

NORTH CAROLINA



LODGE MANUAL

BAHNSON



*Fraternally Yours
Char. F. Bahnsen*

NORTH CAROLINA LODGE MANUAL

FOR THE DEGREES OF
ENTERED APPRENTICE, FELLOW CRAFT,
AND MASTER MASON

AS AUTHORIZED BY
THE GRAND LODGE
OF
ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF
NORTH CAROLINA

AND THE
SERVICES FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD
OF THE FRATERNITY

BY
CHARLES F. BAHNSON, P. M.
ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

RALEIGH
THE GRAND LODGE OF NORTH CAROLINA
1979

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THE GRAND LODGE
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TO
SAMUEL H. SMITH

P. C. M. OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NORTH CAROLINA

M. W. SIR AND BRO.:

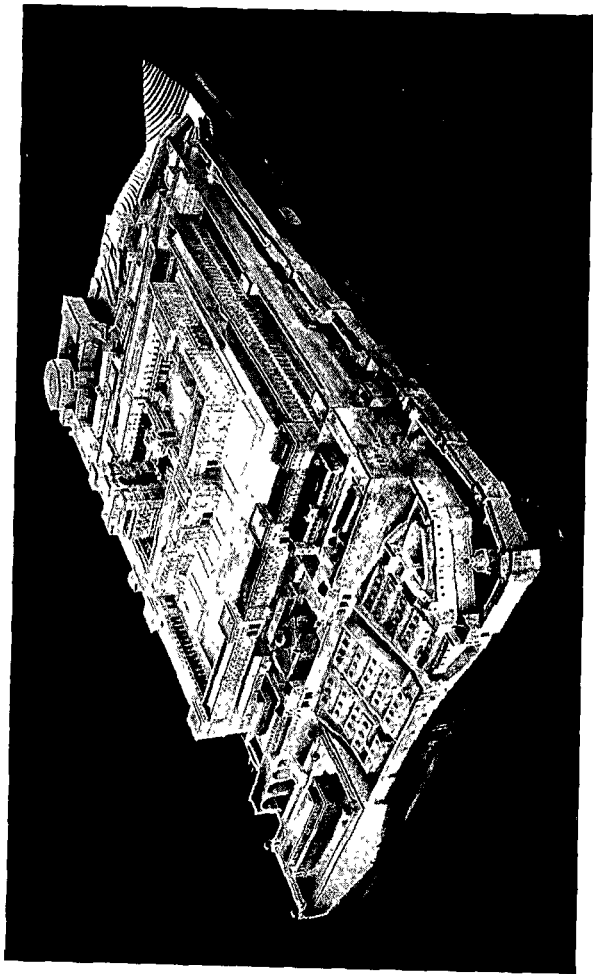
Esteeming you as a comrade in time of war, and a friend and brother in time of peace, and knowing your zealous and ardent attachment to the principles of Masonry, I desire in token of my respect to dedicate this work to you.

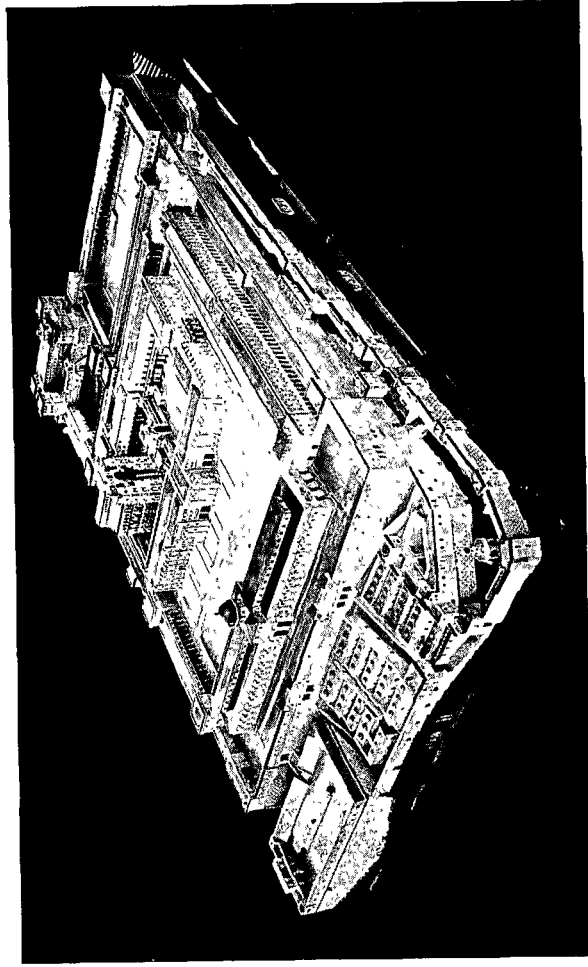
CHARLES F. BAHNSON.

FARMINGTON, N. C., 1892

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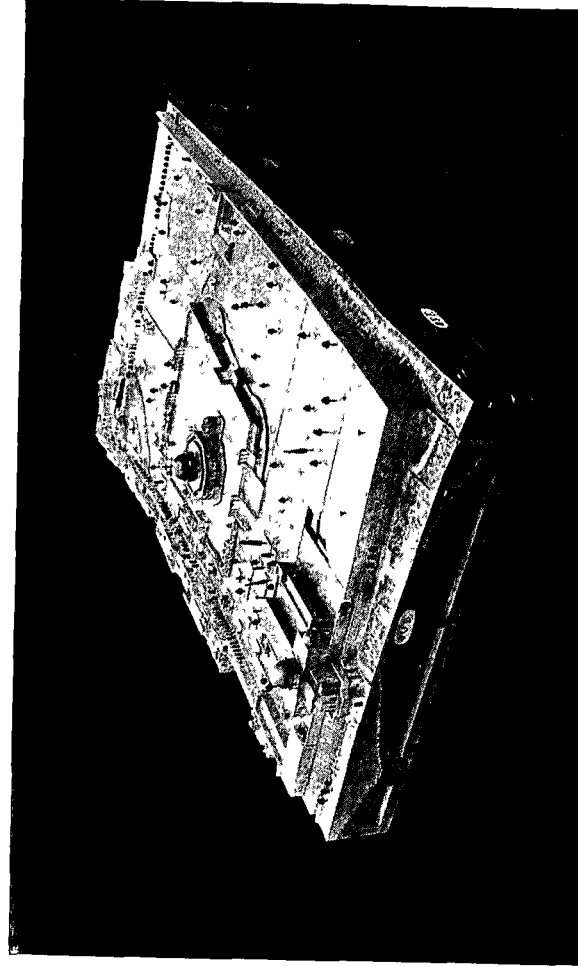




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HEROD'S TEMPLE

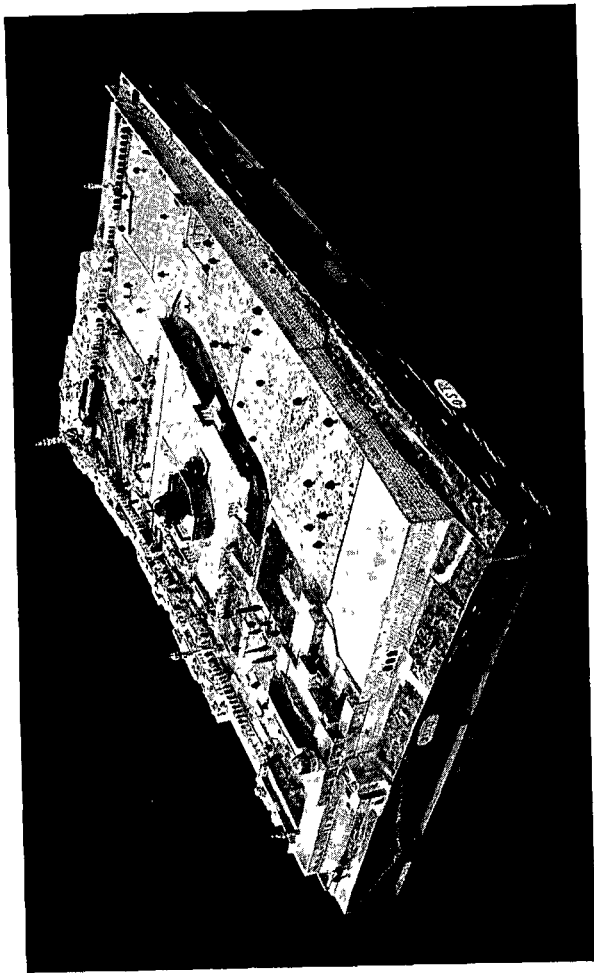
Jewish



A D. 530

JUSTINIAN'S CHURCH

Christian



MANUAL OF THE LODGE

PRAYERS AND ODES

OPENING

Music—"Old Hundred."—L. M.

