

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

From the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

A. L. F. Cook Esq.

The Bell House.

Hayes, Middlesex.

September 20<sup>th</sup> 1927.

TELEPHONE HAYES 109

Dear Sir and W. Bro.

The answer to your query is as follows.

The salute to be given to the SP. M. is the knockers of the degree only. no punch sign.

The number of times this salute should be given depends on the rank of your new SP. M. If he is W. M. he is entitled to 5; if below that rank, only 3, but he is given 5 (although only entitled to 3 really) by courtesy in his own province. I hope this makes clear the point you want to know.

Yours faithfully & fraternally

Arthur L. F. Cook

A.L.F.

W. Bro. Eng. & Rev. Adm. W. T. W. Curtis.

Private and confidential

LEGERTON GRESSENT  
PLYMOUTH.

Dear Mr. Curtis

I was so glad that you came to our Installation last evening in spite of the wretched weather and your having a bad cold. I hope you have not suffered any ill effects from your attendance.

I was especially interested in your remarks in response to the Toast of the Grand Lodge re Lodge method and Grand Lodge Honors. I am assuming that your thoughts were directed towards myself.

I know I shall not be trespassing on your kindness if I ask you to do what you can for me in the matter. My name has been mentioned and the very next time I saw the P. G. Sec he promised to do all he could for me.

I should be ready to make any expenses attaching to a Grand Lodge honor.

It is not my opinion that a working man gets Grand Lodge honors but I venture to suggest that the record of my services to our community does deserve recognition.

I was initiated in 1875 Lord Chas. Bessford being W. M. in 1882 I was installed as W. M. made Secretary in 1892 and from then to date. In 1896 I was made P. G. Sec and in 1912 I had P. G. Secants with yourself and from my first entry I have never been an idler always taking active work. I have attended 53 Installations in Metham Lodge in the West. I have passed through the chain in the rank appointed P. G. Sec in 1905 and been Scribe 6 times since 1900.

With the formation of St. Andrew No 4276 as you know  
I was a Founder and the 1st Master  
I have been Secretary of the Trustees of The Mount Calvary  
Masonic Hall since the formation

I will not bother you with any more details but will  
conclude by saying that if you can do anything to  
bring about my being honored with a collar I shall  
ever be grateful. I was born in 1875 so I leave you to  
see that I am getting on in years

Thanking you in anticipation and requesting  
you to keep this private and confidential

Yours faithfully

P. J. Gunn Dec 12 05

Mr. Adm. F. W. Curtis  
P. O. Box B  
Buff

8 St. Michael Avenue  
Ford. Devonport.  
24.9.24

Dear Wm Sir & Bro

referring to my statement last evening  
at St. Aubyn that the the brethren remain  
seated during the reading of the Scriptures  
I felt sure I had read it. The ritual I shewed  
you was Ritual 7<sup>o</sup> 1 dated 1920.

On remarking about this to my brother  
he confirmed my statement and this  
morning brought the ritual <sup>1924</sup> up. I quote from  
it, At page 40 ritual 7<sup>o</sup> 1 Ceremony of  
Advancement - 1926

" The W. M. sounds his gavel, and the  
Chaplain rises and reads 2 Chron ii v. 11-16.  
Brethren remain seated."

I am writing at once, though I know  
you must be busy getting ready for tomorrow  
- my brother having told me that, should you  
wish it, I can post the ritual on to you  
for confirmation

Yours fraternally

Eng<sup>r</sup> P. Admiral L. S. Durlig.  
Plymouth

Lieut Com<sup>dr</sup> L. S. Farlow  
Prov<sup>ost</sup> & Asst Sec<sup>y</sup>  
Cornwall.

Provincial Grand Chapter, Devonshire.

66, St. Thomas,  
Exeter.

16<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1929

Dear Ex. Joseph Justice

In reply to your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, unquestionably you are correct in your opinion that the method adopted for the election of Principals at the Chapter referred to was irregular. The correct method either for the election of a Warrantor, or Principal is for the names of those eligible to be read out and the ballot taken by each Member writing the name for whom he votes on a slip of paper provided for the purpose - I know misconception prevails in many Chapters as to the proper mode, and I also know a great deal of latitude is sometimes taken over the elections.

