease in number of paid-up members - their eventual loss

Freemasonry is non-sectarian, it does not decree

how a member shall pray, but it does stand solidly and serenely as a light house upon the rock warning of the lurking dangers, as a guide to proper living and the fitting of one morally and spiritually to greet the Grim Tyrant Death and be translated into that richer and fuller life in the Celestial Lodge above. Every part of the ritualistic work of the Craft has a deep and lasting purpose, namely, - the imprinting upon the heart and mind of the youngest Entered Apprentice wise and serious truths essential in the practice of Brotherhood, good citizenship, performing parental duties and those of affinity and in furthering the Fatherhood of God.

In this topsy-turvy world, where self seems to be paramount and the majority berate any and everything which they feel interferes in the slightest degree with their locomotion and the satisfaction of their appetite for pleasure, it is most comforting to note that Freemasonry stands firm as of yore. Innovations made in certain fraternal circles and in our churches have imperceptibly weakened their purpose and become deterrents in accomplishing the true aims of the establishers.

Freemasonry was, and is still, predicated upon the Will of God, which the ancient brethren felt was akin and essential to their spiritual being. There have been all too many changes in all walks of life to conform to the whims and fancies of people. The result of this is only too obvious. In many cases it has been to ease the conscience of those demanding and effecting the change so that they might feel better in their wrong doing and failure to fulfill obligations to God and neighbor.

It requires no effort to fall down, but it takes a little effort to rise; it is easy to drift aimlessly and follow the crowd in wrong doing, but it requires courage and intestinal fortitude to stand erect away from the crowd or in it and do right, resisting temptation; it is not too difficult to live for self, but it takes some effort and sacrifice to live for others in fulfilling the duties of brotherly love and friendship.

May the day never come when any of the ancient and accepted landmarks, usages and customs of the Craft are modified or thrown into the scrap heap. They may be my brethren if we are not vigilant and permit ourselves to drift aimlessly with self and the seeking of mundane things uppermost in our minds and hearts. Let us as members of the Fraternity take stock and see if we are doing or saying anything which may tend to weaken or undermine our Blessed Heritage, thus, opening the door for the inception of innovations or abolition of any of the work of the Craft.

BE SURE AND CONTRIBUTE TO HELP FIGHT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY!

A noted psychologist one said that there are four essentials in life if the same is to be a full and well balanced one:

LOVE

FAITH

WORK

RECREATION

MASONIC HISTORY

In 1819, Brother Jeremy L. Cross, said this in his preface to a pocket Masonic Manual he edited and published, which clearly reflects his deep love for, and interest in, Masonry and its perpetuity unimpaired.

knowing the extent of the effort to pervert and change the true work of the Order, he feels called upon to lift up his voice against it, and to place before the Craft the pure and ancient system. If his labors, shall, in any degree, contribute to the advancement of an Order which he so highly esteems, and in which he feels so lively an interest, he will be abundantly compensated. That every brother may possess a true and correct knowledge of the institution in all its parts, and be benefited by it in his walk through life, is the sincere wish of the Author."

It has been consecrated Master Masons like Brother Cross who down through the ages have made it possible for our blessed heritage to be transmitted to us unimpaired.

A striking example of a consecrated brother with an innate desire to put something into the Order, that it might remain pure and unadulterated upon a solid and exemplary foundation as a moral and spiritual guide for all mankind. The Fraternity meant very much to this loyal brother, greatly influenced his daily life and directed his efforts; within his bosom burned a keen desire that the teachings which had brought so much strength, comfort and pleasure to him would be passed on to posterity and maintained as a beacon and guide during life's journey - moulding the lives and being a true inspiration. This good brother saw more than a ritual, he had grasped the full significance of all the beauty of, and the principles for which, the Craft stood, as well as its true aims and purpose.

Too much emphasis today is placed on memorizing the ritual and the catechism, and not upon their meaning, with the result the true meaning and spirit of Masonry is lost. It has been the experience of your Ed in addressing upon Masonry before various Lodges to note the reactions of his listeners. Vividly he recalls

many instances and statements of the brethren which clearly indicated that the very thoughts and impressions which the Craft meant to convey had not been achieved. All this has driven home forcibly, in conjunction with some regrettable experiences of your Ed, that in too many instances the destined mission of the Craft is not being fulfilled. There is need for more indulgence in a little introspection, study and rededication, such as followed by those loyal and devoted brothers and fellows who have traveled before us.

