

A Charge at Passing

Brother:

Being now advanced to the second degree in Freemasonry, we congratulate you on your preferment. The internal, and not the external, qualifications of a man are principally regarded by Freemasonry. As you increase in knowledge, you will consequently improve in fitness for further advancement in the rights and privileges of the Craft.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate the several duties, which, as a Freemason, you are bound to discharge; or to enlarge on the necessity of a strict performance of them, as your own experience must have convinced you of their value.

It may be sufficient to observe that your past behavior and regular deportment have merited the additional honor which we have now conferred; and, in this new character, it is expected that you will not only conform to the principles of Freemasonry, but still persevere in the practice of virtue.

The study of the liberal arts, that valuable branch of education which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration; especially the noble Science of Geometry, which is established as the basis of our Art. Freemasonry and Geometry originally were synonymous terms, and this Science being of a divine and moral nature, is enriched with the most useful knowledge; for while it proves the wonderful properties of nature, it also demonstrates the more important truths of morality. As the solemnity of our ceremonies requires a serious deportment, you are to be particularly attentive to your behavior in our regular assemblies; to preserve the Ancient Usages and Customs of the Fraternity sacred and inviolable, and induce others, by your example, to hold them in due veneration.

Every regular sign or summons, duly given to you, you are to honor and obey, as they accord with our professed principles. Such is the nature of your present engagements; and to these duties you are now bound by the most solemn, sacred, and enduring ties.