



Woodcock M.S.S.

THE MIGHT OF THE

Father of Heaven with the wisdom of his Glorious Son through the goodness of the Holy Ghost. Three Persons in one Godhead be with us at our Beginning and give us so to govern our Living that we may come to his Bliss that never shall have ending- AMEN.

Pg. 2. NOW GOOD BRETHREN and Fellows our

Purpose is to tell you how and in what manner this Craft of Masonry was begun and afterwards how it was founded by worthy Emperors Princes and many other worshipfull men. And also to them that have been --- Here we will declare them-----

THE charge that belongs to every true Mason to keep for in good faith if ye do good take heed there to it. its well worthy Pg. 3.

to be kept for a Worthy craft and curious Science. For their be seven Liberal Sciences of the which it is one. They be these following The first is GRAMMAR which teacheth aman to speak truly and write true. The second is RHETORICK that teacheth aman to speak fine, and in subtil terms. The third is LOGICK that teacheth aman to discern truth from falshood. The Fourth is ARITHMETICK that teacheth to number and reckon all manner of numbers, The fifth is GEOMETRY it teacheth to met and measure the Earth and other things of which Science is Masnory. The sixth is Musick that teacheth the craft of Song, Organs and Harp ----- The seventh is ASTRONOMY that teacheth to know the course of the sun and Moom and other Ornaments of the heavens, The seven Liberal Science the which be all one Science, That is to say, Geometry. Thus may a Man prove that all Sciences of the World be found'd out by Geometry For it teacheth you to know the met and Measure of Ponderation and weights of all kinds of the Earth and their is no man that Worketh by any Craft but he worketh by some Measure. Nor no Man thus buys and sells but by measure or weight. and all this is by Geometry And Crafts men and Merchants find no other of the seven Sciences And especially Ploughmen and tillers of the Ground and all manner of Grain, both Corn and Wines, seeds, Plants, and sets of other fruits For Grammar, nor Astronomy. nor any of all these can find to a

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a Man met and Measure with but Geometry. Wherefore I think that a worthy science that findeth out all others, And how that worthy Science first began I shall tell you-----

BEFORE NOAH'S FLOOD there was aman call'd LAMECH as its written in the 4th CHAP: of GEN: and this Lamech, had two Wives. the name of the one was ADAH. and the other ZILLAH By the first wife Adah. He begat two sons the one was call'd JABAL and the other JUBAL And by the other he had a son and a Daughter. and these four children found the begininge of all crafts in the World. This Jabal, was the elder son, and he found the first Craft of Geometry. He parted Flocks of Sheep and Lambs in the Field. And first wrought House of Wood and stone as is noted in the Chap: abovesaid, And his Brother



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Jubal found Musick, of song, Organs and Harp, And the Third Brother found out Smith's craft to work in Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron, and Steel. And the Sister NAAMAH found out the Art of weaving, These Children did know God would take vengeance for Sin either By fire or Water, Wherefore they writ the Science which they found out in two Pillars of Stone that they might be found out after the Flood, The one Stone was call'd Marble that can't burn with Fire, The other was call'd Laturne, that can't drown in the water. Our intent is to tell you truly and in what manner these stones were found that the crafts men writ in Greek----

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HERMERIUS. that was Son to CHUS and Chus son to Sem which was son to NOAH. This same Hermerius was afterwards call'd Hermes the Father of wisdom and found out the two pillars of Stone the Science writ thereon. And taught thereofth and at the making of the Tower of BABYLON there was the craft Masonry First found .and made much of, And the King of Babylon that was call'd HEMBROTH was a Mason, and loved the craft as its reported by the Masters of the Stories, And when the City Nineveh and other City's of the East ASIA should be made Hembroth, King of Babylon sent thither sixty Masons, at the desire of the King of Nineveh his cousin and when thry wentforth. he gave them a charge on this manner that they should serve the Lord for his Payment so that he might