The first Lodge of Masons established in this country, was established at Boston, Massachusetts, during 1733. The Charter for this Lodge was granted by the Grand Lodge of England, and was known as the Modern Grand Lodge. Their warrant was granted by Lord Viscount Montague, Grand Master, on 30 April, 1733, and at the same time he appointed the Right Worshipful Henry Price the Provincial Grand Master, who opened a Grand Lodge in Boston on 30 July, 1733. It was called the St John's Grand Lodge and was known as the Grand Lodge of Modern Masons.

On 24 June, 1734, agreeable to a petition of several brethren residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a warrant was issued by St John's Grand Lodge of Boston for the holding of a Lodge in Philadelphia and the Right Worshipful Benjamin Franklin was named the first Master. This was the beginning of Masonry in Pennsylvania. On 20 June, 1764, a Grand Warrant was issued by the Grand Lodge of England to Right Worshipful William Bell and other brethren to form and hold a Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts after receiving its warrant proceeded to grant warrants for the holding of lodges in various parts of the United States, and thru the granting of such warrants the first lodges were established in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland and in other localities.

Thus far modern Masonry progressed before the establishment of an Ancient Grand Lodge, either from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, or the Ancient York Grand Lodge. Their lodges had become numerous throughout the different States, and what was then known as the modern work was adopted wherever a Lodge was instituted.

In 1752 a charter was granted by Sholto, Charles Douglas, Lord Aberdour, then the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, to a small number of Scottish



U.S. RAILROADS
by Homer

"Cease from anger, and forsake wrath,
fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."
Psalm 37:8

"A sound mind in a sound body is a short but full
description of a happy state in this world." Unknown

It is pleasing to note that the pendulum is at last
swinging back and speeches, thoughts, conversations and
articles in our newspapers are of two important things
essential in a democratic nation:

"Freedom of the press"

"Freedom of speech."

The cry for these and other freedoms is becoming louder
and more pronounced.

Despite the many innovations taking place in the
social, religious, political, moral and fraternal life
of the nation and the world at large, there is no know-
ledge of the existence of a "codicil" to God's Will.

"Give us freedom from being damaged by the false
accusations of others." Eisenhower

"Matrimony is the only 'state' which permits a wo-
man to work eighteen hours a day." Unknown

"Golf is where they let the cow out of the pasture
and let the 'bull' in." Unknown

"Trolley cars and buses are where women stand up fo-
their rights." Unknown

"Love's labor is lost when young people try to set a
world on fire which is all wet." Unknown

Post election comments: "Thank God" - "I believe tha-
prayers have been answered and that God had a hand in
the results" - "Americans have not lost their sovereign-
ty" - "At long last the American Public has been aroused
from their lackadaisicalness and an awareness of duty de-
veloped" - "I believe that a feeling of hope and stabil-
ity has been engendered" - "There will now be dignity i-
the White House - our children will have something to

look up to" - "Thirty three million Americans could not be wrong."

The tumult and shouting of the recent political campaign has died and become a matter for historians to record. Once again we forget party differences, the thought of victory or defeat, and give a thought to our duties as American citizens and the future. After all we are all first Americans, and as such we should join hands, marching forward shoulder to shoulder, and work unselfishly for the good of our Country, safeguarding our American way of life. Never before after a presidential campaign has there been manifested such a feeling of cohesion, solidarity, oneness and the absence of ill feelings. May this spirit of oneness grow stronger during the days which lie ahead.

Thank heavens that during the campaign the majority of the voters didn't "Let George Do It". They rolled up their sleeves and did the job themselves. One must not lose sight of the important part the youth of America played in the recent victory at the polls. No doubt many will not forget the remarks in his conceding defeat re the statement of Lincoln, when Governor Stevenson told of the little boy who "was too old to cry and hurt too much to laugh." Quite apropos.

Recently on a TV show two persons being questioned in the course of a quiz show for big money, were unable to name the first book in the Bible. Shocking indeed. They were not illiterate persons either.

If you haven't heard it, and want a good laugh, listen to a new record by one artist by the name of Stanley labeled "It's in the book." It deals with the potency of grandma's lye soap. No doubt the performer, from the way in which the song was put across, had attended revival services.