Great God, behold before thy throne,
A band of brothers lowly bend;
Thy sacred Name we humbly own,
And pray that thou wilt be our friend.

A band of brothers may we live,
A band of brothers may we die,
To each may God, our Father, give
A home of peace above the sky.

PRAYER

Most holy and glorious Lord God, the great Architect of the Universe, the giver of all good gifts and graces; Thou hast promised that "where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt be in the midst of them, and bless them." In thy name we assemble, most humbly beseeching thee to bless us in all our undertakings, that we may know and serve thee aright, and that all our actions may tend to thy glory, and to our advancement in knowledge and

virtue. And we beseech thee, O Lord God, to bless our present assembling, and to illuminate our minds, that we may walk in the light of thy countenance; and when the trials of our probationary state are over, be admitted into "The Temple," not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Response by the brethren—So mote it be. Amen.

CLOSING

Music—"Nearer, my God, to Thee."

Brothers, we meet again,
Too soon to part;
May Friendship bless this hour,
And warm each heart;
Tones that we love to hear,
Shall dwell upon the ear,
As we in accents clear,
Repeat Good-night.

Brothers, once more farewell!
Time bids us part;
Fond mem'ry long shall dwell
Around each heart;
May Heav'n its blessings send
And peace our paths attend;
Until we meet again,
Farewell, Good-night.

PRAYER

Supreme Architect of the Universe, accept our humble praises for the many mercies and bless-

ings which thy bounty has conferred on us, and especially for this friendly and social intercourse. Pardon, we beseech thee, whatever thou hast seen amiss in us since we have been together; and continue to us thy presence, protection, and blessing. Make us sensible of the renewed obligations we are under to love thee supremely, and to be friendly to each other. May all our irregular passions be subdued, and may we daily increase in *Faith, Hope, and Charity*; but more especially in that charity which is the bond of peace and perfection of every virtue. May we so practice thy precepts, that we may finally obtain thy promises, and find an entrance through the gates into the temple and city of our God.

Response—So mote it be. Amen.

* * * * *

Level. Plumb. Square.

* * * * *

BENEDICTION

May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons! May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Response—So mote it be. Amen.

CHARGE AT CLOSING

BRETHREN:—We are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix

again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and so forcibly recommended, in this Lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that, around this altar, you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. You have promised, in the most friendly manner, to remind him of his errors, and aid a reformation. These generous principles are to extend further. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Recommend it more especially "to the household of the faithful." Finally, brethren, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

ENTERED APPRENTICE'S DEGREE

PRELIMINARIES TO THE ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES (Reg. 79-04 of THE CODE)

Reg. 79-04. Before the candidate may enter the lodge for initiation, he shall plainly and unequivocally give his oral assent to these three questions:

1. "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry?"
2. "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you are prompted to solicit the privileges of Masonry by a favorable opinion conceived of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to your fellow creatures?"
3. "Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that you will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity?"
4. And he shall answer the following question: "Have you ever petitioned any other lodge and been rejected by it?"

FIRST SECTION

ADMISSION OF THE CANDIDATE



PRAYER

Vouchsafe thine aid, Almighty Father of the Universe, to this our present convention; and grant that this candidate for Masonry may dedicate and devote his life to thy service, and become a true and faithful brother among us! Endue him with a competency of thy divine wisdom, that by the secrets of our art he may be better enabled to display the beauties of holiness, to the honor of thy holy name. So mote it be. Amen.

* * * * *

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

“It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

“As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.” Psalm 133.

Or the following may be sung:

Music—“*Auld Lang Syne,*” or “*Arlington.*”

Behold how pleasant and how good,
For brethren such as we,
Of the Accepted brotherhood,
To dwell in unity!

’Tis like the oil on Aaron’s head
Which to his feet distills.
Like Hermon’s dew so richly shed
On Zion’s sacred hills.

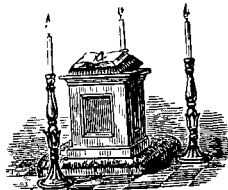
For there the Lord of Light and Love,
A blessing sent with pow’r:
Oh! may we all this blessing prove
E’en life for evermore.

On Friendship’s altar rising here,
Our hands now plighted be
To live in love with hearts sincere,
In peace and unity.

* * * * *

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” * * * *

THE SHOCK OF ENLIGHTENMENT

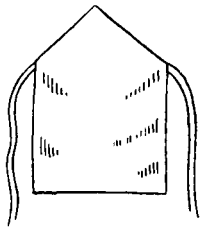


The Holy Bible is given us as the rule and guide of faith; the Square to square our actions; and the Compasses to circumscribe and keep us within due bounds with all mankind, but more especially with the brethren in Masonry.

* * * * *

As the sun rules the day and the moon governs the night, so should the W. M. endeavor to rule and govern the Lodge with equal regularity.

* * * * *



I now present you the lambskin or white leather apron, which is an emblem of innocence, and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter, or any other order that can be conferred upon you at this time, or any future period, by king, prince, potentate, or any other person, except he be a Mason, and which I hope you will wear with equal pleasure to yourself, and honor to the fraternity.

* It may be that, in coming years, upon your head shall rest the laurel leaves of victory; on your breast may hang jewels fit to grace the diadem of an Eastern potentate; nay, more than these, with light added to the coming light, your ambitious feet may tread round after round the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle, and even the purple of our fraternity may rest upon your honored shoulders; but never again from mortal hands, never again, until your enfranchised spirit shall have passed upward and inward through the pearly gates, shall any honor so distinguished, so emblematic of purity and all perfections, be bestowed upon you as this which I now confer. It is yours to wear throughout an honorable life, and at your death to be placed upon the coffin which shall contain your earthly remains, and with them laid beneath the silent cloths of the valley.

Let its pure and spotless surface be to you an

ever-present reminder of a "purity of life and rectitude of conduct," a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements. And when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of their toilsome journey, and from your nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life, may the record of your life and actions be as pure and spotless as the fair emblem which I place within your hands tonight. And when your trembling soul shall stand naked and alone before the Great White Throne, may it be your portion to hear from Him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme the welcome words—"Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

• By W Bro. Robert F Stobo, of New York

THE DEMAND



"Freemasonry, a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." The most ancient society in the world; its principles are based on pure morality, its ethics are the ethics of pure religion; its doctrines, the doctrines of brotherly love; and its sentiments, the sentiments of exalted benevolence. It encourages all that is good, kind, and charitable; and improves all that is vicious, cruel, and oppressive.

NORTH EAST CORNER

THE WORKING TOOLS

The working tools of an Entered Apprentice are the *Twenty-four inch Gauge*, and the *Common Gavel*.



The *twenty-four inch gauge* is an instrument made use of by operative masons to measure and lay out their work, but we, as Free and Accepted

Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of dividing our time. It being divided into twenty-four equal parts, is emblematic of the twenty-four hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three equal parts; whereby are found eight hours for the service of God, and a distressed worthy brother; eight for our usual avocations; and eight for refreshment and sleep.

The common gavel is an instrument made use of by operative masons to break off the corners of rough stones, the better to fit them for the builder's use; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting our minds as living stones for that spiritual building, "that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

SECOND SECTION

PREPARATION

There is much analogy between the preparation of the candidate in Masonry, and the preparation for entering the Temple, as practiced among the ancient Israelites. The Talmudical treatise, entitled "Beracoth," prescribes the regulation in these words: "No man shall enter the Lord's

house with his staff (an offensive weapon), nor with his outer garment, nor with his shoes on his feet, nor with money in his purse."

Various passages of Scripture are referred to in this section, as elucidating the traditions of Masonry on the subject of the Temple.

"And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building." 1 Kings vi. 7.

"And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shall need; and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem." 2 Chron. ii. 16.

Josephus says: "The whole structure of the Temple was made with great skill, of polished stones, and those laid together so very harmoniously and smoothly, that there appeared to the spectators no sign of any hammer or other instrument of architecture, but as if, without any use of them, the entire materials had naturally united themselves together, so that the agreement of one part with another seemed rather to have been natural, than to have arisen from the force of tools upon them."

Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors; it is therefore the internal and not the external qualifications which recommend a man to Masons.

“Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things, a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor, and this was a testimony in Israel.” Ruth iv. 7.

In the ancient mysteries the aspirant was always kept for a certain period in a condition of darkness. Hence darkness became the symbolism of initiation. Applied to Masonic symbolism, it is intended to remind the candidate of his ignorance, which Masonry is to enlighten; of his evil nature, which Masonry is to purify; of the world, in whose obscurity he has been wandering, and from which Masonry is to rescue him.

“Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

In the ancient initiations, the candidate was never permitted on the threshold of the temple or sacred cavern, in which the ceremonies were conducted, until by the most solemn warning he had been impressed with the necessity of caution, secrecy, and fortitude.

No man should enter upon any great or important undertaking, without first invoking the blessing of Deity.

TRUST IN GOD!