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have worshipx for sending them to Him, Another charge he gave them and this was the first time that a Mason had any charge of his craft. NOWOVER when Abraham and sarah his wife went into Egypt, there he taught the Seven Liberal Sciences to the Egyptians and he had a worthy Scholar call'd EUCLID and learned right well and was Master of all the seven Liberal Sciences to the Egyptians, And in His Days it so fell out that the Lords and Estates of that Realm had so many sons that they had begot of their wives and some by other ladies of that Realm for that Land is a whole Land, And a replenisht generation, And they had not Living competent for their Children wherefore they made great sorrow, and the King of that Land Assembled a great Council at a PARLIAMENT to know how he might find



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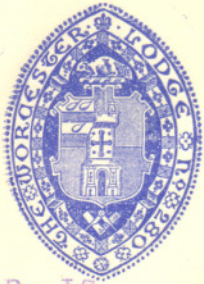
out to maintain their Children and they could find no good way, And He caus'd a crye to be made through the Realm if there was a man that could inform him that he should come unto him and he should be well rewarded for his travel, And should himself well please, Now after this Crye was made came this worthy Clerk EUCLID: and said to the King and all his great Lords if you will I will take your children to teach, and govern honestly as Gentlemen should be taught under condition that you will grant me a Commission and the worthy Doctor took to him the Lords Sons and taught them the Science of Geometry in practice to work in Stone. And all manner of worthy workes that belongs to Building of Castles and all manner of Courte Temples, Churches, with all other Buildings, And He gave them the manner. First that they should be true to King and Lord they served. And that they should Love well together and be true one to another and that they should call one another Fellow and not serv't nor knave nor any other foul name and that they should truly serve for they payment to their Lord which they serve And that they should obtain the wisest of them to be Masters of the Lords work. Not for love great livings or Riches to set any other that hath little cunning to be Master of the Lords work Whereby the Lord should be ill served and they samed. And that they should call the Governor of the work while they wrought with him Master of the work. and many other charges

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which were too long to tell. and to all the charges He made them swear the great Oath. Then men used and ordaind to men reasonable payments that they might live by it honestly and also that they might come and assemble themselves together that they might keep counsell in their crafts. How they might work their best to please their Lord for his profit and the worship of Him: And thus was the craft of Geometry founded then, And they should correct themselves if they had trespassed. And that worthy Master gave it the name GEOMETRY and it is called MASONRY in this Land since long after the Children of Israel were come into the land of the East It is now called the Countrey of JERUSALEM-----

Pg.12.

KING DAVID, began the Temple of Jerusalem which is with them called, TEMPLUM DOMINI and this same King David loved Masons well and cherished them, and gave them good payment and He gave them the charge and manners as he had them out of EGYPT given by Euclid other charges that ye shall hear afterwards, And after the death of King David SOLOMON that was son to King David performed out the Temple which His Father had begun And after Masons of divers Lande were gathered together so that he had four score thousand workmen of Stone and they were named Masons, And He had three thousand of them that were ordained



Pg.13.

Masters and governors of the work And there was a KING of another REGION whom Men call'd HIRAM and he loved well King Solomon and gave him timber for his work. And He had a son that was named AMON and a Master of GEOMETRY and he was chief Master of all his Masons And Master all his graven and carved work and of all other manner of Masonry that belong'd to the TEMPLE And all this is in the BIBLE This same Solomon confirm'd both charge and manners that his Father had given to masons And thus was that worthy craft Masonry confirm'd in the country of JERUSALEM and many other Kingdoms Glorious Craftsmen

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walking about into divers Kingdoms Some because of Learning more craft and some to teach their craft And so it befell that there was a curious Mason nam'd NANTUS GRAECUS that had been at the making of Solomons Temple and came into France He taught the Craft of Masonry to the men of FRANCE. so there was one of the ROYAL LINE of FRANCE. CHARLES MARTILL and He was a man which loved well the craft and drew to Him this Nantus Graecus a ye said and learned of him the craft-- and took upon him the charges. And afterwards by the Grace of GOD was elected King of France . And when he was in his stall he took to him many Masons. there that were none and set them att work, and gave them both charges