Speaking of songs here are the titles of some heard coming over the airways the other day - "Who stole my beer while I was in the rear?" - "God didn't make the Honky-Tonk Angels" - "Who took the ring of mine off of your finger and put that look in your eyes?" - "My pajamas are wet from crying over you."

Overheard: "A good-Joe is a clergyman who removes his clerical garb and bends his arm with the boys."

An Irish patriot once said "Every man should love his native land, whether he was born there or not." Odd.

CONTRIBUTE THIS CHRISTMAS TO MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY FUND!

"The stuffed speaker generally gets himself out on the limb."

"What's worth having in this life is worth waiting and working for. Remember, Jacob served Laban for fourteen long years for the hand of his beautiful daughter Rachel in marriage. Courtships are not so lengthy now."

Copied from a paper doily upon which it was printed, which was at your Ed's place in a restaurant:

"American Capitalism is leading free men to an ever higher material standard of living, while respecting their spiritual, social and political freedom."

"Communism is leading its people back into a life of servile regimentation under dictatorship."

"It is better to lose with a conscience clean

Than win by a trick UNFAIR,

It is better to fail and know you've been

Whatever the prize was - SQUARE

Than to claim the joy of the far-off goal

And the cheers of the standers-by,

And to know down deep in your inmost soul

A CHEAT YOU MUST LIVE AND DIE."

Unknown

That "Unknown" author has truly written many most beautiful and expressive poems.

Believe it or not as Ripley says: The Grand Secretaries of the Grand Lodges of Kansas and South Dakota have the same last names and the same initials - R.W. Brother Elvin F. Strain in South Dakota and R.W. Brother Elmer F. Strain in Kansas.

Anyone contemplating running for the Presidency of the United States at some future date better keep their income tax returns handy for publication.

"Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, for we are Brethren." Genesis 14:8

"Some men are formed with feelings so blunt that they can hardly be said to be awake during their whole lives."

"God give us men! A time like this demands,
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoil of office cannot buy." J.G.Holland

Masons residing in Boston, constituting them a regular Lodge, to be known as St. Andrews Lodge No. 82, which was to be holden at Boston. During 1769, a Grand Lodge under the Ancient system was organized, by the assistance of two or three travelling Lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. This newly constituted Grand Lodge was called ST ANDREW'S GRAND LODGE. General Joseph Warren, of Revolutionary War fame, who fell during the Battle of Bunker Hill, was appointed the Grand Master of such Grand Lodge.

This Grand Lodge granted warrants for the constitution of subordinate Lodges in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont and New York. By such action the Ancient or Scottish Rite in many states was established side by side with the Modern Lodges working under Charters granted them by the St John's Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. So at the time we had as much Modern as Ancient York or Scottish Masonry. Grand Lodges were eventually formed in most of the States from the existing Lodges, whether known as Ancient or Modern:

For a period of twenty three years, until 1792, the two Grand Lodges (Ancient and Modern) acted separately. The subordinate lodges chartered by each hailed to the jurisdiction of their respective warranting Grand Lodge. During the period indicated many Lodges were instituted and there were as many holden to the Ancient as the Modern System. As the two systems varied considerably, quite different in fact, the Ancients and Modern did not hold Masonic intercourse with each other.

In the year 1792, the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges in Massachusetts consolidated, forming one Grand Lodge known as The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was an example for other Grand Lodges and the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges in each State consolidated, renouncing all foreign authority. This resulted in a general union throughout the United States and each State had but one Grand Lodge, exercising jurisdiction over the Lodges within the State.

In view of this a further step was indicated, the harmonizing of the two systems and the adoption of an uniform mode of work and lectures to be followed throughout the country. This will be touched upon in the next issue of BETWEEN CEDARS.

TRUTH APPARENTLY IS FAST BECOMING A LOST ATTRIBUTE, ART.

INSPIRATION - UNDERSTANDING

Your humble servant has enjoyed these little paper chats with each of you, and looks forward with pleasure to the ones we will have in futuro. It is understood no one agrees with everything another has to say, and they should not. The exchange of ideas brings about a most healthy and desirable condition. In connection with the publication of this little booklet, your attention is directed to two things which today are not given too much consideration, and it might be a good thing if we gave them some thought during the years which lie before us, namely, INSPIRATION and UNDERSTANDING.