Trusting you are keeping fit well  
With kind regards

Yours sincerely & gratefully  
Henry Stocker  
P. G. S. E.

Ex. Pr. Adm. J. J. Justice

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DEVONSHIRE.

66, ST THOMAS,

EXETER.

18.3.1917

Dear Bro. Curtis

Excuse the delay in replying to your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant date - I have had a *raspe* and again *hors de combat* -

I will not go so far as to say that it is illegal or unconstitutional for the Master of a Lodge to postpone the "Charge" to an Initiate, to a future Lodge meeting, but I may inform you that in the opinion of the Prot. & Master, the D.P.G. Master and myself it is incumbent on the Master so to arrange the work of his Lodge that it should be given to every brother on the day of his Initiation - That this is intended is evinced by the opening lines of the Charge "Bro - Having passed through the Ceremony of your I. allow me to congratulate you on being admitted a member of an ancient & honorable Institution" - If this is addressed to a brother a month or more after he has been admitted, the Congratulation would be apt to appear to be somewhat belated -

With every good wish

Wm. F. J. W. Curtis D.P.G.M.

Believe me yours sincerely & fraternally  
Henry Stocker D.P.G.M.

The tumbler inculcates the necessity of moderation in all things, for as it has no graduated scale by which to measure its varying contents, the user must exercise his judgement as to the quantity of liquid poured therein, so we are expected to ascertain and not to exceed the limits of our internal economy, for as a tumbler will only hold a certain quantity without detriment to its surroundings, so should we learn our capacity and thus avoid either overflowing with unbecoming hilarity or confusing our mental and physical powers, for as the perfect tumbler rings true, whether it be empty or whether it contains liquid, so should the perfect M. ring true after the labour in this degree.

A cracked tumbler is despised and rejected.

Thus the working tools of a convivial M. teaches us to bear in mind and act according to the cardinal virtues of Prudence and Temperance so that when we shall be summoned to drink the Tylers toast, after partaking of all the good things which a bountiful providence has provided for us, we may arise and depart homeward with level steps and equal poise and the gratifying testimony of a contented mind and a clear brain.



9  
5  
24.

The Priory  
Whitchurch  
Tavistock.

Dear Admiral Burtens.

As unfortunately Mr Mahony  
can no longer represent our  
family interests on the board  
of the Duke of Cornwall Hotel Co  
my family are desirous that I



should fill the vacancy. and  
I should much like to do so, I  
am a big shareholder & feel a  
keen interest in the concern &  
shall be glad if you will give  
me your support.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

E. S. Hayes.

Dear Adm<sup>r</sup> Curtis  
30 Thorn Hill Rd  
Plymouth.

We

We meet upon the Level & part upon the Square  
What words of precious masonic meaning these words Masonic are  
Come let us contemplate them they are worthy of deep thought  
With the highest & the noblest & the rarest they are fraught

We meet upon the Level tho' from every station come  
The rich man from his mansion & the poor man from his home  
The one must leave his wealth & state outside the Mason's door  
The other finds his true respect on the checkered floor

We part upon the Square for the world must have its due  
We mingle with the multitude a faithful band & true  
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green  
And well upon the Level to renew the happy scene

There's a world where all are equal we are hurrying toward it fast  
We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of death are past  
We shall stand before the Orient & our Master will be there  
To try the blocks we offer by his own un-erring Square

We shall meet upon the Level there but never thence depart  
There's a mansion - tis all ready for each trusting faithful heart  
There's a mansion & a welcome & a multitude is there  
Who have met upon the Level & be tried in the Square

Let us meet upon the Level then while laboring patient here  
Let us meet upon the Level & let us labor tho' the labor be severe  
Already in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare  
To gather up our working tools & part upon the Square

Hands round ye brother Masons form the bright fraternal chain  
We part upon the Square below to meet in heaven again  
O what words of precious meaning these words Masonic are  
We meet upon the Level & part upon the Square

11

In Whiston's Josephus (Antiq. 1.3.5) the Armenians are said to have called the traditional "place of descent" at Ararat "Nachidshuan", the original authority, for this assertion being Moses of Chorene, the Armenian historian (A.D. 460).

