



MOST WORSHIPFUL
United Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M.

PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION)

FOR IOWA AND JURISDICTION

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July 8, 1941

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To the M. W. United Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. (Prince Hall Affiliation) for Iowa and Jurisdiction, in its fifty-fourth annual communication.

Once again Almighty God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit for us to again assemble in Grand Communication that we may pay homage to him and be of service to our fellowman, and I have again been blessed with the honor and pleasure of giving you an account of this office.

In the last few years those who have been responsible for leadership have experienced in the executing or the attempted executing of their tasks a most distressing manner. I can't help but think that we have come a long ways in the past year over the years before. I find that the brethren are generally more interested in ritualistic work, however the cost of such work is far too much for most of our lodges, and it so happens that the lodges that need instruction the most are unable to pay for visits by any Grand Officer or even pay their dues into the Grand Lodge which in my estimation comes first. Of course we have become a little irregular in the past few years in our social and economical life because of the conditions of the times in which we lived, and mismanagement of funds, when being appropriated for one thing and used for another, thus, have now found ourselves unable to meet certain obligations which have been allowed to become a year or more past due, however I am sure we have learned our lesson on these things and will not again let them happen. But business is on the upturn and times are getting better again, so, let us no longer hide behind the cloak of the depression and give our Grand Officers an opportunity to visit our lodges as that is the only way

they can fulfil their mission. However we must not impose, but rather share the burdens of each other.

If there is anything that I desire it is that every master have the ability to give his craft good and wholesome instruction in all their labors. We must not elect brothers to these offices because of seniority or friendship, but on ability and a sincere desire to be of service to his Fellow man. On this basis and it is alone will we have proper cooperation between subordinate and Grand Lodge. Let us ever remember that we are charged to recommend to our inferiors obedience and submission, to our equals courtesy and affability, and to our superior kindness and condescensions.

Let us work to encourage those who seem somewhat indifferent toward this beautiful art. In our daily intercourse with each other, let us talk of the symbols of our profession and its sacred tenets. That is the way for us to cultivate the great moral virtues which are laid down on our Masonic trestleboard. Knowledge is attained in degrees, Wisdom dwells in contemplation, there we must seek her. Therefore brethren we must apply ourselves with becoming zeal that we may improve ourselves in everything that is good and useful, and the world at large will be convinced of the good affects of our society.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I am not so alarmed over the persecuting of the Craft in certain states of the old world today, for history tells us that over two-hundred years ago the same things were done, but after a period of time the breach between Fraternity and State was always healed. That old Masonic banner of Equality and Liberty, was the power that caused Freedom and Equal rights to be inculcated into the Constitutions and Laws of all the great Democracies of the world. Nevertheless the terrible teacher Experience writing his lessons on broken hearts will make man wiser in time. Let us keep our Faith in Him, with whom there is no variableness in this

Smith. After their business was over I spent most of the evening answering questions for the Brothers.

I sent Brother C . T. Culberson our Grand Secretary a note informing him that I was going to be there and he came over from Iowa City. That I think was very good showing of fraternal spirit on the part of a Grand Officer. This also gave us the opportunity to talk over many problems concerning the finances of some of our subordinate Lodges, particularly in Des Moines.

This office is unable to secure the Standard Masonic Monitor by George E. Simons. I have orders placed for them with the Redding Masonic Supply Company, but it seems as though they have not as yet gotten enough orders for them to pay to have them bound.