

"HARLEIAN MS. No. 1942." (M)

(About A.D. 1670.)

The Almighty father of heaben with the wisdome of the glorious sonne, through the goodnes of the holy ghost, three persons in one godhead bee with our beginning, & give us grace soe to governe our Lives, that we may come to his blisse that never shall have end. Amen.

Good Brethren and Fellows.

Our purpose is to tell you how, and in what manner this craft of masonry was first began, & afterwards how it was found by worthy kings and Princes, & many other wayes hurtfull to none, & to them that bee here present, we will declare what doeth belong to every free mason to keepe; for in good faith, if you take heed thereunto, It is worthy to bee kept, being one of the seven liberall Sciences which are these that followes,

- 1st. Gramar, that teacheth a man to speak truly, and write truely.
- 2ndly. Rhetorick that teacheth a man to speake faire, and in subtyll termes.
- 3rdly. Logick that teacheth a man to discern truth from falsehood.
- 4thly. Arithmatick that teacheth to accompt and reckon all manner of numbers.
- 5thly. Geometry that teacheth met and mesure of anything, & from thence comes Masonry.
- 6thly. Musick that teacheth song voice.
- 7thly. Astronomy that teacheth to know y^e course of the sunne, & moone, & other ornam^{ts} of heaven.

Note I pray you that these are found under Geometry, for it teacheth mett and measure ponderacon and weight of every thing in and upon the face of the whole earth. For you know every Craftsman works by measure, hee or shee that buyeth or selleth it is by weight or measure, husbandmen, navigators, and painters and all of them use geometry, for neither gramar, rhetorick, logick or any other of the said sciencies can subsist without geometry, *Ergo*, most worthy, laudable and honorable.

If you aske me how this science was first invented; my answer is this: That before y^e generall deluge, which is commonly called Noahs flood, there was a man called Limeck, as you may read in the 4th of Genesis, whoe had twoe wives the one called Adah, the other Zillah, by Adah hee begot twoe sones Isabell and Juball, by Zillah hee had a Sonne called Tuball and a daughter called Naahmah, these fower children found y^e begining of all the Craft in the world; Jabell found out Geometry, and he divided flocks of sheepe & lands; he first built a house of stone and timber: Juball found out Musick: Tuball found out the Smythes trade or Craft alsoe of gold, silver, copper, Iron & steele; Naahmah found out the craft of weaving; and these children knew well that god would take vengeance for sinne, either by fire or water, wherefore they did write these sciencies that they found in twoe pillars of stone, that they might be found after, that god had taken

vengeance ; the one was of marble, & would not burne, the other was Latres and would not drowne in water, soe that the one would be preserved and not consumed, if god would that any people should live upon the earth. It resteth now to tell you where these stones were found, wherein the sayd sciencies were written : After the said deluge, It pleased god that the greate Hermaxmes, whose sonne Lucium was, whoe was the sonne of Sem, whoe was the sonne of Noah, the sayd Hermaxmes was afterwards called Hermes the Father of wise men ; hee found one of the twoe pillars of stone, hee found these scinces written therein, hee taught them to other men ; At the tower of Babel Masonry was much made on, for the King of Babylon, whoe was Memorth was A mason, and loved the science & when the City of Ninneveh, and other Cityes of the East should bee builded Nemorth sent thither threescore Masons, at the desire of the King of Ninneveh, And when they went forth, hee gave them charge after this manner.

That they should bee true one to another that hee might have worship by them in sending them to his Cozen the King : hee alsoe gave them charge, concerning their science ; and then was it, that any Mason had charge of his science ; Alsoe Abraham and Sarah went into Egypt, & taught the Egiptians the seven liberall sciences, & hee had an Ingenious schollar called Euclides, whoe presantly learn'd the said liberall Sciences : It happened in his dayes the Lords and States of the Realme had soe many sones unlawfully begotten by other mens wives and Ladyes, that the land was burthened with them, haveing small meanes to mainteine them with all, the King understanding thereof caused a parliamt to bee called and summoned for redress, but being numberless, that noe good could bee done wth them, hee caused proclamacon to bee made throughout the Realme ; that if any man could devise any course how to mainteine them, to informe the King, & hee should bee well rewarded ; whereupon Euclides came to the King, and said thus ; my noble Sovereign, if I may have order and governmt of these L^{ds} sonnes, I will teach them the seven Liberall Sciences, whereby they may live honestly like gentlemen ; provided that you will graunt mee power over them by virtue of youre Commission, which was easily effected ; And the Master Euclides gave them these following admonicons.