This constitutes the sole creed of a Mason—at least, the only creed he is required to profess.

* * * * *

THE LEFT SIDE

* * * * *

THE RIGHT HAND



The right was by our ancient brethren esteemed the seat of fidelity; sometimes represented by two right hands joined; at others by two human figures, holding each other by the right hand.

THE BADGE OF A MASON



The lamb has in all ages been deemed an emblem of *innocence*; he, therefore, who wears the

lambskin as the badge of a Mason, is thereby continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct, so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

THE LESSON OF CHARITY

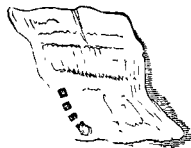
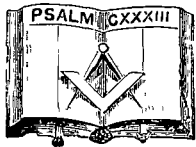
This is among the first lessons we are taught, when we pass the threshold of the mystic temple.

THE FIRST INSTRUCTIONS

The candidate now receives the first instructions, upon which to build his future moral and Masonic edifice.

THIRD SECTION

This section explains what constitutes and what authorizes a Masonic Lodge, where held, its form, support, covering, furniture, ornaments, lights and jewels, how situated, and to whom dedicated



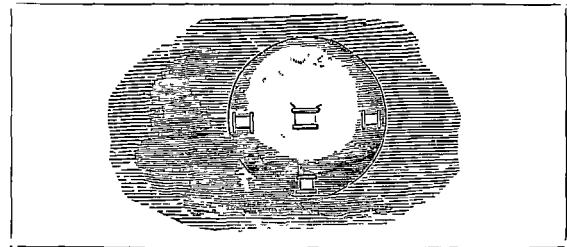
A Lodge is a certain number of Masons duly assembled, having the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, and a Charter or Warrant empowering them to work.

WHERE LODGES ARE HELD



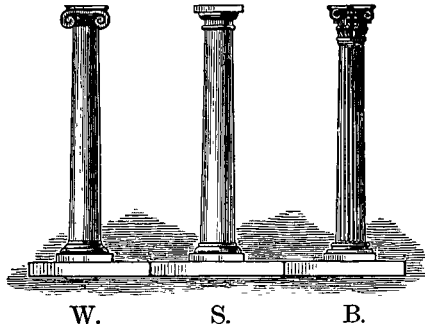
Our ancient brethren held their Lodges on high hills, or in low dells, the better to observe cowans and eaves-droppers.

THE FORM OF A LODGE



The form of a Lodge is an oblong, extending from East to West, between North and South, from its surface to its center, and from earth to heaven; and is (symbolically said to be) of such vast dimensions, to denote the universality of Masonry, and that a Mason's charity should be equally extensive. A Masonic Lodge is a symbol of the world.

THE SUPPORTS OF A LODGE



This vast fabric is supported by three great pillars, denominated *Wisdom*, *Strength*, and *Beauty*; because it is necessary that there should be wisdom to contrive, strength to support, and beauty to adorn all great and important undertakings. The W. M. represents the pillar of wisdom, it being supposed that he has wisdom

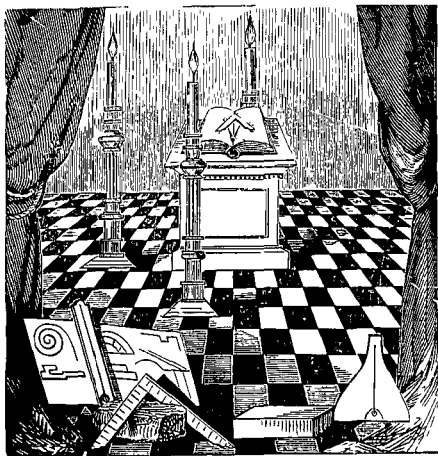
* * * *. The S. W. represents the pillar of strength, it being his duty to assist * * * *. The J. W. represents the pillar of beauty, it being his duty to observe * * * *.

THE COVERING OF A LODGE



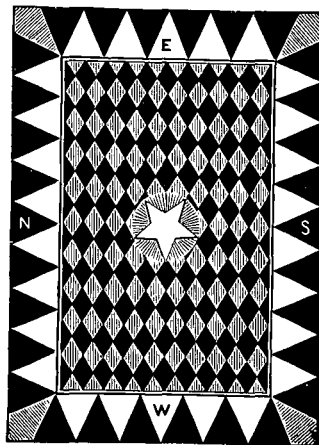
The covering of a Lodge is a clouded canopy or starry decked heaven, where all good Masons hope at last to arrive, by aid of the theological ladder which Jacob in his vision saw extending from earth to heaven; the three principal rounds of which are denominated *Faith*, *Hope* and *Charity*; and which admonish us to have faith in God, hope in immortality, and charity to all mankind; of these the greatest is charity; faith may be lost in sight, hope ends in fruition, but charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity.

THE FURNITURE OF A LODGE



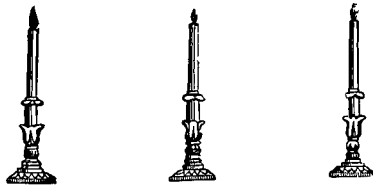
The furniture of a Lodge consists of the *Holy Bible*, *Square* and *Compasses*; the Holy Bible is dedicated to God, as the inestimable gift of God to man, and upon it we obligate entered apprentices; the Square to the Master, it being the proper Masonic emblem of his office; and the Compasses to the Craft, because by a due attention to their use, they are taught to circumscribe their desires, and keep their passions within due bounds.

THE ORNAMENTS OF A LODGE



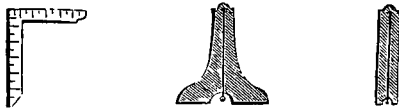
The ornaments of a Lodge are the *mosaic pavement*, the *indented tessel*, and the *blazing star*; the mosaic pavement is a representation of the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple; the indented tessel, that beautiful border or skirting which surrounded it. The mosaic pavement is emblematic of human life checkered with good and evil; the beautiful border which surrounds it, the blessings and comforts which surround us, and which we hope to obtain by a faithful reliance on divine providence, which is hieroglyphically represented in the blazing star in the center.

THE LIGHTS OF A LODGE



A Lodge has *three lights* situated East, West, and South, but none in the North. King Solomon's Temple was situated so far North of the ecliptic, that neither the sun nor moon at meridian could dart any rays into the northern part thereof; the North is therefore Masonically termed a place of darkness.

THE JEWELS OF A LODGE



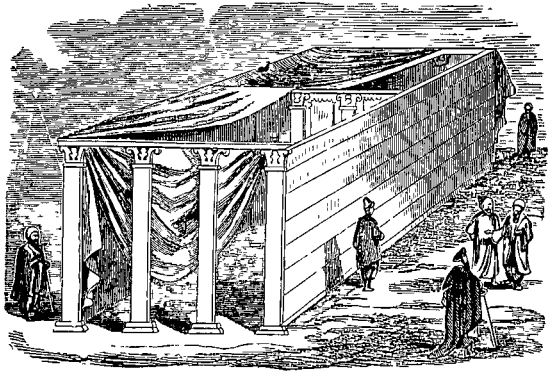
A Lodge has *six jewels*, *three immovable* and *three movable*; the immovable jewels are the *Square*, *Level*, and *Plumb*; the square inculcates morality, the level equality, and the plumb rectitude of life.



The *movable jewels* are the *rough ashlar*, the *perfect ashlar*, and the *trestle-board*. The rough ashlar is a stone as taken from the quarry in its rude and natural state; the perfect ashlar is a stone made ready by the hands of the workman, to be adjusted by the tools of the Fellow Craft; the trestle-board is for the master-workman to draw his designs upon. By the rough ashlar we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the perfect ashlar of that state of perfection, at which we hope to arrive by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessing of God. By the trestle-board we are also reminded, that as the operative workman erects his temporal building agreeably to the rules and designs laid down by the master on the trestle-board, so should we, both operative and speculative, endeavor to erect our spiritual building agreeably to the rules and designs laid down by the Su-

preme Architect of the Universe, in the great books of nature and revelation, which are our spiritual, moral, and Masonic trestle-board.

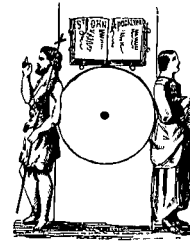
SITUATION OF LODGES



Lodges are situated due *East* and *West*, that being the situation of King Solomon's Temple. After Moses had safely conducted the children of Israel through the Red Sea, into the wilderness, when pursued by Pharaoh and his host, he there, by divine command, erected a tabernacle due East and West, in order to perpetuate the remembrance of that mighty East wind, by which their miraculous deliverance was wrought, and also to receive the rays of the rising sun. This

was an exact model of King Solomon's Temple, for which reason Lodges are so situated.

