

A Charge at Raising

Brother.

Your zeal for our Institution, the progress you have made in its mysteries, and your steady conformity to its useful Regulations, have pointed you out as a proper object for this peculiar mark of the favor of the Brethren.

Duty, honor, and gratitude, now bind you to be faithful to your trust; to support the dignity of your character on all occasions, and strenuously to enforce, by precept and example, a steady obedience to the tenets of Freemasonry. Exemplary conduct, on your part, will convince the world that merit is the just title to our privileges, and that on you our favors are not undeservedly bestowed.

In this respectable character you are authorized to restrain the irregularities of less informed Brethren; to correct their errors; to fortify their minds with resolution against the snares of the insidious; and to guard them against every allurements to vicious practices. To preserve unsullied the reputation of the Fraternity ought to be your constant care, and, therefore, it becomes your province to caution the inexperienced against a breach of fidelity.

The Laws and Regulations of the Fraternity you are to support and maintain, and be ever ready to aid in their execution. You are to look impartially upon the offenses of your Brethren; in the decision on every breach of the Regulations, you are to judge with candor, to admonish with friendship, and to reprehend with justice.

In our private assemblies you may now offer your opinions on whatever subjects are presented for decision. You are free to introduce any motion which you may suppose will be for the advantage or honor of the Fraternity. By the exercise

of these rights and privileges, you may improve your rational and intellectual powers, qualify yourself to become a useful member of society, and vie with skillful Brethren in an endeavor to excel in everything that is good and great. You are to relieve the necessities of your Brethren, to the utmost of your power and ability, without prejudice to yourself or your private concerns. Do this in a cheerful spirit, for our Great Master has said that He loveth a cheerful giver.

On no account are you to injure a Brother, or to see him injured, but you are to apprise him of all approaching dangers, and consider his interest as inseparable from your own.

Universal benevolence you are zealously to inculcate; and, by your well ordered conduct, endeavor to show how false are the slanders which have been uttered against this venerable Institution. The Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry you are carefully to preserve, and not suffer them on any pretense to be broken, impaired, weakened, altered or destroyed; or countenance any departure from our established Usages and Customs.

Your virtue, honor, and character are concerned in supporting with dignity the respectability of your Masonic profession. Let no motive, therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows to God, or betray your trust; but be true and faithful, and imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom you have this evening represented. Thus you will render yourself deserving of the honor which this Lodge has conferred, and worthy of the confidence that it has reposed.