- 1st. to bee true to the King.
- 2^{dly}. to the master they serve.
- 3^{rdly}. to bee true one to another.
- 4^{thly}. not to miscall one another, as knave or such like.
- 5^{thly}. to do their worke duely, that they may deserve their wages at their masters hands.
- 6^{thly}. to ordeine the wisest of them master, & their Lord and Master of his work.
- 7^{thly}. to have such reasonable wages, that the workmen may live honestly with credit.
- 8^{thly}. to come and assemble once a year to take Counsell in their Craft how they may worke best to serve their Lord and Master for his proffit and their owne credit and to correct such as have offended ;

Note that Masonry was heretofore termed Geometry, & since then the people of Israell came to the land of Behest, which is now called Emens, in the Country of Jerusalem, King David began a Temple, which is now called the Temple of the Lord, or the Temple of Jerusalem, and King David loved Masons well, and

cherished them and gave them good paymt and did give them a charge as Euclides have given them before in Egipt, and further as hereafter followes.

And after the death of King David Solomon his sonne finished the Temple, which his Father began hee sent for Masons of divers Lands, to the number of fower and twenty thousand, elected and nominated Masters and Governos of the work, & there was another King of another Religion or Country called Haram, whoe loved well King Solomon, & hee gave him timber for his work, and hee had a sonne Anon & hee was master of Geometry, & hee was cheife Master of all his Masons, of Carved work, and all other their work of Masonry, that belongeth to the Temple, as appeareth by the Bible, in libro Regum Cap: 4^{to} & King Solomon confirmed all things concerning Masons, that David his father had given in charge, & these Masons, did travell divers Countrys some to augment their knowledge in the said Art, & to instruct others; And it happened that a curious Mason called Memon Grecus, that had beene at the building Solomons Temple, came into Fraunce, & taught the Science of Masonry to the French men, & there was a King of Fraunce named Carolus Morter, whoe loved greatly Masonry, which sent for this said Memon Grecus, & learned of him the sayd Science, & became of the Fraternity, therefore hee began great works, & liberally did pay his workmen, & confirmed them a large charter, and was yearely present at their assembly, which was a greate honour, and encouragemt to them, & thus came the Science into Fraunce; Masonry was unknown in England untill St. Alban came thither, whoe instructed the King in the said Science of Masonry, As alsoe in Divinity, whoe was a Pagan; hee walled the towne called St. Albanes, hee became in favour with the King, insomuch that he was knighted and made the Kings cheife Stewards, & the relame was govern^d by him under the King, & hee greatly cherished, and loved Masonry, and truly paid them their wages weekly, which was 3^s. 6^d. p weeke, he purchased them a large Charter from the King, to hold a generall assembly and Counsell yearly; hee made many Masons, & gave them such a Charge, as is hereafter declared, It happened presently after the martirdome of St. Alban, whoe is truly termed England's proto Martyr, that a certaine King invaded the land, & destroyed most part of the natives with fire & sword that the science of Masonry was much decayed untill the Reigne of King Athelstone, which some writ Adlestone, whoe brought the land to peace and rest from the insulting Danes; hee began to build many abbyes, monasteryes, & other religious houses, as alsoe Castles, & other tresses for defence of his Realme; hee loved Masons more then his Father; hee greatly studyed Geometry & sent into many lands, for men expert in the Science; hee gave them a very large charter, to hold a yearely Assembly to correct offenders in the sayd Science, & the King himselfe caused a generall assembly of all Masons in the Realme at **Bork** & there made many Masons, & gave them a deepe charge for observacon of such Articles as belonge to Masonry, and delivered them the said Charter to keepe, & when his Assembly was gathered together, hee caused a cry to bee made, that if any Mason of them, had a writing that did concerne Masonry, or could Informe the King, in anything, or matter, that was wanting in the said Science, already delivered, that they, or hee, should deliver them to the King, or write them to him, And there were some in French, some in Greek, some in English, and other Languages whereupon the King caused a book to bee made, which declared how the Science was first invented & the utility thereof, which book he commded to bee read, and plainly declared, when a man was to bee made Mason, that he might fully understand what Articles, Rules, and Orders he was obliged to observe, & from that time untill this day;

Masonry hath been much respected and preserved, & divers new Articles hath been added to the sayd charge, by good advice and consent of the best Masons and Fellowes.