TO WHOM DEDICATED



Lodges were anciently dedicated to King Solomon, who was our first Most Excellent Grand Master, but modern Masons dedicate theirs to Saint John the Baptist, and Saint John the Evangelist, who were two eminent patrons of Masonry, and since their time there is represented in every regular and well-governed Lodge, a certain point within a circle, embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing those two Saints, and upon the top rest the Holy Scriptures, which point out the whole duty of man; the point representing an individual brother; the circle the boundary line of his duty to God and man, beyond which he is never to suffer his passions, prejudices, or interests to betray him on any occasion. In going round this circle, we

necessarily touch upon these two lines, as well as upon the Holy Scriptures, and while a Mason keeps himself thus circumscribed, it is impossible that he should materially err.

TENETS

The tenets of a Mason's profession are

BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH.

BROTHERLY LOVE



By the exercise of brotherly love we are taught to regard the whole human species—the high and low, the rich and poor—as one family; who, as created by one Almighty parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who otherwise might have remained at a perpetual distance.

RELIEF



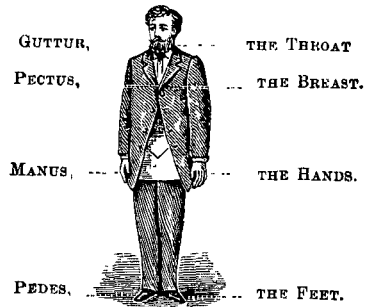
To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to

compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

TRUTH



Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true, is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct; hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, sincerity and plain-dealing distinguish us, and the heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare, and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.



Every Mason has four * * * *, which are

illustrated by the four cardinal virtues, *Temperance*, *Fortitude*, *Prudence*, and *Justice*, and are thus explained:



TEMPERANCE

TEMPERANCE is that due restraint upon our affections and passions which renders the body tame and governable, and frees the mind from the allurements of vice. This virtue should be the constant practice of every Mason, as he is thereby taught to avoid excess or contracting any licentious or vicious habit, the indulgence of which might lead him to disclose some of those valuable secrets which he has promised to conceal and never reveal, and which would consequently subject him to the contempt and detestation of all good Masons * * * * †.



FORTITUDE

FORTITUDE is that noble and steady purpose of the mind whereby we are enabled to undergo any pain, peril, or danger when prudentially deemed expedient. This virtue is equally distant from rashness and cowardice; and, like the former, should be deeply impressed upon the mind of every Mason, as a safeguard or security against any illegal attack that

may be made by force or otherwise, to extort from him any of those valuable secrets with which he has been so solemnly intrusted, and which were emblematically represented upon his first admission into the Lodge * * * * † †.



PRUDENCE

PRUDENCE teaches us to regulate our lives and actions agreeably to the dictates of reason, and is that habit by which we wisely judge and prudentially determine on all things relative to our present as well as to our future happiness. This virtue should be the peculiar characteristic of every Mason, not only for the government of his conduct while in the Lodge, but also when abroad in the world. It should be particularly attended to in all strange and mixed companies, never to let fall the least sign, token, or word whereby the secrets of Masonry might be unlawfully obtained * * * * † † †.



JUSTICE

JUSTICE is that standard, or boundary of right, which enables us to render to every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with Divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil society; and as justice in

a great measure constitutes the real good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof * * * * † † † †.

Entered Apprentices should serve their masters with freedom, fervency, and zeal, which are represented by



There is nothing more zealous than Clay or Mother Earth, for it is that alone, of all the elements, which has never proved unfriendly to man; bodies of water deluge him with rain, oppress him with hail, and drown him with inundation. The air rushes in storms, prepares the tempest, and fire lights up the volcano; but the earth, ever kind and indulgent, is found subservient to his wishes. Though constantly harassed, more to furnish the luxuries than the necessities of life, she never refuses her accustomed yield; spreading his pathway with flowers and his table with plenty; though she produces poison, still she supplies the antidote, and returns with interest

every good committed to her care; and when at last we are called upon to pass through the dark "valley of the shadow of Death," she once more receives us, and piously covers our remains within her bosom, thus admonishing us, that as from it we came, so to it we must shortly return.

CHARGE AT INITIATING INTO THE DEGREE OF ENTERED APPRENTICE

BROTHER:—As you are now introduced into the first principles of Masonry, I congratulate you upon being accepted into this ancient and honorable Order; ancient, as having existed from time immemorial; and honorable, as tending in every particular, so to render all men who will be conformable to its precepts. No institution was ever raised on a better principle or more solid foundation; nor were ever more excellent rules and useful maxims laid down than are inculcated in the several Masonic lectures. The greatest and best men of all ages have been promoters and encouragers of the art, and have never deemed it derogatory to their dignity to level themselves with the fraternity, extend their privileges, and patronize their assemblies. There are three great duties which, as a Mason, you are charged to inculcate—to God, your neighbor, and yourself. To God, in never mentioning his name but with that reverential awe which is due from a creature

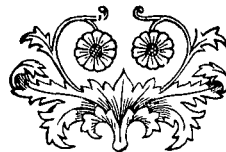
to his Creator; in imploring his aid in all your laudable undertakings, and in esteeming him as the chief good; to your neighbor, in acting upon the square, and doing unto him as you wish he would do unto you; and to yourself, in avoiding all irregularity and intemperance, which may impair your faculties, or debase the dignity of your profession. The performance of these duties will entitle you to public and private esteem.

In the State you are to be a quiet and peaceable citizen, true to your government and just to your country. You are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live. In your outward demeanor, be particularly careful to avoid censure or reproach.

Your frequent appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited, yet it is not meant that Masonry should interfere with your other duties, for these are on no account to be neglected; neither are you to suffer your zeal for the institution to lead you into argument with those who, through ignorance, may ridicule it.

During your leisure hours, that you may improve in Masonic knowledge, you are to converse with well-informed brethren, who will always be as ready to give, as you will be to receive, instruction.

Finally, keep sacred and inviolable the mysteries of the Order, as these are to distinguish you from the rest of the community, and mark your consequence among Masons.



FELLOW CRAFT'S DEGREE

This degree is divided into two sections. While it extends the plan of knowledge commenced in the first degree, it comprehends a more extensive system of learning, and inculcates, in our peculiar method, the most important truths of science.

FIRST SECTION



The square as a symbol, is peculiarly appropriated to this degree. It is intended to teach the Fellow Craft that the square of virtue should be a rule and guide to his conduct, in all his future transactions with mankind.

* * * * *

“Thus he showed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, a plumb-line. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.” Amos vii. 7, 8.

(40)

Or the following Ode may be sung:

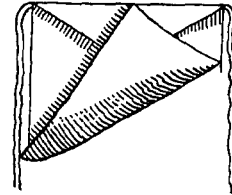
MUSIC—“Portuguese Hymn.”—11s.

Come, Craftsmen, assembled our pleasures to share,
Who walk by the Plumb, and work by the Square,
While traveling in love on the Level of time,
Sweet hope shall light on to a far better clime.

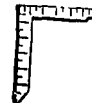
We'll seek in our labors the Spirit Divine,
Our temple to bless and our hearts to refine,
And thus to our altar a tribute will bring,
While joined in true friendship our anthem we sing.

See Order and Beauty rise gently to view,
Each Brother a column, so perfect and true;
When Orders shall cease, and Temples decay,
May each fairer columns immortal survey.

* * * * *



THE WORKING TOOLS



The working tools of a Fellow Craft are the *Plumb*, the *Square*, and the *Level*.

The Plumb is an instrument made use of by operative masons to raise perpendiculars, the Square to square their work, and the Level to lay horizontals; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of them for more noble and glorious purposes; the plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, squaring our actions by the square of virtue, and remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time to that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns.

SECOND SECTION

PREPARATION FOR ADVANCEMENT

* * * * *

ADMISSION

*The Attentive Ear. The Instructive Tongue.
The Faithful Breast.*

* * * * *

THE SQUARE OF VIRTUE

* * * * *

Masonry is considered under two denominations, *Operative* and *Speculative*.

OPERATIVE MASONRY

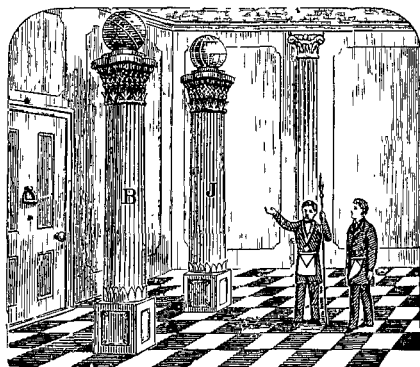
By operative Masonry we allude to a proper application of the useful rules of architecture, whence a structure will derive figure, strength, and beauty, and whence will result a due proportion, and a just correspondence in all its parts. It furnishes us with dwellings, and with convenient shelters from the vicissitudes and inclemencies of the seasons, and while it displays the effects of human wisdom, as well in the choice as in the arrangement of the sundry materials of which an edifice is composed, it demonstrates that a fund of science and industry is implanted in man for the best, most salutary, and beneficent purposes.