Were it not for INSPIRATION, we would not have inventions, works of art, beautiful and imposing edifices, poetry, literature, fiction and the many other things we enjoy, and which play so an important part in our daily lives. Inspiration constitutes the seed which in due time blossoms into reality. Every movement for good or the betterment of mankind was, and is, predicated upon inspiration.

Too often, one's inspiration to do good or work for the betterment of others is grossly misunderstood. There are those, who, through a lack of understanding, accuse the inspired of having some ulterior motive. Like true "Doubting Thomases" they label his endeavors as silly, useless and of no avail. If the accusers took time to ascertain the true mental processes, the heart, and the actual motive of the one inspired, they would be enabled to clearly understand what motivated him to say and do the things which he does. They would refrain from indulging in misrepresentation, doubt or sitting in the seat of the cynic. Of course, we know, there are many for personal purposes do not desire to understand the true facts.

Speaking of inspiration a little story comes to mind of the colored lad down South who became inspired. One morning he informed his father that he was going to be a preacher for he had in a dream seen the three letters G.P.C., which meant for him to go preach Christ. The father, however, could not go along with the inspiration and advised his son he had misinterpreted the dream - the letters G.P.C. mean for him to go pick cotton, and commanded him so to do.

Understanding is vitally essential in our lives. We

do not see or think alike. There have always been, and will be, wide divergencies of opinion and likes. Such a condition is truly healthful; the exchanging of views and ideas. All should freely express themselves and reason with others. Likewise, they should bow to logical reasoning, justifiable criticism, truthful representations, and the will of the majority. We should abstain from becoming bitter and vindictive or condemning anyone who is conscientiously following the dictates of heart and mind, or being governed by the dictates of reason. It is a good plan to heed the admonition of Cato - "Believe nothing rashly."

"He who will not reason, is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not, is a slave."

William Drummond

"Many are destined to reason wrongly; others, not to reason at all; and others, to persecute those who do reason."

Voltaire

"Reason is the wise man's guide, example the fools."

Welsh Proverb

Your Ed is his heart sincerely feels that there is a growing tendency to drift from these sterling essentials, as well as from those things to which we are dedicated. Too often we are prone to malign and vilify those who hold an opinion contrary to ours. He is rightfully and fully aware that he is a small frog in a big pond and that no man can reform the world or an organization. By the same token, no changes would be made or reforms consummated unless some individual spoke up and drew attention to the need therefor. We never know what effect a spoken word or act has upon others; the same as we never know what the seeds sown will bring forth until the harvest is reaped. We all should guard well our acts and spoken word in order that they may prove influences for good. Accordingly, if something written herein may prove beneficial or an inspiration to a single reader, he will feel that his efforts have not been in vain, and feel more than compensated for the expenditure of money, time and effort.

Speaking of misunderstanding brings to mind another little story. It appears two young ladies got on a crowded street car and working their way to the rear finally paused before a seated elderly gentleman. He endeavored to rise, but they pushed him back in his seat, misunderstanding his purpose in attempting to arise, they thinking he wanted to give one of them his seat as a gallant gentleman would do. This little action took place again and once more the ladies pushed

the elderly gentleman back in his seat. In desperation the gentleman arose and said "Ladies, please, I want to get off the car and already I am two blocks past my stop" A good example of how misunderstanding works.

Here is a bit of verse sent in by a reader:

MEASURE OF A MAN

Not - "How did he die?"

But - "How did he live?"

Not - "What did he gain?"

But - "What did he give?"

These are the units

To measure the worth

Of a man, as a man,

Regardless of birth.

Not - "What was his station?"

But - "Had he a heart?"

And - "How did he pray his God-given part?

Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer,

To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?"

Not - "What was his church?"

Nor - "What was his creed?"

But - "Had he befriended those really in need?"

Not - "What did the sketch in the newspaper say?"

But - "How many were sorry when he passed away?"

As Longfellow puts it in his "A Psalm of Life"

"Life is real! Life is earnest!

And the grave is not its goal;

Dust thou art, to dust returnest,

Was not spoken of the soul.

Lives of great men all remind us

We can make our lives sublime,

And, departing leave behind us

Footprints on the sand of time-

Footprints, that perhaps another,

Sailing o'er life's solemn main,

A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,

Seeing, shall take heart again."