Tunc unas ex senioribus teneat librum illi qui jusjurandu reddat et ponat manum libro vel sup librum, dum Articulum et precepta sibi legantur.

Say thus, by the way of exhortacon, my loveing and respective friends, and brethren, I humbly beseech you, as you love your souls eternal wellfare, yo^r owne credit, & youre countryes good, bee very carefull in observacon of these articles that I am about to read to this Depon^t for you are obliged to pforme them as well as hee, soe hoping of y^r care herein I will (by god's grace) begin the charge, I am to admonish you to honor^e god, & and his holy church ; that you use noe heresie or error in your understanding or discredit men teaching.

2^{dly}. I am to admonish you, to bee true to our Sovereigne Lorde the King, committing noe treason, misprision of treason, or felony, & if any one shall commit treason, y^t you know of, you shall give notice to his Matie his privy Counsellors or some other that have commission to enquire thereof.

3^{dly}. You shal bee true to youre fellows and brethren of the Science of Masonry, & doe to them as you would bee done unto.

4^{thly}. If you shall secure and keepe secret the obscure and intricate parts of the Science, not disclosing them to any but such as study & use the same.

5^{thly}. You shall doe youre work truely, & faithfully endeavouring the profit and advantage of him, that is owner of the sayd work.

6^{thly}. You shall call Masons, fellow or brethren, without addicon of knave, or any other bad Language.

7^{thly}. You shall not take your neighbours wife villaniously, nor his da nor his mayd to use ungodlily.

8^{thly}. You shall not carnally lye with any woman, belonging to the house wherein you are at table.

9^{thly}. You shall truely pay for youre meate & drink where you are at table.

10^{thly}. You shall not undertake any mans work knowing yourselfe unable and unexpert to pforme and effect the same.

That noe aspercon or discredit be imputed to the science or the L^d or owner of ye same work be any wayes prejudiced.

11^{thly}. You shall not take any worke to doe at any excessive & unreasonable rates, or deceive the owner thereof, but soe as he may be truely, and faithfully served with his owne goods.

12^{thly}. You shall not supplant any of youre fellows of their work (That is to say) If he, or they, or any of them, have taken any work upon him, or them, or they stands Masters of Lords or owners work, that you shall not put him or them out of or from the said work, although you pceive him or they unable to finish the sa^d work.

14^{thly}. You shall not take any apprentice to serve you in the sayd Science of Masonry under the terme of seven yeares, nor any but such as are descended of good parentage, that noe scandall may bee imputed to the Science of Masonry.

15^{thly}. You shall not take upon you to make any one mason without the privy and consent of five or six of your fellows, & none but such as one that is free borne, & whose parents live in good fame, & name & that hath his right and pfect limbes, and psonall of body to attend the said Science.

16^{thly}. You shall not pay any of youre fellowes more money, than hee, or they have deserved, that you be not deceived by false or by slight working, and and the owner thereof much wronged.

17^{thly}. You shall not slander any of youre fellows behinde their back to impaire temporall estate or good name.

18^{thly}. You shall not without urgent cause answer yor fellow doggedly or ungodlily, but as becometh a loveing brother of the same Science.

19^{thly}. You shall duely reverence, youre fellow, that the bond of Charity and mutuall Love may continue steadfast and stable amongst you.

20^{thly}. You shall not (except in Christmas time) use any unlawfull games, as Cards, Dice, &c.

21^{stly}. You shall not frequent any house of Bawdry or bee a pawnder to any of youre fellowes, or others, which wilbee a greate scandall to the Science ; You shall not goe out to drink by night, or if occasion doe happen that you must goe, you shall not stay till past eight of the clock, haveing some of youre fellowes, or one at the least, to have you witness of the honest place you were in, and your good behaviour to avoid scandall.