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and Manners and good pay which he had learned of other Masons and confirm'd a chart from year to year to hold their Assembly and cherish'd e'm much Thus came it into France ENGLAND all this while stood void of any charge of Masonry till the time of St ALBIN and in his time the King of England that was a PAGAN and he wall'd a Town that was call'd ST ALBINS and so St Albin was a worthy Knight chief steward to the King and had the Government of the Realm and also of making the Town wall and he loved Masons well and cherished them and made their pay right good standing as the Realm required, For He gave them every week. four shillings & sixpence

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Before that time through all the land a Mason had but a penny a Day and meat, till the time that St Albin amended it and gave them a Chart of the King and Council and gave it to the Assembly. And thereat he was himself and made Masons. and gave them charge as ye shall hear afterwards Right soon after the death of St Albin there came a great war into ENGLAND through divers nations. so that the good Rule of



Pg.16. contd.

Masonry was destroyed, untill the time of KING ATHELSTONE that was aworthy King of England and He brought the Land into good rest and Peace and builded many good Works of ABBEYS

Pg.17.

Castles and many other Buildings and He loved Mason well and He had a son named EDWING and he loved Masons much more This his Father dyed for he was full of Practise of Geometry Therefore He drew him to common Masons and to the craft he was a mason himself and he got of his Father a Chart and a Commiss- ionto hold every year an Assembly wherever he woud within the Realm and correct within themselves trespasses that were done within the craft, and held an Assembly at YORK and there he made Masons and gave them charges and taught them the manner of Masonry and commanded that this Rule shoud

Pg.18.

be holden hereafter and then He took the Chart and Commission to keep and made Ordinancies, and it shoud be observed from King to King, When this Assembly shoud be gatherd together that all Masons both old and young that had any knowledge or understanding of the charges that were made within this Land or any other Land, That they shoud show them forth- And there were some found in French, some in Greek, some in English, and some in other Languages, and the intent was found and commanded that it shoud be read and told when any MASON shoud be made, And to give his charge from that Day

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untill this time, Masons have been kept in order as well Men govern it.-----

AND FURTHERMORE as divers assemblies

have added certain charges more and more by the best advice of Masters and FELLOWS there shall one of the Ancientest of them hold a Book that he or they may lay his or their Hand or Hands upon the Book and these precepts fowling ought to be read to every Man that is a Mason, and take good head and make well his charge

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if you find yourselves guilty of any of these you may amend you a gain And especially ye that are to be charged, for its a great Peril for a Man to swear and that on a book

THE FIRST CHARGE is that you shall be a true Man to God and to the Holy Church and that you use no heresie not erro to your understanding, or by the teaching of in discreet Men, also you shall be true men to the King without Treason of false hood and that ye shall know no Treason, but you mind it- If you may or else warrant it the Kingor the Council thereof Also that you shall be true Men one to another

Pg.21.

That is to say be ewery Master or fellow of the Craft of Masonry That be Masons alloed, And ye do to them as ye woud they shoud do unto you. Also that every Mason keep true counsel of

Lodge and Charge



Pg.21. contd.

Lodge and Chamber and all other counsels that ought to be kept by way of Masonry. Also that no Man be Thief in company or otherwise as far forth as he may know: Also ye shall be true to the Lord and Master you serve and truly to see his Profit and advantage, Also that you shall call Masons your fellow and Brethren, and by no other foul name. Also ye shall not take your Fellows wife to villany, nor

Pg.22.

desire ungodly his Daughter or his Servt to his or your villany Also you shall pay truly for your Table and your meat and Drink where you shall go to board And that you do no villany in that House whereby the CRAFT shou'd be slandered These be the Charges in General which every Mason shoud hold both Masters and Fellows

REHEARSE I WILL other charges singular for Masters and fellows, That no Master shall take upon him any

Pg.23.

