

Charge to be given when Lodge is closed but before
the Brethren separate.

You 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 you have heard forcibly and so frequently inculcated in our meetings. Be ye therefore diligent, prudent, temperate, and discreet; remember also that around our altar you have solemnly and repeatedly engaged yourselves to befriend and relieve with unhesitating cordiality, so far as shall be in your power, every Br. who shall need your assistance, that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation, to vindicate his character when wrongly traduced, and to suggest in his behalf the most candid, favourable, and palliating circumstances in extenuation of his conduct, even when it is justly reprehended; that the world may observe and feel how truly Masons love one another. These generous principles ought to extend beyond the limited arena of our own society, for every human being has a claim upon your kind offices, so that we enjoin you to do good unto all, but more especially to the household of the faithful. By diligence in the duties of your respective callings, by liberal benevolence and diffusive charity, by constancy and fidelity in your friendship, by uniformly just, amiable, and virtuous deportment, we charge you to manifest the beneficial effects of our ancient and honourable institution; and let it not be supposed, Br., that you will labour in vain, or spend your strength for nought, for your work will be with the Lord, and your recompense with God. Finally, Brethren, be ye all of one heart and one mind, love one another, and live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with you, and to bless you.