

COPY OF AIR LETTER.

Collins House,  
360, Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.1.  
Victoria, Australia.

Received 21st. August, 1946.

16th. August, 1946.

C.T. Barlow, Esq.  
London Works,  
Oldbury, BIRMINGHAM, England.

Dear Bro. Barlow,

My three boys, Fred, Roy, and Desmond, will be taking their Third Degree in the blue on Friday, September 20th. 1946, at the Parkdale Masonic Lodge 554.

The Grand Master has been kind enough to give a special dispensation for the event, which will permit the three to go through on the one occasion. It is of course causing a great deal of interest. The boys took their First and Second during the height of the war while in the military forces. Fred and Roy have since been discharged and Des. will probably receive his papers for discharge in a few months' time.

Knowing the respect in which you are held in Masonic circles in England and the knowledge you have of the craft, I am taking the liberty of suggesting you might do us the honour of sending a paper for the occasion which could be read at the conclusion of the ceremony.

We would like something that would not only impress the lads regarding the step they are taking, but make them realise more fully the beautiful degree they have passed through and what is expected of them as members of the craft. Coming from one so eminent in the Order would not only have the desired effect on the boys but also on others of the fraternity present.

Would you let Bro. Jack and Lawson Clarke know my boys are going through as I am sure they will be interested.

This request is rather hasty and you may not be able to have the message prepared and despatched by return air mail in time for September 20th. Therefore, if you consider this notice too short, do not hesitate to let me know - however, we will be hoping for the best.

Very kindest regards,

Yours fraternally,

(Signed) W.H. SWEETING.

21st. August, 1946.

Dear Bro. Sweeting,

I have received this morning your air mail letter, dated 16th. August, and feel very greatly honoured by the request that it contains. In the first place, let me congratulate you most sincerely on the coming event and I trust that the ceremony will proceed in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, producing happiness for all of you.

I have papers that were specially prepared at request and duly delivered in respect of both first and second degrees but there is some doubt in my mind if I ever wrote a paper in respect of the third degree. Immediately I get home tonight I will make thorough search and do my best to prepare something for you at very short notice and put it in the next air mail, hoping most sincerely that it will be in time and tendering to you now, in advance, apologies if the paper does not come up to expectations.

I have seen both Bro. Jack and Bro. Lawson Clark this morning as I had to make a quick trip to their works on another matter and, of course I gave as desired the information contained in your letter. It so happens that I am entirely alone at home for the next week or so as my people are away on a holiday; this will be rather helpful to me in trying to put a few words together for your very special occasion.

With kind regards,

Yours fraternally

W.H. Sweeting, Esq.  
Collins House, 300, Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.1.  
Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

21st. August, 1946.

To the Brethren of Parkdale Masonic Lodge 554.

Worshipful Master, Bro. Wardens and Brethren:-

A very great honour came to me this morning by air mail letter from Australia, dated 16th. August, and an acceptance was air-mailed back the same day. The invitation is to address you, by permission, on a very special occasion on 28th. September, 1946, - that is, the admission to the third degree of Brothers Fred, Roy, and Desmond Sweeting.

First, by permission, may I tender to you the hearty good wishes of Godson Lodge - 2905 - in the province of Worcestershire. It has been our honour and pleasure to receive several visits from brethren of your country; and certainly we look forward hopefully to further visits.

Next, may I send Masonic greetings to Bro. W.H. Sweeting, and thanks to him for many thoughtful acts of kindness.

And then, to Bros. Fred, Roy and Desmond, whom I have not seen, I tender sincere congratulations; and by your very kind invitation and permission, will they please accept these few words by way of address:-

Having now completed a novel experience, you will doubtless review it, stage by stage, in retrospect, and observe the very strange mixture of mental, physical and spiritual "repeats". You started with the questioning doubt of "shall I or not"? Probably, you consulted "father", which was very natural as well as complimentary to him. Inwardly pleased, but outwardly cautious, "father" went as far as possible, until finally you "knocked on the door", figuratively, of course. The delayed answer provided an anxious time. At a later date, did you observe that when certain physical knocks were made, you were still in a state of ignorance and without any guiding light. There was no apparent hurry to open the door - things had to take a proper normal course; enquiries had to be made even at this stage, and there was a further trial, before the friendly hand took hold of you. Soon there came an invitation to "advance"; and I doubt if you will easily forget the fumbling, shuffling, hesitating, slipshod first steps forward. How exactly like your earlier thoughts on the question "shall I, or not"!

Your most unforgettable moment was your introduction to the three Great Lights, plus, of course, to your new

circle of friends. Soon you discovered that to gain a friend you must be a friend, - to gain the help of a brother you must act in a brotherly manner.

I hope that you know every word of the "Charge". If not, study it closely until you are word perfect; but, in addition, learn to understand every phrase of it.