SPECULATIVE MASONRY

By speculative Masonry we learn to subdue the passions, act upon the square, keep a tongue of good report, maintain secrecy, and practice charity. It is so far interwoven with religion, as to lay us under obligation to pay that rational homage to the Deity which at once constitutes our duty and our happiness. It leads the contemplative Mason to view with reverence and admiration the glorious works of creation, and inspires him with the most exalted ideas of the perfection of his Divine Creator.

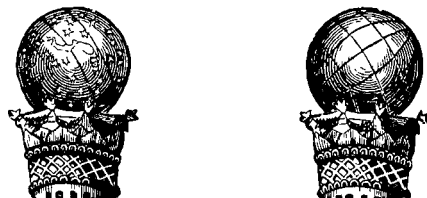
* * * * for in six days God created the heaven and the earth, and rested upon the seventh day; the seventh, therefore, our ancient brethren consecrated as a day of rest from their labors; thereby enjoying frequent opportunities to contemplate the glorious works of creation, and to adore their great Creator.

THE PILLARS OF THE PORCH



“Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.”
2 Chron. iii. 15.

PEACE, UNITY AND PLENTY



THE GLOBES

The globes are two artificial and spherical bodies on the convex surface of which are represented the countries, seas, and various parts of the earth; the face of the heavens, the planetary revolutions and other particulars.

THE USE OF THE GLOBES

Their principal use, besides serving as maps to distinguish the outward parts of the earth, and the situation of the fixed stars, is to illustrate and explain the phenomena arising from the annual revolution and the diurnal rotation of the earth around its own axis. They are the noblest instruments for improving the mind, and giving it the most distinct idea of any problem or proposition, as well as enabling it to solve the same. Contemplating these bodies, we are inspired with a due reverence for the Deity and his works, and are induced to encourage the studies of astronomy,

geography, and navigation, and the arts dependent on them, by which society has been so much benefited. They further denote the universality of Masonry.

* * *
* * * *

ORDER IN ARCHITECTURE

By order in architecture is meant a system of all the members, proportions, and ornaments of columns and pilasters; or it is a regular arrangement of the projecting parts of a building, which, united with those of a column, form a beautiful, perfect, and complete whole.

ITS ANTIQUITY

From the first formation of society order in architecture may be traced. When the rigor of seasons obliged men to contrive shelter from the inclemency of the weather, we learn that they first planted trees on end, and then laid others across, to support a covering. The bands which connected these trees at top and bottom, are said to have given rise to the idea of the base and capital of pillars; and from this simple hint originally proceeded the more improved art of architecture.

The five orders are thus classed: the *Ionic*, *Doric*, *Corinthian*, *Tuscan*, and *Composite*. Of

these the ones most esteemed by Masons are the ancient and original orders which are no more than three, the *Ionic*, *Doric*, and *Corinthian*, which were invented by the Greeks. To these, the Romans have added two, the *Tuscan* and the *Composite*. To the Greeks therefore, and not to the Romans, are we indebted for what is great, judicious, and distinct in architecture.

They have a further allusion to the five senses of Human Nature, *Hearing*, *Seeing*, *Feeling*, *Smelling*, and *Tasting*. Of these, the ones most esteemed by Masons are *Hearing*, *Seeing* and *Feeling*, for by * * * *.

* * * * * to the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences which are *Grammar*, *Rhetoric*, *Logic*, *Arithmetic*, *Geometry*, *Music* and *Astronomy*; of these the one most esteemed by Masons is *Geometry*, or the fifth science.

GEOMETRY

treats of the powers and properties of magnitudes in general, where length, breadth, and thickness are considered, from a point to a line, from a line to a superficies, from a superficies to a solid.

A point is a dimensionless figure, or an indivisible part of space.

A line is a point continued, and a figure of one capacity, namely, length.

A superficies is a figure of two dimensions, namely, length and breadth.

A solid is a figure of three dimensions, namely, length, breadth, and thickness.

THE ADVANTAGES OF GEOMETRY

By this science, the architect is enabled to construct his plans and execute his designs; the general, to arrange his soldiers; the geographer, to give us the dimensions of the world, and all things therein contained; to delineate the extent of seas, and specify the divisions of empires, kingdoms, and provinces. By it, also, the astronomer is enabled to make his observations, and to fix the duration of time and seasons, years and cycles.

In fine, geometry is the foundation of architecture, and the root of mathematics.

Astronomy also claims our attention:

ASTRONOMY

is that divine art by which we are taught to read the wisdom, strength, and beauty of the Almighty Creator in those sacred pages, the celestial hemisphere.

Assisted by astronomy, we can observe the magnitudes, and calculate the period and eclipses of the heavenly bodies. By it we learn the use of the globes, the system of the world, and the preliminary laws of nature. While we are employed

in the study of this science, we must perceive unparalleled instances of wisdom and goodness; and through the whole creation, trace the glorious Author by his works.

* * * * *

G

THE MORAL ADVANTAGES OF GEOMETRY

Geometry, the first and noblest of sciences, is the basis on which the superstructure of Masonry is erected. By geometry, we may curiously trace Nature, through her various windings, to her most concealed recesses. By it we may discover the power, the wisdom, and the goodness of the Grand Artificer of the Universe, and view with delight the proportions which connect this vast machine.

By it we may discover how the planets move in their different orbits, and demonstrate their various revolutions. By it we account for the return of seasons, and the variety of scenes which each season displays to the discerning eye. Numberless worlds are around us, all framed by the same Divine Artist, which roll through the vast expanse, and are all conducted by the same unerring law of Nature.

A survey of Nature, and the observation of her beautiful proportions, first determined man to

imitate the Divine plan, and study symmetry and order. This gave rise to societies, and birth to every useful art. The architect began to design, and the plans which he laid down, being improved by experience and time, have produced works which are the admiration of every age.

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 unsparing ravages of barbarous force. Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived. The *attentive ear* receives the sound from the *instructive tongue*, and the secrets of Freemasonry are safely lodged in the repository of *faithful breasts*. Tools and implements of architecture, and symbolic emblems most expressive, are selected by the Fraternity to imprint upon the mind wise and serious truths; and thus through a succession of ages, are transmitted unimpaired the most excellent tenets of our institution.

O O O

The lecture closes by paying profound homage to the Grand Geometrician of the Universe, before whom all Masons, from the youngest E. A. to the W. M., who presides in the East, should with reverence most humbly bow.

CHARGE AT PASSING TO THE DEGREE OF FELLOW CRAFT

BROTHER:—Being passed to the second degree of Masonry, we congratulate you on your preferment. The internal, and not the external qualifications of a man, are what Masonry regards. As you increase in knowledge, you will improve in social intercourse.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate the duties which as a Mason you are bound to discharge, or enlarge on the necessity of a strict adherence to them, as your own experience must have established their value. Our laws and regulations you are strenuously to support, and be always ready to assist in seeing them duly executed. You are not to palliate or aggravate the offences of your brethren; but in the decision of every trespass against our rules, you are to judge with candor. admonish with friendship, and reprehend with justice.

The study of the liberal arts, that valuable branch of education which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration; especially the science of geometry, which is established as the basis of our art. Geometry, or Masonry, originally synonymous terms, being of a divine and moral nature, is enriched with the most useful knowledge; while it proves the wonderful proper-

ties of nature, it demonstrates the more important truths of morality.

Your past behavior and regular deportment have merited the honor which we have now conferred; and in your new character it is expected that you will conform to the principles of the Order, by steadily persevering in the practice of every commendable virtue. Such is the nature of your engagement as a Fellow Craft, and to these duties you are bound by the most sacred ties.



MASTER MASON'S DEGREE

This has very properly been called the *sublime degree of Master Mason*, as well for the solemnity of the ceremonies which accompany it, as the profound lessons of wisdom which it inculcates. The important part of the degree is to symbolize the great doctrines of the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul; and hence it has been remarked by a learned writer of our Order that "the Master Mason represents a man saved from the grave of iniquity, and raised to the faith of salvation." The lecture is divided into three sections.

FIRST SECTION



The Compasses are peculiarly dedicated to this degree, because between their extreme points when properly extended, are emblematically said to be contained the jewels of a Master Mason, which are *Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love*.

* * * * *

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the

years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; while the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, and the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the wheel broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Eccl. xii. 1-7.

Or the following Ode may be sung:

MUSIC—"Bonny Doon," or "Hamburg."—L. M.

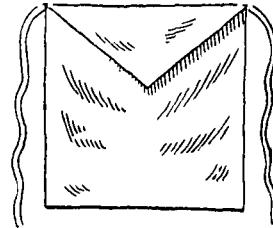
Let us remember in our youth
 Before the evil day draws nigh,
 Our Great Creator and his Truth,
 Ere memory fail and pleasure fly!

