

~~Temple Speech~~

APPENDIX No 1

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Brethren -

With each returning occasion, the difficulty augments in performing the agreeable duty of delivering the Address usual at the Consecration of a New Lodge in this Province.

This difficulty does not arise from lack of interest or material, for there is no subject in Freemasonry so rich in matter, or so elevated in its symbolisms as the ceremonial of the Consecration of a New Lodge; but in placing before you concisely and clearly the points on which I desire to address you in regard to the circumstances of the establishment of this New Lodge in Pudsey, which is fresh Masonic ground in the West Riding.

Therefore, the more you and I reflect on the vital principles inculcated in the ceremony in which we have been engaged, the more anxious should we be to treat of it with that respect which it claims, and to enforce the desirability of regarding this ceremony with that amount of veneration which its antiquity demands.

I entreat you, Brethren, to ponder deeply on its meaning and its symbolic mystery, and that the founders of this Lodge, having pledged themselves to its solemn teachings, "to meet in unity, work in peace, and part in harmony," it devolves upon them, as Masons, to shew further, not only in the Lodge, but also in society, and in their daily lives, of how noble an Order they have become affiliated as members of this great fraternity - to be proud of the position Craft Masonry has assigned them today, and to take care and prevent its retrograding from the high estimation in which it is at present held by mankind at large.

To gain this end, we must, during our earthly existence, with untiring zeal, and unswerving faith, perform the tasks allotted to us while it is yet day and we can work.

As trusty workmen we must employ our working tools to harmonize our conduct by the prescriptions of virtue; so to measure our duties, and press forward in the path of morality and virtue, that we may rise to eminence by merit; that we may live respected and die regretted. Taking the Holy Writings to be our guides to all truth, we may bury the rubbish of the old Adam, and that our spirits may be purified to arise when summoned by our tremendous but merciful Judge into a better and immortal life above.

I desire you then, to regard this Ceremony - the Consecration of the St Laurence Lodge, No. 2330, on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of England, as the setting apart of these rooms solely and exclusively to the performance of the rites and ceremonies of Freemasonry.

I desire that this Ceremony shall carry with it, in the hearts of its founders, the confirmation of those pledges to which they have subscribed in the form of the petition to the M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, "To exert their best endeavours to diffuse the general principles of the Masons' Art in Pudsey, and faithfully to observe the Antient Charges, cultivating brotherly love, the foundation and cope stone, the cement and glory of this Antient Fraternity, by being good Masons, and true and strictly obeying the Moral Law"; ever remembering that this Consecrated Lodge is a place where Freemasons assemble to work, to instruct, and to improve themselves in the mysteries of the Antient Science; "and to disseminate good will to all men."

Today, therefore, you stand forth as true Masons in a regularly constituted Lodge under the G.L. of England.

Let the typical symbolisms of this ceremony, inculcated by the water, corn, oil, wine, salt and incense, sink as lessons into your minds, and make you feel that you are better men and better citizens, because you have been commanded by Masonry to be so.

I know you will strive to act on the square and the principles of Masonry, and live up to your obligations; therefore I feel the Warrant of the M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and confirmed by Grand Lodge, Dec. 4th, A.L.5889, is confided to Worthy Masons, for all time to come, in Pudsey, being the 75th Lodge in West Yorkshire.

As practice more than precept moulds the minds and manners of men, and governs the world, let the wisdom of Solomon, and the bright example of your patron Saint - St Laurence - be for ever before you, who, in his day, by seeking out the poor, the sick, the naked and the hungry, consoling the persecuted, and dispensing alms, and performing works of charity and mercy in Rome, demonstrated the excellence of his principles, and by his acts and his daily life and conversation, which gave them their soundest and happiest exemplification, and thus prepared the way for his famous and frightful martyrdom.

The subjects of his life, briefly stated, are these:- He was ordained Deacon by Pope Sixtus, who gave to St Laurence the Consecrated cup, and the treasures of the church. He distributed these treasures as alms; he washed the feet of poor Christians; he met St Sixtus as he was led to death, and received his blessing. He restored sight to Lucillus; he baptized Hippolytus. He was brought before the Roman Prefect, Decius; he was by his orders scourged with thorns. He was loaded with lead; he refused to give up the treasures committed to his care; he was roasted alive on a gridiron, 10th August, A.L.4258. His body was wrapped in a shroud and buried by Hippolytus.