Another recommendation to you is that you carefully read and study the whole of chapter six of the second book of Chronicles. It is best to start with verse 13 of chapter five so as to get the full sense of the matter. Because of a question on the subject of the Open Book, put to me as a preceptor, I wrote and delivered my first masonic paper "Why the V.S.L. ?". The chapter records in clear and beautiful language the dedication of King Solomon's Temple, and is intended to remind you of your very recent dedication to full masonic service. Please read it more than once to get full understanding of its sense and beauty.

After serving your apprenticeship, your experience as a craftsman was somewhat brief, but you would observe that your progress was forward and upward, spirally as it were. Not only do we and should we advance in a forward direction, but we should strive to elevate our thoughts and ourselves from lower to higher planes or levels.

What a change is to be found in our third experience. Our day is done - our light has failed (or so it seems) and after being attacked from every quarter we pass out before a single glimmering ray. But the music, solemn at the introduction of it, finishes on a glorious note of triumph. Now we realize why, following our three steps which form the Cross of Calvary, and typical of our earthly and erratic trials and troubles, we were permitted to make four forward steps, boldly as though marching. Faith, following hope, tells us that there is something for us beyond the grave - light, eternal light, of which our present sun is but feebly representative. No doubt you had in your minds a verse which reads -

"And there shall be no night there;  
and they need no candle, neither  
light of the sun, for the Lord God  
giveth them light; and they shall  
reign for ever and ever."

In addition, I often think of chapter 60 of Isaiah, vv. 1, 2, 3, 19, and 20. It commences with the lovely words -  
"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, ----"

Very soon, as you begin to think things over, you will realise that only "substituted secrets" have been made known to you. Will you be satisfied? I doubt it. True, the light has shone for us and we have learned much; but there are still too many clouds between ourselves and the sun; too many veils hiding from us the fuller light towards which we would progress. The clear unclouded sun, neither physically nor spiritually, can be ours on this side of the grave, simply because we are not made to receive it; but we certainly want more light, having gone so far. "Substituted secrets" are not sufficient for us; and so we ask to be exalted into the H.E.A. where the sun at its meridian, and in all its splendour, shows us all that we could wish for; and once more we have a vision of light, more beautiful than before, ineffable, that will live with us all our days.

Let us exhort you not to be content with the bare candlelight of masonry, pure as it may be; but to progress a little further into the light of the SUN. The one is but a substitute, and a really good substitute, full of symbolism; but the other approaches reality and the FINITE comes as close as possible to the INFINITE. You will have no regrets. Complete your masonic education just as soon as you may and your circumstances permit. You have been exhorted and have unsworn, without neglecting the duties of your ordinary station in life, to endeavour to make a daily advancement in masonic knowledge; and here you will find a grand opportunity.

While it is true that we can obtain benefit from light without seeing it; and benefit from truth without acknowledging it, the greatest benefits must follow when light and truth are seen, acknowledged, and USED.

May you endeavour to see, to understand, to appreciate, and finally to USE in all your daily life, all the good for which masonry stands. Your father, your lodge, and masonry universal, offer you their united confidence, and promise you their full support and assistance. The brotherly hand is always outstretched, waiting to grasp and to be grasped in exchange.

C.T. BARLOW, 30°

O.B.E.

London Works,  
Oldbury, Birmingham.

London Works,  
OLDBURY, Near Birmingham.

23rd. August, 1946.

Dear Bro. Sweeting,

I got busy on the evening of the 21st. August to try to prepare some matter for the special occasion on 20th. September, and I now have pleasure to enclose the brief paper, in the hope that it may serve the occasion. My brother Jack, as well as Bro. Simon Tait, have both read it through, previous to the making of certain little alterations and additions, and both approve the general outline. I shall be very sorry indeed if it does not meet with your wishes but you will appreciate that time is very short and I have to do my best at short notice.

If you have a school-master in the Lodge may I offer the suggestion that you allow him to read through the paper several times, well in advance of the 20th. September, so that in reading it aloud to the Lodge he may lay correct stress here and there, where necessary. Of course, on the other hand, you may have the right individual to do the reading and he may not be a school-master; naturally this must be left to you.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

P.S.- Copy of this letter and copy of the paper will be despatched by next air-mail.

W.H. Sweeting, Esq.  
Collins House,  
360, Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.1.  
Victoria, Australia.

000  
London Works,  
OLDBURY, BIRMINGHAM.


2nd. September, 1946.

Dear Bro. Sweeting,

I received on the 26th. August your air-mail letter dated 20th. August, which refers to the consecration of your new Chapter, but does not mention the date. I will think things out very carefully within the next few days and endeavour to prepare some suitable matter, which shall be sent to you by air mail.

Your fourth parcel of good things came to hand on the 30th. August and, once more, is greatly appreciated. It would be wrong of me to suggest that you send anything in particular because that would destroy some of the pleasure of receiving from you. Nothing is wasted but I am afraid that my grandchildren enjoy most the good things that come along. It is the wonderfully kind spirit that actuates you and so many others to do these kind things that is enjoyed most by the older persons on this side and I can assure you that there is real appreciation.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,  


W.H. Sweeting, Esq.  
1st. Floor,  
Collins House,  
360, Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.1.  
Victoria,  
AUSTRALIA.