22^{ndly}. You shall come to the yearely assembly, if you know where it is, being within tenne miles of the place of youre abode ; submitting yourselte to youre fellowes, wherein you have erred, to make satisfaction, or to defend by order of the kings laws.

23^{rdly}. You shall not make any mould square or rule to mould stones wthball but as such is allowed by the fraternity.

24^{thly}. You shall set strangers at work, having Employmt for them, at least a fortnight & truely pay them their wages ; and if you want work for them, you shall relieve them with money to defray their reasonable charges to the next Lodge.

25^{thly}. You shall truely attend youre work, & truely end the same, whether it bee taske or Journey worke, if you have youre wages and paymt truely.

These Articles and Charge which I have rehersed to you, you shall well and truely, observe & keepe to your power, soe helpe your god, and the contents of this booke.

The New Articles.

26 : Noe person (of what degree soever) bee accepted a free Mason, unless hee shall have a lodge of five free Masons ; at least, whereof one to bee a master, or warden, of that limitt, or devision, wherein such Lodge shalbee kept, & another of the trade of Free Masonry.

27 : That noe pson shal bee accepted a Free Mason, but such as are of able body, honest parentage, good reputacon & observers of the Laws of the Land.

28 : That noe pson hereafter bee accepted free Mason nor shalbee admitted into any Lodge or assembly untill hee hath brought a Certificate of the time of accepcon from the Lodge, y^t accepted him, unto the Master of that Limit, &

Division, where such Lodge was kept, which sayd Master shall enrole the same in parchmt in a role to bee kept for that purpose, to give an acct of all such acceptions at every generall Assembly.

29: That every person whoe now is Free Mason, shall bring to the Master a note of the time of his acception to the end the same may bee enrolld in such priority of place of the pson shall deserve, & to y^e end the whole company and fellows may the better know each other.

30: That for the future the sayd Society, Company, & fraternity of Free Masons shalbee regulated, & governed by one master, & Assembly, & Wardens, as y^e said Company shall think fit to chose, at every yearely generall Assembly.

31; That noe pson shalbee accepted a Free Mason or know the secrets of the said Society, untill hee hath first taken the oath of secrecy hereafter following.

I, A. B., Doe in the presence of Almighty God, & my Fellowes, & Brethren, here present, promise and declare, that I will not at any time hereafter, by any Act or circumstance whatsoever, Directly or Indirectly, publish, discover, reveale, or make knowne any of the secrets, priviledges, or Counsells, of the Fraternity or fellowship of Free Masonry, which at this time, or any time hereafter, shalbee made knowne unto mee, soe helpe mee God, & the holy contents of this booke.

1. You shall truly honour God, & his holy Church, The King, youre Master, & Dame, you shall not absent yourselve but with the License of both or one of them, from their service, by day or night.

2. You shall not purloine or steale, or bee privy or accessory to the purloining or stealing to the value of sixpence, from them, or any of them.

3. You shall not comit adultery or fornicacon in ye house of youre Master, with his wife, daughter or mayd.

4. You shall not disclose youre Master or Dame their Counsell or secrets, which they have imputed to you, or what is to be concealed, spoken or done, within the precincts of their house, by them, or either of them, or any Free Mason.

6. You shall reverently behave yourselve to all free Masons, not using Cards, or Dice, or any other unlawfull Games, (Christmas excepted.)

7. You shall not haunt or frequent any Taverns, Alehouses, or such as goe into any of them except upon your Masters, or Dame, their or any of their affaires, or without their or any of their consent.

8. You shall not comit Adultery or Fornicacon in any Mans house, where you shall bee at table or at work.

9. You shall not marry or contract yourselve to any woeman during youre Apprenticeshipp.

10. You shall not steale any mans goods, but especially yor sayd Masters, or any of his Fellow Masons, or suffer any one to steale of their goods, but shall hinder the Fellow if you can, if you cannot, then you shall acquaint your sayd Master & his fellows presently.

Finis.

(Transcribed from the original in the British Museum.)