"Nach-idshe-wan" is composed of two Armenian words: "Nach" = first, and "idshe-wan" = landing-place. The latter word is apparently derived from a verb idshanel = to descend, and therefore may originally have meant "place of descent", but the etymology is archaic and colloquial.

The authority for the foregoing statement is the Armenian Reader in Cambridge University: and may therefore be relied on; especially as he endorses the opinion of the Armenian Expert at the British Museum.

The result therefore is that the Armenian name was more correct than the Greek equivalent, for ἀπὸ τῆς ἱερῆς strictly means "a thank offering for safe arrival", made on disembarking after a voyage. Thus it would refer rather to Noah's sacrifice (Genesis 8<sup>20</sup>) than to the place where the family descended from Ararat. The latter meaning seems to be the best explanation of its use in the decree, answering the question

" Whence did R. A. Masons come? "

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3 Hill Crest  
Mannamead  
Feb'y. 26th 1925

Admiral Curtis:

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you on behalf of the Great Western orchestra for your kindness in obtaining an interview with Mr. Baron, your manager at the Ritz, Park Lane, in connection with a booking for an orchestral concert on Sunday, March 8th.

Unfortunately, many of the members are not available on this date & I have had to write Mr. Baron to that effect.

I have informed him that the best time of the year for a full muster being available is during the months of October or November and that

perhaps he will keep this  
in mind & arrange a  
bookings one Sunday  
evening during either  
of these months.

Let me add from a  
personal point of view  
that, if at any time I can  
be of assistance either  
to you or our masonic  
brethren from a  
musical point of view  
the orchestra will be  
only too willing to  
assist you during a  
dinner or some other  
function free of any  
fee.

Yours sincerely  
& fraternally  
W. R. A. Prior

6 Hermon Terrace  
Severell  
Plymouth  
April 25th. 1924

Dear Sir,

I sincerely hope that you will overlook my apparent presumption in writing you personally.

A member of my Lodge, (Elms 1212) suggested that I got into communication with you, with the object of enlisting your assistance, in my endeavours to obtain a post in H.M. Dockyard or elsewhere (clerical or otherwise.)

Before deciding to take this liberty, I called on W. Bro G. Leitch, to obtain his advice on the matter.

He kindly furnished me with your address, and was of the opinion, that you would not consider me presumptuous in approaching you on this subject. I am a

retired regular Army officer, having  
retired with gratuity on August  
13th 1922, due to the reduction of  
officer establishment. Since my  
retirement, in spite of innumerable  
applications, I have been unsuccessful  
in obtaining a post, and after  
20 months of unemployment, I am  
beginning to feel somewhat alarmed.

My credentials will bear the  
closest scrutiny and I possess  
testimonials from the last three  
Bondg Offrs I served under

During my service I continually  
held authoritative positions of trust,  
where keen interest, tact, and judgment  
were essential. In these days, one  
is only too thankful for any  
remunerative post, and if you  
can possibly assist me, I shall  
be extremely grateful. Hoping  
that the liberty I have taken, may  
be attributed to my keenness and  
anxiety in obtaining employment

I am

Sir,  
Yours faithfully  
L. B. Jones



# The Masonic "If"

If you can do the work when all about you  
are missing words & letting things go wrong  
and never let a minor office flout you  
But make the Brethren think "He's going strong"  
If you can take the Chair of J. I. I.  
and prove the L. Close tiled & make it so  
or as a S. W. do the Closing  
and see they have their due before they go  
If you can take the Chair & do the working  
of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 3<sup>rd</sup> of  
and while you frown on luxury or shirking  
yet please your colleagues with your dignity  
If you can fill up each Masonic Minute  
and show the L. how Charities are run  
yours is the L. & everything that's in it  
and P. R. will come to you - my son.