

ADDRESS TO THE BRETHREN

Brethren, such is the nature of our Constitution that as some must of necessity rule and teach, so others must of course learn, submit and obey. Humility is each being an essential qualification.

The Brethren whom the W.M. has selected to assist him in the ruling and governing of the Lodge are too well acquainted with the principles of Freemasonry and the Regulations of the Order to warrant any mistrust that they will be found wanting in the discharge of the duties of their respective Offices, or that they will exceed the powers with which they are entrusted, and you Brethren, I am sure, are of too generous a disposition to envy them their preferment.

I trust therefore that we shall have but one aim in view, to help each other and unite in the Grand Design of being happy ourselves and communicating Happiness. May we continue to experience within these sacred walls every joy and satisfaction which pure disinterested Friendship alone can give.

As this Society has been founded and perfected in such unanimity and concord, long may it continue and remain a Monument of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. May Freemasonry continue to flourish in every part of the Globe and become instrumental in diffusing the Light of Wisdom, adding the Strength of Reason, dispensing the Beauties of Virtue and lessening the aggregate of human misery and vice. Firm in rectitude may she rise superior to all opposition, like the bleak mountain which bares its breast with composure to every tempest and fearlessly presents its bosom to the midnight storm. May Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth ever distinguish us as men and masons, that the world may see the happy and beneficial effects of our ancient Institution.

As our Order is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue, so it teaches us to regulate our lives by the rule of Rectitude, square our conduct by the principles of Morality and guide our inclinations, yes even our very thoughts, within the Compass of Propriety. Hence we learn to be meek, humble and resigned, to curb our passions, the excess of which mars even the very Soul, to be faithful to our God, our Country and our Laws, to drop a tear of sympathy over the failings of a Brother and pour the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the afflicted.

The Brother who has thus far discharged his duties as a Mason may patiently and with resignation await the arrival of his dying throb. And as we Brethren severally, come to experience that Supreme Moment when the Soul, at last delivered from the burden of the Flesh, shall wing her ethereal flight to the boundless and unexplored expanse of Heaven, may we have it to say "It is well finished. Admit me to the Grand Lodge above, where the World's Great Architect lives and reigns for ever, where the divisions of time for ever cease and where the glories of a boundless Eternity shall burst upon my view."

Such my Brethren are the genuine principles and tenets of our Order. May they be transmitted through this the..... Lodge pure and unsullied from generation to generation.