Or sun, or moon, or planet's light
 Grow dark, or clouds return in gloom,
 Ere vital spark no more incite!
 When strength shall bow, and years consume.

Let us, in youth, remember Him
 Who formed our frame, and spirits gave,
 Ere windows of the mind grow dim,
 Or door of speech obstructed wave!

When voice of bird fresh terrors wake,
 And Music's daughters charm no more.
 Or fear to rise, with trembling shake,
 Along the path we travel o'er.

* * * * *



THE WORKING TOOLS

The working tools of a Master Mason are all the implements of Masonry indiscriminately, but more especially the *Trowel*.



The Trowel is an instrument made use of by operative masons to spread the cement which unites a building into one common mass; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection; that cement which unites us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.

* * * * *

SECOND SECTION

* * * * *

MUSIC—"Pleyel's Hymn."—7s.

Solemn strikes the funeral chime,
Notes of our departing time,
As we journey here below,
Through a pilgrimage of woe.

Mortals, now indulge a tear,
For mortality is here,
See how wide her trophies wave
O'er the slumbers of the grave.

Here another guest we bring,
Seraphs of celestial wing,
To our funeral altar come;
Waft our friend and brother home.

Lord of all below, above,
Fill our souls with truth and love.
As dissolves our earthly tie,
Take us to thy Lodge on high.

Or the following may be used:

Hark! from the tombs a doleful sound,
Mine ears attend the cry,
Ye living men, come view the ground
Where shortly you must lie.

Princes, this clay must be your bed,
In spite of all your towers;
The tall, the wise, the reverend head,
Must lie as low as ours.

Great God, is this our certain doom?
And are we still secure?
Still walking downward to the tomb,
And yet prepare no more?

Grant us the power of quick'ning grace
To fit our souls to fly,
That when we drop this dying flesh,
We'll rise above the sky.

* * * * *

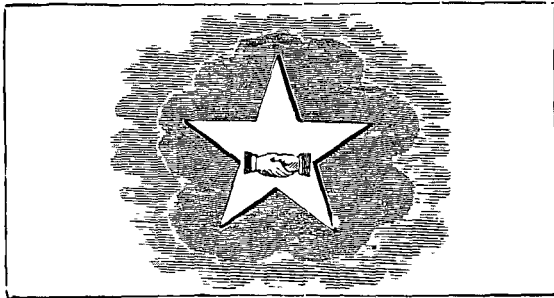
The following prayer is prescribed for this section:

PRAYER

"Thou, O God, knowest our down-sitting and our up-rising, and understandest our thoughts afar off. Shield and defend us from the evil intentions of our enemies, and support us under the trials and afflictions we are destined to endure while traveling through this vale of tears. Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower, and is

cut down; he fleeth as a shadow, and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee; thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish his day. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. But man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up, so man lieth down, and riseth not up until the heavens shall be no more. Yet, O Lord! have compassion on the children of thy creation, administer them comfort in time of trouble, and save them with an everlasting salvation."

"So mote it be. Amen."



It has been the practice in all ages to erect monuments to the memory of departed worth.



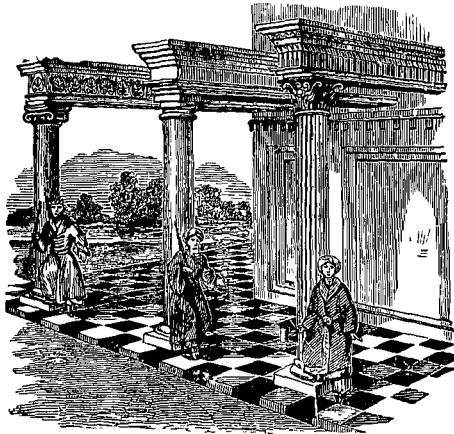
THIRD SECTION

The third section furnishes many details in relation to the Temple, and concludes with an explanation of the hieroglyphical emblems of the degree.

This vast fabric was founded in the fourth year of the reign of King Solomon, during the second month of the sacred year, on the hill of Mount Moriah, near the place where Abraham was about to offer up Isaac, and where David met and appeased the destroying angel.

It was supported by fourteen hundred and fifty-three columns, and two thousand nine hun-

dred and six pilasters, all hewn from the finest parian marble.



There are three grand Masonic pillars, denominated *Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty*: * * * *.

There were employed in building the Temple, three Grand Masters, three thousand and three hundred Overseers, or Masters of the work: eighty thousand Fellow Crafts, or hewers on the mountain, or in the quarry; and seventy thousand Entered Apprentices, or bearers of burdens: these were all so classed and arranged by the wisdom of Solomon that neither envy, discord, nor

confusion was suffered to interrupt or disturb the peace and good-fellowship which prevailed among the workmen at that important period.

7 $\frac{1}{8}$ G. F.

5 $\frac{2}{3}$ M. C.

3 S. S.

There are in this degree two classes of emblems or symbols, the first of which is monitorial, and consists of the *Pot of Incense*, the *Bee-Hive*, the *Book of Constitutions*, guarded by the *Tuler's Sword*, the *Sword pointing to a naked heart*, the *All-Seeing Eye*, the *Anchor and Ark*, the *Forty-seventh problem of Euclid*, the *Hour-Glass*, the *Three Steps* and the *Scythe*, and are thus explained:



THE POT OF INCENSE

is an emblem of a pure heart, which is always an acceptable sacrifice to the Deity; and as this glows with fervent heat, so should our hearts continually glow with gratitude to the great and beneficent Author of our existence, for the manifold blessings and comforts we enjoy.

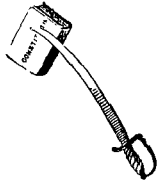


THE BEE-HIVE

is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven to

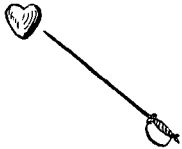
the lowest reptile of the dust. It teaches us, that as we came into the world rational and intelligent beings, so should we be industrious ones, never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want, when it is in our power to relieve them without injury to ourselves.

THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS, GUARDED BY THE
TILER'S SWORD



reminds us that we should be ever watchful and guarded in our words and actions, particularly when before the enemies of Masonry; ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection.

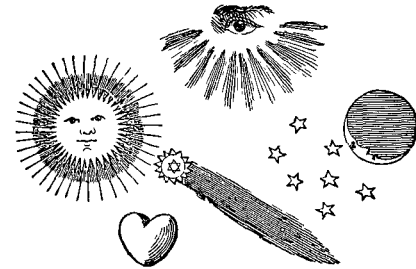
THE SWORD POINTING TO A NAKED HEART



demonstrates that justice will sooner or later overtake us; and although our thoughts, words, and actions may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet that

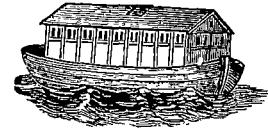
ALL-SEEING EYE

whom the *Sun*, *Moon*, and *Stars*, obey, and under whose watchful care even *Comets* perform their stupendous revolutions, pervades the secret re-



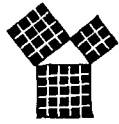
cesses of the human *Heart*, and will reward us according to our merits.

THE ANCHOR AND ARK



are emblems of a well-grounded hope and a well-spent life. They are emblematic of that divine *Ark* which safely wafts us over this tempestuous sea of troubles, and that *Anchor* which shall safely moor us in a peaceful harbor, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary shall find rest.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH PROBLEM OF EUCLID



was an invention of our ancient friend and brother Pythagoras, who, in his travels through Asia, Africa, and Europe, was initiated into several orders of priesthood, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. This wise philosopher enriched his mind abundantly in a general knowledge of things, and more especially in Geometry or Masonry. On this subject he drew out many problems and theorems; and among the most distinguished he erected this, when in the joy of his heart, he exclaimed *Eureka*, in the Grecian language, signifying *I have found it*; and upon the discovery of which he is said to have sacrificed a hecatomb. It teaches Masons to be general lovers of the arts and sciences.

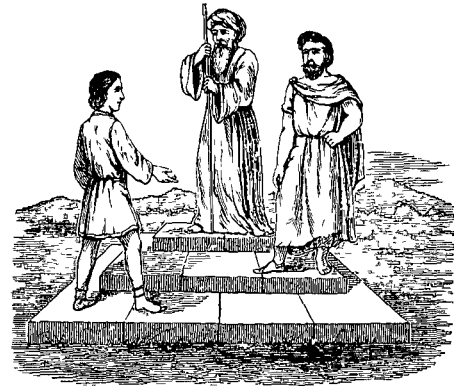
THE HOUR-GLASS



is an emblem of human life. Behold! how swiftly the sands run, and how rapidly our lives are drawing to a close! We cannot without astonishment behold the little particles which are contained in this machine; how they pass away almost imperceptibly; and yet, to our surprise, in the short space of an hour they are all exhausted. Thus wastes man! Today, he puts forth the tender leaves of hope; tomorrow, blossoms and

bears his blushing honors thick upon him; the next day comes a frost which nips the shoot; and when he thinks his greatness is still aspiring, he falls, like autumn leaves, to enrich our mother earth.

