

2008

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Trustee Board



Watch out for the little ones while driving.

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The Level and Square

Robert Morris

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square
What priceless words of meaning these words Masonic are
Come, let us contemplate them, They are worthy of a thought;
In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level and from every station come
The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home,
For the rich must leave their wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
And the poor man finds his best respects upon the Checkered Floor.

We meet upon the Plumb, 'tis the order of our Guide
We walk upright in every way and lean to neither side;
The All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts and doth bear us witness true,
That we still try to honor God and give each man his due.
We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due,
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true,
But the influence of our gatherings in Masonry is green,
And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There is a World where all are equal, we are hurrying to it fast,
We shall meet upon the Level when the Gates of Death are past;
We shall stand before the Orient and our Master shall be there,
To try the blocks we offer with His own unerring 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 is a Mansion and a welcome and a multitude is there;
Who have met upon the Level and been tried upon the Square.

Let us meet upon the Level then while laboring patient here;
Let us meet and let us labor though the labor be severe,
Already in the western sky the signs bid us prepare,
To gather up our working tools and part upon the Square.
Hands round Ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal chain,
We part upon the Square below and meet in Heaven Again;
And the words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are,
"WE MEET UPON THE LEVEL AND WE PART UPON THE
SQUARE"

“Secrets Revealed”

Freemasonry is sometimes accused of being a Secret Society. This is an interesting, if absurd, suggestion. Our lodges meet in the centre of our towns, usually in buildings clearly identified as Masonic Halls. We even advertise our meetings in the public press. Add to this the proliferation of 'exposures' that at times seem to obsess the media. Freemasonry in Scotland must be the least secret of all known 'Secret' Societies or perhaps just the least competent in maintaining secrecy.

There is a great need today for a new ethos in society where the virtues of the past can be re-instated and again sustained. One of the most remarkable features of modern Freemasonry is that the old virtues, the moral teachings, the concern we have for others have never been out of fashion. The foremost principles of Freemasonry are faith, hope and charity. Apparently this fundamental fact remains unknown to our self-appointed critics. Perhaps it is amongst our best kept secrets.

As a reader of this new magazine we hope you will become more aware of the need to propagate some more of our secrets. This hope is expressed particularly to members of our organization but also to others who may have some interest in the affairs of the Craft.

We hope you will all learn that most of the members who join our meetings are unaware of the profession or occupation of the other members. It is not important to anyone or part of our great ethos. This could not be said of other organizations such as Rotary or the Lions who also carry out excellent work for the community. Through our magazine you may learn something of the good works done by our Lodges, of the grants we make to worthwhile purposes, the help that we may offer. All of which is done almost in secret and certainly not with the blaze of publicity that accompanies any new 'exposure' or the thinly disguised and carefully coordinated attacks on the principles of Freemasonry that we have experienced recently.

It would be wrong to suggest that we do not have our problems.

The biggest of these are apathy and its brother indifference when they are present amongst our membership. In addition we have from time to time to deal with bad or unacceptable behavior. When this happens, unlike almost any other fraternal organization, we act decisively to preserve our dignity and maintain a good reputation. We can make a good man better but we cannot make a bad man good.

We hope that you will see a more balanced and truer picture of Scottish Freemasonry from our magazine. You will certainly learn in this first issue of our long history and experience some the obvious enthusiasm that our writers feel for the Craft. If for some reason you do not then we will take comfort from that old Lancashire saying 'a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still'.

The question that must arise is how could our organization have survived so long if it did not practice the admirable principles upon which it was founded. The answer is, of course, that Freemasonry survives because it does. It offers men of every creed and background an opportunity of meeting as equals without becoming a threat to anyone's liberty or beliefs. Attempts to prove otherwise will fail because a lie cannot be proven by repeating it louder.

Whatever you may think of our first issue we are certain that you would approve of one fact, any and all profits arising from the sale of this magazine will help those amongst us who need assistance. The staff, contributors and helpers have all donated their services voluntarily. Again this underlines the Masonic way of giving service without publicity or hope of reward. To all our readers, we trust that you will judge kindly our efforts and give us your support. If we could improve this magazine, tell us how. We will listen to you and act on your advice. The future of the magazine, its' potential for good, its' truthful and hopefully entertaining voice are now in your hands.

Angus N. MacInnes,
Managing Editor, *The Ashlar*
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