

A SHINING LIGHT

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We frequently hear complaints from some of our Masonic leaders that it is apparent for some reason or another, men seem to be losing interest in Masonry. They point to a definite decrease in lodge attendance, difficulty in getting members to serve on committees or perform other duties. They say there is a lack of interest among the brethren which characterized the work of the craft in the past; that, as a general rule, the untiring energy and constant care in advancing and upholding its teachings and requirements are not so great as in the good old days.

If such conditions as these leaders call to our attention actually exist, the fault is most certainly not in the z and observation of ages can detect, are as nearly perfect as human wisdom can devise. If not in these, the fault must be necessarily be found in the failure to observe and practice them. To every well informed Mason the evidence is too strong and too conclusive to doubt the latter.

However, this is not true of every lodge or individual Mason. There are, fortunately, many well governed, prosperous lodges in this and other jurisdictions, together with many active, zealous Masons doing their duty. The declining interest in some sections, in my opinion, can be awakened by those who have remained loyal to the teachings of Freemasonry. It is our duty to stimulate interest and induce lukewarm lodges, and indifferent brethren to regain lost ground and move abreast with us in relieving the distressed and improving the moral state of man.

Masonry has done and is capable of doing much for the good of the world to be allowed to fail in its mission. We know that Masonry stands for that which is good, and that which is good, lasts. It is a bright shining light guiding men to a better way of living. Just as there is not enough darkness in the entire world to extinguish the light of a small candle, neither shall the enemies of Masonry be able to wipe this noble institution out of existence.

We can put new life into our lodges by making our meetings as instructive and pleasant as possible, so that the members will look forward to them with pleasant anticipation. Out of the lodge let every brother practice the duties and high moral lessons taught therein. This should be the constant endeavour of everyone, however great or small may be his failures or shortcomings. Failures and defects may outnumber the victories at first, but keep in mind that diligence and perseverance will eventually overcome all things, and one victory will help another to win, until the faithful and persevering brethren will surmount all obstacles and emerge complete victors and this world will be a far better place in which to live.

Freemasonry has a glorious history. It is a history in which every Mason should take the utmost pride. But what has gone before, glorious though it may be, is but the beginning. We study the lessons of history in order that we may meet the problems of this day, and the days which lie ahead with wisdom and courage. Institutions live and endure only as they serve. Many which through the ages came into brief being from a selfish narrow motive, flourished for a short time, and passed unnoticed and unremembered by the world. Freemasonry has lived vigorously through the centuries, because it has drawn its vitality from the purest ideals the heard and mind could conceive.

Freemasonry has served in ancient days, in times of peace as well as in times of strife. Masonry has that broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite. What we have as Freemasons, the world has been trying to secure for centuries. Basic in our teachings - that which hold us together is the strongest bond between men, mutual respect and faith in reach other.

Not what we have, but what we use;
Not what we see, but what we choose,
These are the things that mar or bless,
The sum of human happiness.

Not as we take, but as we give;
Not as we pray but as we live,
These are the things that make for peace,
Both now and after time shall cease.