THE THREE STEPS



usually delineated upon the Master's carpet, are emblematic of the three principal stages of human life: *Youth*, *Manhood*, and *Age*. In *Youth*, as Entered Apprentices, we ought industriously to occupy our minds in the attainment of useful knowledge; in *Manhood*, as Fellow Crafts, we should apply our knowledge to the discharge of our respective duties to God, our neighbor, and ourselves; so that in *Age*, as Master

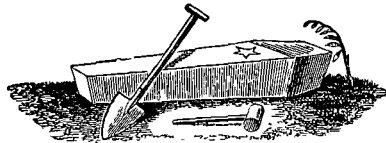
Masons, we may enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality.

THE SCYTHE



is an emblem of time, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and launches us into eternity. Behold! what havoc the scythe of Time makes among the human race! If by chance we should escape the numerous evils incident to childhood and youth, and with health and vigor arrive at the years of manhood; yet, withal, we must soon be cut down by the all-devouring scythe of Time, and be gathered into the land where our fathers have gone before us.

The second class of emblems is not monitorial, therefore their true interpretation can be obtained only within the tiled recesses of the Lodge. They consist of the *Setting Maul*, the *Spade*, the *Coffin*, and the *Sprig of Acacia*.



Then * * let us imitate the example of
* * whom you have this evening represented,

in his virtuous and amiable conduct, his unfeigned piety to God, and his inflexible fidelity to his trust, that we may welcome the grim tyrant Death, and receive him as a kind messenger sent from our Supreme Grand Master, to translate us from this imperfect, to that all-perfect, glorious, and celestial Lodge, above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

CHARGE AT RAISING TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF MASTER MASON

BROTHER:—Your zeal for the institution of Masonry, the progress you have made in the mysteries, and your conformity to our regulations, have pointed you out as a proper object of our favor and esteem. You are now bound by duty, honor, and gratitude to be faithful to your trust; to support the dignity of your character on every occasion; and to enforce, by precept and example, obedience to the tenets of the Order.

In the character of a Master Mason, you are authorized to correct the errors and irregularities of your uninformed brethren, and to guard them against a breach of fidelity. To preserve the reputation of the fraternity unsullied, must be your constant care; and for this purpose it is your province to recommend to your inferiors, obedience and submission; to your equals, cour-

tesy and affability; to your superiors, kindness and condescension. Universal benevolence you are always to inculcate, and by the regularity of your own behavior afford the best example for the conduct of others less informed. The ancient landmarks of the Order intrusted to your care, you are carefully to preserve, and never suffer them to be infringed, or countenance a deviation from the established usages and customs of the fraternity.

If in the circle of your acquaintance, you find a person desirous of being initiated into Masonry, be particularly attentive not to recommend him unless you are convinced he will conform to our rules; that the honor, glory and reputation of the institution may be firmly established, and the world at large convinced of its good effects.

Your virtue, honor, and reputation are concerned in supporting with dignity the character you now bear. Let no motive, therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows, or betray your trust; but be true and faithful, and imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom you have this evening represented. Thus you will render yourself deserving of the honor which we have conferred, and merit the confidence that we have reposed.

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FUNERAL SERVICES

[For full directions, which are to be read to the brethren after the Lodge is opened, see 1924 Masonic Code of N. C.]

The brethren being assembled at the Lodge room (or some other convenient place) the Master opens the Lodge in the Third degree of Masonry with the usual forms; and having stated the purpose of the communication, the service begins:

Master—"What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?"

Response—"Man walketh in a vain shadow; he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them."

Master—"When he dieth he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him."

Response—"Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return."

Master—"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!"

The Master, then taking the roll on which has been inscribed the name, age, date of initiation or affiliation, date of death, or any matters that may be interesting to the brethren in the future, and having read the same aloud, shall say:

"Let us live and die like the righteous, that our last end may be like his!"

Response—"God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death!"

Master—"Almighty Father! into thy hands we leave with humble submission the soul of our deceased brother."

The brethren answer, giving* *funeral* grand honors.

The first and second times:

"The will of God is accomplished! So mote it be. Amen."

The third time:

"We cherish his memory here. We commend his spirit to God who gave it. And commit his body to the tomb."

The Master then deposits the roll in the *archives*, and repeats the following prayer:

"Most glorious God! author of all good, and giver of all mercy! pour down thy blessings upon us, and strengthen our solemn engagements with

* Both arms are crossed on the breast, the left uppermost, and the open palms of the hands sharply striking the shoulders, they are then raised above the head, the palms striking each other, and then made to fall smartly upon the thighs.

ties of sincere affection! May the present instance of mortality remind us of our approaching fate, and draw our attention toward thee, the only refuge in time of need! that, when the awful moment shall arrive, that we are about to quit this transitory scene, the enlivening prospect of thy mercy may dispel the gloom of death; and after our departure hence in peace, and in thy favor, may we be received into thy everlasting kingdom, to enjoy, in union with the souls of our departed friends, the just reward of a pious and virtuous life. Amen."

A procession is then formed, which moves to the house of the deceased, and thence to the place of interment.

ORDER OF PROCESSION

Tiler, with drawn sword

Stewards, with white rods

Musicians (if they are Masons), otherwise they follow the Tiler

Master Masons

Senior and Junior Deacons, with black rods

Treasurer and Secretary

Senior and Junior Wardens

Past Masters

The Holy Writings, on a cushion covered with black cloth, carried by a venerable brother

THE MASTER

MARSHAL

The procession then moves to the house of the deceased, where it receives the

Clergy.

THE BODY,

with an apron lying on the coffin.

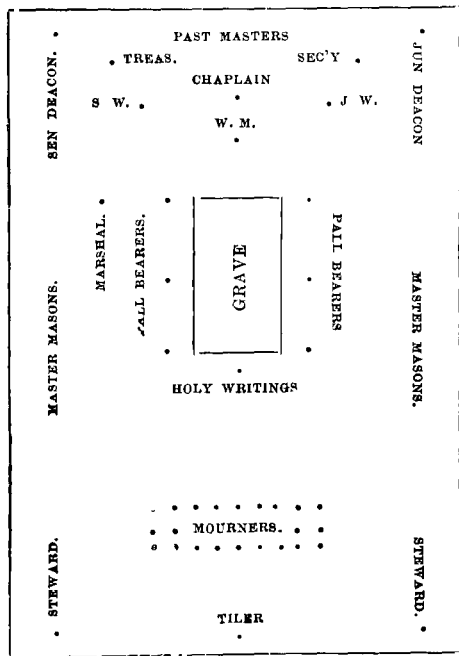
Pall Bearers

Pall Bearers.



Mourners.

When the procession arrives at the place of interment, the brethren open ranks, and the procession moves in reverse order, the body being borne after the Master to the grave.



The brethren then form around the grave, officers of the Lodge and the clergy at the head and the mourners at the foot. The service is resumed, and the following exhortation is given:

“Here we view a striking instance of the uncertainty of human life, and the vanity of human

pursuits. The last offices paid to the dead are only useful as lectures to the living:—from them we are to derive instruction, and to consider every solemnity of this kind as a summons to prepare for our approaching dissolution.

“Notwithstanding the various mementoes of mortality, with which we daily meet; notwithstanding Death has established his empire over all the works of nature; yet, through some unaccountable infatuation, we forget that we are born to die; we go on from one design to another, add hope to hope, and lay out plans for the employment of many years, till we are suddenly alarmed with the approach of Death, when we least expect him, and at an hour which we probably conclude to be the meridian of our existence.

“What are all the externals of majesty, the pride of wealth, or the charms of beauty, when Nature has paid her just debt? Fix your eyes on the last scene, and view life stript of her ornaments, and exposed in her natural meanness; you will then be convinced of the futility of those empty delusions. In the grave, all fallacies are detected, all ranks are leveled, and all distinctions are done away.

“While we drop the sympathetic tear over the grave of our deceased friend, let charity incline

us to throw a veil over his foibles, whatever they may have been, and not withhold from his memory the praise that his virtues may have claimed. Suffer the apologies of human nature to plead in his behalf. Perfection on earth has never been attained:—the wisest, as well as the best of men, have erred.

“Let the present example excite our most serious thoughts, and strengthen our resolutions of amendment. As life is uncertain, and all earthly pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the all-important concern of preparing for eternity; but embrace the happy moment, while time and opportunity offer, to provide against the great change, when all the pleasures of this world shall cease to delight, and the reflections of a virtuous and holy life yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus our expectations will not be frustrated, nor we hurried unprepared into the presence of an all-wise and powerful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known.

