Thanksgiving ... 1954

Autumn, with its colors beautiful, its harvest abundant, and its temperature not too extreme, is a season of the year we should extend our gratitude to God for all His loving mercy and kindness. Yet, as we relax our efforts in behalf of our state—our nation—we should remember the blessings of close fellowship with brethren of like mind and with the building. This album is submitted to the members of the Fraternity for the understanding and good of all members. With charity in our hearts, let us ever be mindful of a Brother's need, that we may be in need of that which is in our power to supply. Let us be truthful and grateful for a friendship and a brotherhood. Without unity and cooperation our work is doomed. Let us show patience toward each other. Without God's guidance and support, our efforts toward the betterment of humanity will be in vain. Let us work toward the realization of a Brotherhood that is big enough to include all men. And which gives a promise of eternal life after death and a glorious future in that house not made with hands, prepared for us in the heavenly mansions of our God. Then, let us, as Freemasons, secure from spy- ing and watching our television sets and looking at the radio news of the world, stand and watch our national interests and the welfare of our fellowmen. Let us stand as Freemasons and realize the importance of our duty, and give our best efforts to the betterment of humanity. Let us ever be mindful of a Brother's need, that we may be in need of that which is in our power to supply.

The Masonic Temple]

One of the theories of the origin of the Masonic art is the idea that it is a form of Master Builders or Architectural Masonic Temples.

The Masonic Temple is a structure of beauty and strength, and a symbol of the love and devotion of our forefathers. It is a place of worship and a meeting place for the Brothers of the Craft.

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On October 26, 1908, the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple was laid, and the building was dedicated September 26, 1873. The beautifully bound souvenir album, now available at the price of $2.00 each, may be had by contacting Brother William J. Petare, Temple, and in the hope that it will be interesting to both. This has been bestowed upon it, architecturally in both exterior and historic. The cornerstone of the Temple was laid on September 26, 1873, and the building was dedicated September 25, 1873. The beautifully bound souvenir albums are now available at the price of $2.00 each, and may be had by contacting Brother William J. Petare, Temple, and in the hope that it will be interesting to both.

It is these duties we owe to our fraternal descendants that should concern us to the present. Bishop, you and I have our duties; religious, civil and fraternal. Within recent years, considerable thought has been given to the present. We have been considering the question of our future, and we have come to the conclusion that we must be impressed that our future grows out of the past. We must have the building...

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As one of the results of our recommendations, this publication comes to you from our Grand Lodge through the function of the present Committee on Library and Museum. You are not only informed by that amendment of the Ritual, but you are informed that it is proposed to create a Committee on Masonic Culture which will replace the Committee on Masonic Culture. It shall be to this purpose of this publication, to provide you with information that will not only be of interest but also of usefulness to you.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania wants you to feel and know that it is interested in you as an individual member of the Lodge which it has warranted and constituted. Its interest, just as yours, goes beyond the boundaries of those to whom membership is already a privilege, and extends to the study and teaching of the principles on which the religious and philosophical doctrines of our institution, and upon which we depend...

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Since then the situation in Israel has been this Grand Lodge did not fully meet all the manner, but in a most charitable and truly Masonic Lodge was being erected in Israel, Brethren Palestine was under consideration by the that the Grand Lodge of Scotland had infringed existing territorial Grand Lodge of the State of Israel. When it became known that a new Grand Lodge of Scotland was erected. Brother Shabtai Levy, and the Most Worshipful Brethren who accompanied him, were admitted into the Grand Lodge and invited to the East. As a token of goodwill which had been established, Brother Shabtai was placed on the list of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and invested as Immediate Past Grand Master.

When the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel held its election on November 29, 1953, Brother Shabtai Levy, being very sick, de clined to continue as Grand Master. Accordingly, Brother Shawin, who was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Israel at the time of its dissolution, was elected Grand Master, and Brother Guimara, who was second in command of one of the Scottish Lodges, was elected Deputy Grand Master. The election was completed that day, seven were from the old Grand Lodge of Israel and nine from the new Scottish Lodge.

It being evident that the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel is a responsible, self-governing group, having formally and submit tingly to the Ancient Landmarks, Carrying out the wishes of the majority of the Fraternity of Israel, the number of our Lodges has increased. Fifty years ago there were 447 Lodges in Pennsylvania can be reached. What of the Grand Lodge? Is it content with the exception of the period of the depression, the membership of the Grand Lodge has increased to more than 5000. It is required that we continue to improve the Craft to direct to the rule? Is it looking forward, always a step or two ahead, all the way toward a fuller realization of the high principles for which we stand?

These are questions of great importance, and must be answered if we are to correctly appreciate Freemasonry in this jurisdiction today. To answer them fully would require far more than our allotted space, but there are some things that can and must be said. As the result of meeting thousands of Freemasons from all over the State of Israel during the past few years we are impressed with the sincerity of the Brethren, and are convinced that we are, indeed, making Masons, and not members—only. Our Lodges, too, are of the highest character, and a great force for the advancement of the ideals of Freemasonry.

Of the Grand Lodge, it can be said with deep pride and satisfaction that we are in the most prosperous period of our history, and many sided program of advancement, which involves such matters as Masonic culture; greatly extended charitable activities, particularly in the sphere of child care; the expansion of The Masonic Homes for Children, which has increased the annual budget from $2,750,000, and the establishment of a great "Masonic Center" in Philadelphia to which we can look forward of the principle of the Brotherhood of Man, or if he will come after us as our fathers have done for us? There can be but one answer, "We are," which is evident in the ideals of Freemasonry.

In 1967, when by resolution it was decided to build the present Temple, there were only $2,160,000 of the proceeds of the Temple. Yet Grand Lodge abolished itself to build a Temple, and today the proceeds of the Temple amount to $1,750,000. Surely they built not only for their day, but for ours, as well. Are we not a little more curious as to how it has been received by the brethren? We cannot but be impressed with the sincerity of the Brethren, and with the kindness of the democratic organization for which we stand?

However, it must be admitted, that growth in numbers, so many ways, has quickly and greatly increased. Fifty years ago there were 447 Lodges in Pennsylvania. In 1865 there were only 250,000, and in 1867 the Temple, Philadelphia, the Masonic Press. Kindly address your communications to: The Masonic Press, temple, Philadelphia, the Masonic Press.

What Do You Think?

This being the first issue of "The Pennsylvania Freemason," we are naturally concerned and curious as to how it has been received by the brethren. The Committee of Masonic Fraternity of Pennsylvania for a personal concern, and the Masonic Fraternity of Pennsylvania for a personal concern.

Attraction is once again directed to the Masonic Secretaries of the Masonic Fraternity of Pennsylvania for a personal concern.

The Masonic Press, beyond all doubt, provides a wonderful means by which the wealth of cultural material may be broadcast and thereby more light in our Grand Jurisdiction.

What of your 58 Lodges? Are they merely social groups? Are they playing their part in the mission of Freemasonry, the spreading of the ideals of Freemasonry under the Fatherhood of God?

Are they Masons in our Jurisdiction? Are they merely members? Or are they Masons—Masons in the sense of all that they represent?