ACCUSATION WITHOUT PROOF

The above was the topic of an address by the most distinguished and learned jurist, Chief Judge Learned Hand of the United States Court of Appeals, recently,

and was sharply denounced by him and pronounced foreign and repugnant to our American way of life. This address should be read and digested by every American as it in no uncertain terms draws attention to modern tendencies and the pitfalls about us. It may be well to set forth a part of the address herein:

"I Believe, that a community is already in process of dissolution where each man begins to eye his neighbor as a possible enemy, where non-conformity with the accepted creed, political as well as religious, is a mark of disaffection; where denunciation without specification or backing takes the place of evidence; where orthodoxy chokes freedom of dissent; where faith in the eventual supremacy of reason has become so timid that we dare not enter our convictions in the open lists to win or lose."

"Such fears may in the end subject us to a despotism as evil as any that we dread. Who knows but what we may be on a slope which leads down to aboriginal savagery. We have set our hopes upon a community in which men shall be given unchecked control of their own lives. That community, is in peril. It is invaded from within, it is threatened from without, it faces a test which it may fail to pass."

It might be well to carry these words with us, and when tempted to accuse and condemn one without evidence to justify it, bite our tongues and walk away. What was in the mind of the distinguished jurist was the recent trials of Communists and lose suspicion and talk. It is the practice of the Communist to malign and vilify, accuse in order to distort the true facts and create confusion and chaos. Whenever you and I resort to such practices we are only breaking down the moral fibre and unity of our Country. The words of Chief Judge Hand are apropos of certain statements contained within the last issue of BETWEEN CEDARS relative to condemning and labeling one as subversive and disloyal without proper evidence to support such a condemnation. We must refrain from such practices if we are to preserve our way of life and the freedoms which our forefathers fought to give us. Such acts may be considered by some as being inconsequential, but on the contrary, they are most dangerous and of import and some moment. If we would practice the Golden Rule and fulfill the duties of true Brotherhood we would refrain from such practices. Let's try, when tempted to commit such acts, to place ourselves in the other fellow's place. It will be good insurance in safe-guarding our future freedom.

JUDGE NOT, THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED. NONE ARE FAULTLESS!

DE MOLAY

There are two degrees conferred in the Order of De Molay, the Initiatory and the De Molay Degree. The Initiatory Degree contains marvelous instruction for youth; sets forth succinctly and most impressively the qualities so essential in the laying of a solid and spiritual foundation upon which youth may properly mature into manhood and become fitted morally and spiritually for citizenship.

The De Molay Degree deals with the life of Jacques de Molay, after whom this fine Order is named, a martyr who elected to give up his life rather than betray a fellow Templar or be false to a trust. The readers of history will recall that this Martyr was the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, and that he was burned to the stake for refusing to betray his followers. It impresses upon the candidates the practice of loyalty, tolerance and understanding of others.

After the conferring of the Initiatory Degree, and at all public installations of Chapter Officers, (the public, male and female, are most cordially invited to attend the latter, Masons only may witness the degree work), what is known as "THE FLOWER TALK" is given. This talk is to add emphasis to the admonition for the De Molays to practice Filial Love, which springs from the admonition of God, carved upon the Tablets of Stone "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God hath given thee." One of the cardinal teachings of De Molay is love and respect for parents.

For the purpose of this talk, the Chapter Altar, upon which rests the open Bible and some school books, guarded by the Flag of our Country, is bedecked with white and red flowers. The theme of the talk is motherhood, and the flower decked Altar for the time is dedicated to Mother.

The attention of the candidates is directed to the long months they were carried close to their mother's heart ere they first saw the light of day; the anxious moments, thoughts, prayers and hopes of mother during such period; her fears and joys during the period of expectancy; how to give them life their mothers had practically gone down into the Valley of Death, suffering pain and anguish far beyond comprehension.

The love for mother is solemnly impressed upon the

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lads, how when young and indigent mother cared for them during many long anxious nights and days as she watched by the side of their bed of illness, praying and hoping as she wiped their feverish brows; how she went without and sacrificed for them; taught them to take their first steps and cared for them until they were able to make it alone. Of her hopes for them; of her burning desire for their success and development into worth-while manhood. That it was hard to conceive that any man could become so debased as to forget the love of his mother; or rise to heights of wealth, honor or fame and be unmindful of his duty and obligation to manifest his deep appreciation and manifest love and affection for her.

