

ADDRESS

on the presentation of the
Volume of the Sacred Law

It is my privilege to present to you a copy of the Volume of the Sacred Law on which you have been obligated and which, as you have already been instructed, is the first of the Three Great Lights of Freemasonry.

This book was over fifteen hundred years in the making, and there was a period of some four hundred years between the history of the last Book of the Old Testament and the first Book of the New. Subsequently, ten centuries passed before the first crude and partial translation in English appeared, which resulted in our first Authorised Version in the reign of King James in Anno Domini 1611.

The Holy Bible contains Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, Letters, Morals, Philosophy, Medicine and Divine Light and Truth. Its authorship is no less varied; amongst its contributors were Lawyers, Historians, Poets, Prophets, Teachers, Mystics, Kings, Shepherds and Fishermen.

As silver threads gleam in a darker fabric, so flashes of light arise from its pages, reflecting the character of God and His Love for mankind. Everything that could be done has been done in the ages of intolerance to destroy this Book. Men have been imprisoned, tortured and burned at the stake for defending its teachings.

Its pages have been moistened these hundreds of years by tears of joy . . . and of sorrow. They have been thumbed and soiled by the fingers of Kings in their palaces and prisoners in their cells. Monarch and peasant alike have found it a source of consolation and strength, of courage and hope.

In presenting you with this Book, your Lodge bids you read it frequently, not with your eyes alone but also with your heart. For, as you grow familiar with its contents, so will it be as a lamp unto your path, and an ever ready landmark in your future Masonic career.