“Let us, while in this state of existence, support with propriety the character of our profession, advert to the nature of our solemn ties, and pursue with assiduity the sacred tenets of our Order. Then, with becoming reverence, let us seek the favor of the Eternal God, so that when the awful moment of death arrives, be it soon or late, we may be enabled to prosecute our journey, without dread or apprehension, to that far distant country, whence no traveler returns.”

The following invocations are then made by the Master:

Master—“May we be true and faithful; and may we live and die in love!”

Response—“So mote it be.”

Master—“May we profess what is good, and always act agreeably to our profession!”

Response—“So mote it be.”

Master—“May the Lord bless us and prosper us, and may all our good intentions be crowned with success!”

Response—“So mote it be.”

Master—“Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace! good-will towards men!”

Response—“So mote it be, now, from henceforth, and forevermore. Amen.”

The apron is taken off the coffin and handed to the Master—the coffin is deposited in the grave—and the Master says:

“This Lamb Skin, or white leather Apron, is an emblem of Innocence, and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece, or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter, when worthily worn.”

The Master then deposits it in the grave.

"This emblem I now deposit in the grave of our deceased Brother. By this we are reminded of the universal dominion of Death. The arm of Friendship cannot oppose the King of Terrors, nor the charms of innocence elude his grasp. This grave, that coffin, this circle of mourning friends, remind us that we, too, are mortal: soon shall our bodies moulder to dust."

The Master, holding the evergreen in his hand, continues:

"This *evergreen* is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By this we are reminded that we have an immortal part within us, which shall survive the grave, and which shall never, never, never die."

The brethren then move in procession around, and severally drop* the sprig of evergreen into the grave; after which the *funeral grand honors* are given. The Master then continues:

"From time immemorial, it has been the custom among the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, at the request of a brother, to accompany his remains to the place of interment, and there to deposit them with the usual formalities.

* Advancing to the South side of the grave, hold out the right arm horizontally and drop the sprig of evergreen on the breast of the coffin, then point the hand and look upward; next bring the hand to the left breast; and finally down by the side.

"In conformity to this usage, we have assembled in the character of Masons, to offer up to his memory, before the world, the last tribute of our affection; thereby demonstrating the sincerity of our past esteem for him, and our steady attachment to the principles of the Order.

"The great Creator having been pleased, out of his infinite mercy, to remove our brother from the cares and troubles of a transitory existence, to a state of eternal duration, and thereby to weaken the chain by which we are united man to man, may we who survive him, anticipate our approaching fate, and be more strongly cemented in the ties of union and friendship; that, during the short space allotted to our present existence, we may wisely and usefully employ our time; and, in the reciprocal intercourse of kind and friendly acts, mutually promote the welfare and happiness of each other.

"To those of the immediate relatives and friends who are most heart-stricken at the loss they have sustained, we have but little of this world's consolation to offer. We can only sincerely, deeply and most affectionately sympathize with them in their afflictive bereavement, and remind them that 'He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb looks down with infinite

compassion upon the bereaved in the hour of their desolation, and will fold the arms of His love and protection around those who put their trust in Him.'

"Unto the grave we have consigned the body of our deceased brother; *earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes*, there to remain until the trump shall sound on the resurrection morn. We can cheerfully leave him in the hands of a Being who has done all things well; who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Then let us all so improve this solemn warning, that on the great day of account we may receive from the compassionate Judge, the welcome invitation. 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

"So mote it be. Amen."

"Almighty and eternal God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being—and before whom all men must appear in the judgment day to give an account of their deeds in life; we, who are daily exposed to flying shafts of death, and now surround the grave of our fallen brother, most earnestly beseech thee to impress deeply on our minds the solemnities of this day, as well as the lamentable occurrence that has occasioned them. Here may we be forcibly reminded, that

in the midst of life we are in death, and that whatever *elevation* of character we may have attained; however *upright* and *square* the course we have pursued; yet shortly must we all submit as victims of its destroying power, and endure the humbling *level* of the tomb, until the last loud trump shall sound the summons of our *resurrection* from mortality and *corruption*.

"May we have thy divine assistance, O merciful God, to redeem our misspent time; and in the discharge of the important duties thou hast assigned us in the erection of our moral edifice, may we have *wisdom* from on high to direct us, *strength* commensurate with our *task* to support us, and the *beauty* of holiness to adorn and render all our performances acceptable in thy sight; and when our work is done, and our bodies mingle with the *mother earth*, may our souls, disengaged from their cumbrous dust, flourish and bloom in eternal day; and enjoy that rest which thou hast prepared for all good and faithful servants, in that spiritual house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen."

"So mote it be. Amen."

The procession then returns in form to the place whence it set out, where the necessary duties are complied with, and the Lodge is closed in the Third degree.

A SHORTER FORM OF
BURIAL SERVICE

TO BE USED AT THE GRAVE DURING VERY
INCLEMENT WEATHER

After the officers and brethren have taken their proper positions at the grave, the service begins by the following exhortation:

“BRETHREN:—We have assembled today as Masons, to offer to the memory of our deceased brother this last tribute of our affection. Unto the grave we now consign his body—*earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust*—there to remain until the trump shall sound on the Resurrection morn. We can trustfully leave him in the hands of Him who doeth all things well, who is ‘glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders.’”

The master, then presenting the apron, continues:

“The lambskin apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason.”

The Master then deposits it in the grave.

“This emblem I now deposit in the grave of our deceased brother. We are here reminded of the universal dominion of Death.”

The Master, holding the evergreen, continues:

“This evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded that we have an immortal part within us which shall never, never, never die.”

The brethren then move in procession around the place of interment and drop the sprig of evergreen into the grave. The *funeral grand honors* are then given, and the Master continues:

“To those of the immediate relatives and friends who are most heart-stricken at the loss they have sustained, we have but little of this world’s consolation to offer. We can only sincerely, deeply, and most affectionately sympathize with them in their afflictive bereavement, and remind them that He who ‘tempers the wind to the shorn lamb’ looks down with infinite compassion upon the bereaved in the hour of their desolation, and will fold the arms of His love and protection around those who put their trust in Him.”

“Almighty God, who hast taught us in thy holy word that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men, have compassion upon thy servants here assembled. Remember us, O Lord, in mercy; endue our souls with patience under our affliction, and with resignation to thy blessed will. Lift up thy countenance upon us and give us peace, and pardon and save us for thy name’s sake. Amen.”

“So mote it be. Amen.”

This concludes the service at the grave.

RECOMMENDED
ORDER OF BUSINESS

[Reg. 50-01 (Art. 21) of THE CODE]

SECTION I. When the lodge is opened on a stated communication, the following order of business shall be observed subject to change or modification by the lodge, or the Master, that will adapt it to a proper disposition of the business of the lodge.

- A. Reading of the minutes of the last stated and all intervening communications.
- B. Unfinished business.
- C. Reading and acting on correspondence.
- D. Reports of investigating committees.
- E. Balloting on petitions and applications.
- F. Reception of petitions for the degrees and applications for membership, restoration, or advancement.
- G. Reports of standing committees:
 - (1) On Charity.
 - (2) On Finance and Budget.
 - (3) On Reference.
 - (4) On Oxford Orphanage.
 - (5) On Masonic and Eastern Star Home.
 - (6) On Masonic Education.
- H. Reports of special committees.
- I. New business.
- J. Motions and resolutions.
- K. Informal communications affecting the Craft.
- L. Degree work, including examination of candidates.
- M. Reading and approval of minutes.
- N. Closing the lodge.

OPTIONAL PRAYERS

Opening First Degree

Most glorious Lord God, as we are led from darkness into light, may we see Thee as Thou art, revealed in Thy word of truth, and worship Thee in the beauty of holiness forever and ever.

Response—So mote it be. Amen.

Closing First Degree

Supreme Ruler of the Universe, accept our humble praises for the many mercies and blessings which Thy bounty hath conferred on us. May we be enabled to divest our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life, and serve Thee with freedom, fervency and zeal until we are brought together into that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Response—So mote it be. Amen.

OPTIONAL PRAYERS

Opening Second Degree

Great Architect of the Universe, help us to remember that wherever we are or whatever we do, Thine All-Seeing Eye is upon us. May we continue to act together as faithful craftsmen, and never fail to discharge our duty toward each other, and to Thee, with fervency and zeal.

Response—So mote it be. Amen.

Closing Second Degree

Most Glorious Lord God, we invoke Thy Divine blessing upon the labors of this hour. As we grow in numbers, may we grow in strength. May the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment and the oil of joy strengthen us, that we may be faithful craftsmen in the quarries of life. May we so labor that our work will be accepted of Thee and that Thou wilt grant unto us a place in that temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Response—So mote it be. Amen.