In delivering this talk, one might well direct attention to the One who went down into the Valley of Death and did die that all of us might have immortal life. The mother going down to death's door to give us earthly life while the Son of God died to give you and me a fuller and richer life in the realms above. Both suffered severe pain and mental anguish for us. Both manifested deepest love and affection and pointed out the pathway that we should follow.

There is a little story which comes to mind every time this Flower Talk is given, of the mother whose hands were badly disfigured and repulsive to gaze upon. How on one occasion the daughter who was expecting some friends for dinner requested her mother to wear white gloves to hide the badly scarred hands. How a little later heard someone crying and ascertained it was her mother, who was in the kitchen preparing the meal. Going to her mother to ascertain the cause of the tears, she learned that while young she had tripped and fallen partially into the blazing fire in the open fire place; that her mother in rescuing her and beating out the flames which had engulfed her clothing, sustained the terribly burned hands which were now so disfigured. The girl was gripped with a feeling of remorse and throwing her arms about her mother, expressed her love and deep appreciation, then she kissed her mother's hands, and bade her not to wear the gloves, for in the future she would be proud of the hands which were scarred to save her life. The hands became living symbols of motherly love, devotion and sacrifice.

There is an analogous story of an incident which took place nearly two thousand years ago, where another sustained scarred hands when nailed to a cross on a lonely hill called Calvary. The same was for all mankind. This supreme sacrifice was made by Him out of his love and devotion for all.

There also comes to mind the words of that beautiful song which we hear sung every Mother's Day - Mother O' Mine:

If I were damned of body and soul,
I know whose prayers would make me whole,
Mother O' Mine.

If I were hanged on the highest hill,
I know whose love would follow me still,
Mother O' Mine.

If I were drowned in the deepest sea,
I know whose tears would come down to me,
Mother O' Mine."

At the conclusion of this beautiful and impressive talk, each lad is directed to take a red flower if his mother is still alive, to go home, hug and kiss her, telling her of the lesson learned and reaffirming his love and affection. That in after years no doubt the flower, pressed, will be found among the pages of the Bible or Prayer Book, or somewhere among her souvenirs. If mother has passed on to the other shore, to take a white flower, and upon retiring for the night in the silence of his room, to kneel down and offer up his thanks and appreciation for motherhood in general and his own mother in particular. Many a lad has been deeply touched by this talk and have gone forward with a determination to serve God and fulfill his mothers hopes and prayers.

The Installation of De Molay Officers is most impressive and adults may also learn a valuable lesson and be helped by the sterling lessons inculcated in the Installation Ritual. Your Ed urges you to ascertain where installation exercises are to be held and attend the same with your family. They are open to all regardless of religious faith or fraternal connections. The members of the Craft are also urged to attend a Chapter meeting and witness the exemplification of the Ritual which also is beautiful and most inspiring.

Workers are sorely needed in De Molay, especially younger Masons who can get out and mix with the lads upon the athletic field, on the rifle range, the basket ball court; accompany them to social events, and have the patience and stamina to cope with the youth of today. Then too much assistance can be given in connection with degree work and in training the De Molays for leadership on the morrow. They are the ones brethren who will take the torch from our hands and carry on. We should all be vitally interested.

"But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbor, to slay him with guile, thou shalt take him from mine Altar, that he may die." Exodus 21:14

- M A S O N S -

The Editor had the pleasure on 19 November, of introducing Most Worshipful Brother Renah F. Camalier, Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, and presently one of the three Commissioners of the District of Columbia, to a gathering of Sojourners and Masons at the Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C. Most Worshipful Brother Camalier, who is also a Past Illustrious Potentate of Almas Temple, spoke upon the Masons, who militarily, have and will play a very important role in the history of the United States and loyalty.

Among the Masons named were Admiral King, Generals Mark Clark, Omar Bradley, Black Jack Pershing, Marshall, Ridgeway, Lejeune of the Marines; Eisenhower our President elect, Teddy Roosevelt, Warren of Bunker Hill fame and Paul Revere, the latter two having both been Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Grand Master's speech, delivered in his inimitable manner, was most informative and truly inspiring.

One officer who had just returned from Japan told of his participation in the conferring of Scottish Rite Degrees upon three Commanders (Generals) in the Korean Battle Theater. An officer of the Greek Army brought Masonic Greetings from the Grand Lodge of Greece which was recently reestablished with the aid of Americans. He also brought words of appreciation from the people of Greece for all America has done, and is doing, for the Greek people. He indicated that the hope of the world and the restoration of peace rested with America.