Thus did St Laurence earn a crown of glory in heaven, and upon earth eternal and universal praise and fame; for there is scarcely

a city or town in all Europe which does not contain a sacred edifice or altar dedicated to his memory.

The first of these was built by Constantine outside the gates of Rome, on the spot where he was buried; and another was built on the summit of the Pincian Hill, where he was martyred; and besides, there is in Spain the Escorial, and in Genoa the Cathedral, to his honour and renown.

In 1821, when Pudsey emerged from the hamlet-stage to that of a village, by the building of a church at a cost of £13,400, the people dedicated this sacred edifice to St Laurence.

St Laurence thus became the patron Saint of Pudsey, and the promoters of this Lodge, on the 13th September 1889, adopted my suggestion to take the name of this Saint as the name for this Lodge. The founders also trust in due time to apply for the Order of St Laurence to be attached to their Lodge.

Pudsey, whose chief trade is in woollens, contains about 16,000 people, and it is surrounded with the populous villages of Farsley, Stanningley and Bramley, all of which are situated about midway between the towns of Leeds and Bradford, so that Pudsey (founded into a Parish so recently, from the Parish of Calverley, as the 5th April 1878) and its surroundings has a population of about 30,000.

While there is no Masons' Lodge nearer than Eccleshill, Leeds or Bradford, there is every reason, with these advantages, to anticipate that the Lodge of St Laurence, No. 2330, has a prosperous and a happy career before it, commencing with the first W.M. Bro. John Symonds, P.M. of No. 387, and one of the most able and respected Superintendents of the West Riding Police Force at Bradford.

There is to be found in the life of the early martyrs of Christendom, no greater example of fortitude, charity, and humility, than in the life and death of St Laurence.

There is, in my opinion, no higher example for Masons to imitate than in the sayings and acts of this holy man.

The brightness of his deeds can only be made brighter by the study and investigation of his life.

He has shown how Masons can be true, noble and faithful even unto death.

He shewed his enemies and slanderers how he loved the human family. He inculcated broader sympathies for mankind, and he developed a deeper intellectuality, by opening the minds of his followers the avenues of intellectual religious freedom. His last words were "I thank Thee, O my God and Saviour, that I have been found worthy to enter into Thy beautitude."

Here then you have a guide and light in Masonry; a guide and light of a Saint for the founders of this Lodge to imitate and to follow after - the light of religious thought - the light a Mason needs for a successful guide in life, and so that in great measure he may enjoy the full fruition of a well-spent life, with the pure and certain hope, like St Laurence, of a glorified life in the Grand Lodge above.

If you are good Masons you will realize the lessons inculcated by this ceremony, and by this picture of St Laurence, in your own persons.

Your obligations, if they mean anything, signify that you will devote yourselves to others; that you have resolved to try and form in this district "All just, perfect, and upright men" into one universal brotherhood; to gather up, as it were, the fragments of a ruined nature, and build them into a perfect Temple, whose "corner-stone" is taken from the quarries of Eternal Truth, and whose timbers are stronger than the Cedars of Lebanon. The builder builds for time, but we for eternity - for the Grand Lodge above, in which we hope to dwell.

Then let us feel and shew that we are engaged in this Lodge in a far more enduring work in erecting on those symbolic but wondrous pillars - "Wisdom", "Strength" and "Beauty", in each one of us - a living Temple in the living God, a Temple not to be judged merely by its outer magnificence, but by its inner decorations of the heart, and by the Word of Truth, which is to last for ever.

I have tried concisely and clearly to point out to you that Masonry is the religion of education under forms and ceremonies. It pays homage to no other system. The "Volume of the Sacred Law" alone "rules and regulates" our actions; and because of its independence as a patriotic, an honourable, loyal, and Philanthropic Institution, Masonry has vitality in West Yorkshire, and will have life and action in Pudsey for all time to come.