C O P Y .

1st. Floor,  
Collins House,  
360, Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.1.  
Victoria, Australia.

Received 26th. August, 1946.

20th. August, 1946.

C.T. Barlow, Esq.  
London Works,  
Oldbury,  
BIRMINGHAM, England.

Dear Bro. Barlow,

I received your letter of the 20th. June and thank you very much indeed for your kind thought regarding the dissemination of some of your Masonic literature.

The offer of a copy of a Chapter T.B. by a French artist has indeed intrigued the members of our proposed new chapter at Mordialloc, the consecration of which I previously wrote you. They are most enthusiastic ritualists and deeply appreciate your work for the craft.

Our preparations for furnishing the chapter have revealed a considerable lack of standardisation regarding chapter requisites. There seems to be no accepted standard laid down for many items, with the result the types of picks, shovels, candlestick holders, bands, principal's sceptre, etc. all vary in length, thickness, shape, design and general specification. It does seem a pity the people directing the destinies of the H.R.A. Chapter have not compiled plans and specifications of the furnishings to guide members.

However, we will eventually overcome these difficulties and, if necessary, replace items which are considered incorrect when authentic information is available.

By the way, if you would care to send a message to be read at the opening of the Mordialloc Chapter, I am sure it would be very well received and, worded in your inimitable style, would help to keep the companions enthusiastic.

I am pleased indeed to hear that the parcels are arriving in good order. We are limited to one per month to each address. Should there be any delicacies you would like us to include do not hesitate to let me know as it will be a pleasure to forward them. As far as possible we try to include items of the greatest appeal or which may be difficult to obtain in the Old Country, in an effort to help balance the diet.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

Yours fraternally,

(Signed) W.H. SWEETING.



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VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

10.14

24th October, 1946.

BY AIRMAIL.

*recd. 30 Oct.*

C. T. Barlow, Esq.,  
London Works,  
Halesowen Street,  
Oldbury,  
BIRMINGHAM. England.

Dear Bro. Barlow,

I have delayed replying to your letter of 23rd August pending completion of the 3 boys passing through the Third.

The paper was delightful and a very acceptable presentation - the W.M. and members were most impressed and needless to say it had the desired effect on the boys.

The reaction of several visiting W.M.'s. has brought numerous inquiries for copies of the paper which I have gladly supplied. An interstate W.M. from Adelaide - 500 miles distant - in reply expressed great pleasure at hearing the message and concluded his remarks saying "only a very fine character and worthy member of the Craft would present such a delightful and thoughtful paper as that given us from C. T. Barlow". I tell you this that you may find pleasure in the knowledge that the effort was not wasted.

My Wife and I are very glad indeed to know that the parcels are arriving satisfactorily and that they bring you so much pleasure. There are a few more surprises on the way which we hope may in some way bring joy to you and yours.

With all good wishes,

Yours fraternally,

*W. H. Sweeney*

30th. October, 1946.

Dear Bro. Sweeting,

Your air-mail letter of the 24th. October came to hand this morning and I am most pleased to hear of the acceptable manner in which my effort was received. Your letter will be filed with a copy of the paper, and I shall show it to those of our mutual friends who were kind enough to read and to criticise the paper after it had been despatched. Among these will be my brother Jack and Bro. Simon Tate.

Let me confess to you that so far I have failed entirely to make any headway with the further paper for which you have asked me. Several times I have made a start, but the state of my mind has not been right for that job and so each attempt has been scrapped before completion.

The new painting of the tracing board has been completed and left open for criticism. A couple of suggestions are being adopted, and when preparations have been made on a separate sheet of paper which can be attached to the original, there will be a further inspection when I hope that final approval will be given by certain of our members. In due course I shall do my best to see that you have a copy in colours.

It is not quite an easy job to get the various articles written up so as to produce a satisfactory book, but I have set aside the sum of £100 by way of compensation, and this will be on offer to some of our Ministers, and perhaps others, who are able of dealing with the various articles required.

Just over a week ago the man most capable of tackling the job in a simple manner, passed away rather suddenly. This was the Rev. A.E. Edge, a friend dating back to the time of my youth, and he had a style of his own, using simple words and simple illustrations. I have written to ask his widow if she can find any of his lectures dealing with any section of the subject, and I am pretty certain that she will let me have these. I am also seeking her advice on the subject and other enquiries are being made which I hope may have successful results.

<sup>TEED</sup> You have not said whether you have yet made the acquaintance of the Rev. R.H. Teague, in Melbourne. He would know his old colleague, the Rev. A.E. Edge, but the news of his passing may not have reached him. I wonder if you would be kind enough to telephone to him?

With all good wishes,

Yours fraternally,

From - London Worker

W.H. Sweeting, Esq.,  
Messrs. British Tube Mills (Australia) Pro. Ltd.,  
337, Collins Street, MELBOURNE, C.1.  
Victoria, Australia.