Lords work or other work, But that He know himself cunning to perform the same, so shall ye work, or craft have no dishonour But that the lord may be well and truly served. Also that Masters take no work. but at a reasonable rate and that He take it so reasonably that the Lord may be welland truly served with his own Goods, and the Master to live Honestly, and pay his fellows truly the pay as the manner of the craft doth require, Also that no Master or fellow supplant others of their work( Viz.) if he have work or stand Master of the Lords work ye shall put him out, If He be able of cunning to end the work. Also that no Master or fellow take to apprentice to be allow'd his

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apprentice, but for seven years: And that an apprentice be able of his Birth and line as he ought to be, Also that no Master or fellow take allowance to be made Master without the assent or consejt of his fellowsand at the least five or six, And He that is to be made or shall be made Mason over all, ( viz.) if He be free Born and of good kindred no Bond and that He have his right Limbs as a man ought to have, Also that no Master put any Lords work to task that want to go a journey: Also that every Mason, shall give no pay to his fellow or fellows but as he or they may deserve so shall he not be deceived by false Workmen



Pg.25.

Also that no fellow shall slander . one another falsely behind his Back to make him losse his good name or his Worldly Goods. Also that the fellows within the LODGE or without shall not do or misanswer one another. neither ungodly nor unreverently without Just cause, Also that no Mason play at Hazard, or any other unlawfull game whereby they may be slandered. Also that no Mason be a RIBBALD in Litchery, to make the craft..to be Slandera, and that no fellow go in the night time where there is a LODGE of fellows without a fellow be with Him to bear Him Witness that He was in a needfull place and honest also. Also that every Mason and fellow come to the Assembly if it be within fifty miles about Him- if He have any knowlegge or resonable understanding or warning thereof. Also that hath tresspassed Pg.26.

against the craft.there he shall abide and stand the word of the Master and fellows and to make him accord if they may not accord. Then to go the common law also: Also that no Mason make MOLD or SQUARE or Rule for any rough Layer. Also that no Mason set any Roughlayer within the Lodge or without. to hew Mold Stones with any Mold of his own Making. Also that every Mason shall receive and Cherish strange Fellows when they come the Countrey over and set them on work as the manner is ( Viz ) if they Mold Stones in any Place .He shall be sett at least a fortnight at Work and give Him his hire. If there be Stones; And if there be no Stones for Him in that Place to work on. Ye shall refresh Him with Pg.27.

Moneys. to bring him to the next LODGE and also you and every Mason shall serve truly and the Workers truly and end the work. be it task or journey if you may have your Pay as you ought to have. These Charges that we have reckoned and all other belonging to MASONRY you shall keep

So help you God---- and ----

Holy Boome. and by this

Book to your

Power

The paragraph omitted from Page 9. and now written on a loose slip and pinned to page 30.

that I may have Power to rule them honestly as the science ought to be ruled. So the King with the Council granted him anon and Seald him the Commission



Pg. 20

A SONG

To our Lodge we invite  
Lords Gentlemen and Knights  
none of any low Degree are admitted  
we think it no Disgrace  
To go to such a place  
where Kings and Volunteers may be lifted

And there you may be made  
Free of the best Trade  
of any one in the whole Nation  
If your guineas you will spend  
we'll count you as a Friend  
and hereafter be call'da free Mason

Our Antiquity of Old  
As in History have been told  
ever since the building of Bable  
We admit none to be  
but Gentlemen made free  
we except of no treat of the Rable

Then let us merry be  
Since there is none but we  
and every man content with his Station  
let no man ere repent  
for the Money that his spent  
since now he is made a free mason

When first we were made free  
We did Joyfully agree  
To such a severe Constitution  
Our secrets we disclose  
to none but such as those  
who are of an Intire Resolution

We dare not for our lives  
Disclose to our wives  
or any of our nighest Relations  
Our Secretts must be known  
to none but us alone

is of a safe free MASON