The meeting followed an excellent turkey dinner and cocktail hour in the Officer's Club. A delegation from Takoma Lodge No. 29, F.A.A.M. of the District, headed by the Worshipful Master, Officers and Past Masters, Illustrious Potentate William Jacobs of Almas Temple, were among the invited guests. General Streit, the Commanding General at Walter Reed and General Snyder, the Chief of the Dental Corps, U. S. Army, are Masons and members of the Sojourners, Walter Reed Chapter No. 303 which was host for the evening. Officers of all the branches of the Military were present.

HELP FIGHT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY - Contribute all you can.

ENCOURAGING

Letters recently received from readers, especially from those Masons recently added to the mailing list, containing words of approbation, encouragement and confidence, and urging your Ed to keep up the good work. It is most gratifying to know that one's efforts are appreciated and that such efforts are proving a source of interest and pleasure.

HONORED: On Saturday Evening, 22 November, Temple Forest No. 136, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, at its regular meeting held in the Henry Knoxfield Masonic Temple in Alexandria, Va., made your Ed an Honorary Member of the Forest in appreciation of his services for Cedarism in general and the Forest in particular. This is the third Forest which has so honored the Editor of BETWEEN CEDARS.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY FIGGIE BANK: The Ed emptied his L.D. Piggie Bank and found 1,026 pennies therein. A check for \$10. has gone forward to Herman Willaredt, Treasurer, Muscular Dystrophy Fund and the 26¢ put in a piggy bank to start a new year of saving for this worthy cause. A painless way indeed to raise money for any project. Why not start one now for 1953?

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR:* "And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year - 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God - that shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way.'

M. L. Haskins

May the bells truly ring out the old and ring in an era of peace, hope, and love for one another during the New Year 1953. May the New Year see a rededication to the moral and spiritual standards of yester years; and the reestablishment of the family circles which played so important a part in the building of this Nation.

As we ring down the curtain on the last issue of BETWEEN CEDARS for 1952, this thought is left most sincerely and urgently with you-"Let us as professed Master Masons during the New Year, keep the words of our Patron Saint John before us 'In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was GOD". Jehovah. A name we should revere and call upon. A HAPPY NEW YEAR. 30

A TRUE MASTER MASON
As Homer sees it.

1. Believes in **EQUALITY**; considers the **INTERNAL**, not the external qualifications of a man; abhors cliques, piques and discord; refrains from using the Fraternity for pecuniary gain, personal self interest or purposes politic.
2. Practices, without reservation or equivocation, the **GOLDEN RULE** of doing unto others as he wishes they should do unto him; is a good friend, brother, neighbor and Churchman.
3. Practices **CHARITY**; is **TRUTHFUL**, **SINCERE**, **TEMPERATE**, **MORAL**, **JUST** — walks **UPRIGHTLY** at all times before **GOD** and man as he travels upon the "**COMMON LEVEL OF TIME**".
4. Takes **THE HOLY BIBLE** as the **RULE** and **GUIDE** of his Faith; believes in the immortality of the soul and looks forward to a Glorious Resurrection.
5. Places his **TRUST** implicitly in God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, and seeks His Blessing before engaging in any great or important undertaking.
6. **WILL NOT** cheat, wrong nor defraud a Brother, nor speak evil of his good name; remembers a Brother's welfare as his own in offering up his devotions to Deity.
7. Is a **LAW ABIDING CITIZEN**, discountenances rebellion and disloyalty in all walks of life; is true to his Government and just to his Country; combats each and every effort hostile to his Country's good.
8. Eagerly and willingly **GOES ON FOOT AND OUT OF HIS WAY** to serve a Brother; stretches forth his hand to save him; gives him good counsel and aids him in a reformation.
9. **REFRAINS** from doing or saying anything which might bring discredit upon the Craft, or disgrace the "**LAMBSKIN OF PURITY**" which is the badge of a Mason; adheres to the Ancient Landmarks, Usages and Customs of the Fraternity and strives to preserve his Masonic Heritage unsullied and unimpaired for posterity.
10. **WILL NOT BE FALSE** to a trust imposed, an honor conferred, an obligation assumed or a vow made; strives for peace and harmony and guards well the West Gate to see that only those who sincerely seek Masonic Light, and who will conform to the principles of the Order, are admitted.

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