

Address delivered by James P.B. Hyndman, Station WHAP, on Monday, March 22, 1926, 9:15 P.M. On AMERICANISM. Subject:

## THE MASONIC FOUNDERS OF AMERICA

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,  
As the swift seasons roll.  
Leave thy low vaulted past.  
Let each new Temple, loftier than the last  
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,  
Till thou at length are free.  
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.  
(Oliver Wendell Holmes)

The American Federal Republic was founded by Masons, descendants of the Norsemen who, in the year 1000, discovered this Western Continent, and of the same stock with the Pilgrim Fathers, who colonized the Western Hemisphere in the year 1620, dedicating the New World to the great Anglo-Saxon ideal, "Freedom to worship God."

Masonry is one of the oldest forms or modes of expressing, in symbol, the deep spiritual truths which are the foundation of the universe, including man in the image of God. Because neither these fundamental truths, nor the spiritual nature of the universe and man, are discernible to the natural, or carnal senses, they must be, in the beginning, expressed and taught by symbols, since they are discerned only by spiritual sense. Therefore, in all ages, those who most clearly saw these spiritual verities --- hidden, as Christ Jesus said, "from the wise and prudent, but revealed unto babes," — these were called "seers", and they take their place in the world's economy, and in its history, as the teachers of men. The supreme Seer and Teacher was, and is, Christ Jesus. His symbolism was derived from the common objects of the everyday life of those whom he yearned to enlighten; and thus it is recorded of him, and of his discourses, that "the common people heard him gladly."

As the Holy Bible is the Word of God, Who is the Source and Fount, the Creator of the universe and man, which He created in His own image, the image of Spirit, — the Holy Bible is therefore the fount from which all spiritual symbolism is derived. Masonry is founded on the Holy Bible. The name "Masonry" is itself symbolic, and suggests the thought of "building." The symbolism of this one word, may be developed in almost unlimited degree. So, by it, the idea of a "structure" is brought to the mind; so, as masonry is laid by courses, we are led to conceive of this structure, as developing, course by course, up to the finished edifice; so, as the building of a structure requires an intelligent design, on the part of its architect, and faithful workmanship on

the part of its builders, this powerful word, MASONRY, conveys to the consciousness, the thought of intelligent and consecrated co-operative activity of many individuals, under the supreme guidance of one governing Mind.

The symbolic term for a "structure" in Masonry, is the word "TEMPLE." The oldest symbolic Masonic Temple in the world, is the Great Pyramid of Gizeh, which is appropriately called, "The Miracle in Stone." Job, who, at God's command, "Girded up his loins" and talked with God, saying, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee," is credited with having been the architect of this marvellous symbolic structure. The science of geometry, which is wholly metaphysical, is the basis of the design of the Pyramid of Gizeh, and its symbolism points to and illustrates the phenomenon of the spiritual universe and spiritual man, and prophesies the spiritual ultimate of all things, as the necessary consequence of the spiritual origin of the universe, including man, in the image and likeness of God. The "squaring of the circle," that ancient problem which has engaged and engrossed the attention of mathematicians throughout all history, is solved, in the relation of the height to the base, of the Pyramid of Gizeh. The plan of salvation from sin, is illustrated, in the inclination of the passageway leading into the depths of the structure, from which, used as a telescope, the observer, at certain calculable periods, under the laws of mathematics and astronomy, may view the dragon star, "*a draconis*" the symbol of sin, in its varying relation to the Pleiades, the seven-starred group symbolic of salvation.

In this building, this symbolic "Temple," are recorded in symbolic measurement, under the exact and metaphysical laws of the science of mathematics, the indissoluble spiritual relation of the people of God, throughout all the ages of the world's history. The mathematics of the Great Pyramid is one of the strongest symbolic ties between the children of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, to whom God gave His promise, and the Nordic peoples of America and Britain, and the North countries of Europe, of to-day. The Anglo-Saxon system of measurement is derived from the Mosaic, and both are based upon the axis of the earth, a straight line.

The climax of the symbolism of the Pyramid of Gizeh, is found in its cornerstone. In Isaiah, v/e read: "The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the head *stone* of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing, and it *is* marvellous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:22 & 23). Unlike all other structures, the pyramid, whose triangular form is the expression of the laws of geometry, requires its corner-stone to be the last one to be laid. In other words, this stone is "refused," until the rest of the structure is completed. Moreover, the corner-stone, or "head stone of the corner," is, in itself, a perfect pyramid, and conforms to the rules of geometry, as to its angles and the relations of its parts, as does the structure as a whole. So Christ, who is the "headstone of the corner," is the perfect spiritual man, in the image and likeness of God, to whom the whole structure must conform.

The measurements of the Pyramid of Gizeh record the date of its

completion, as the year 2170 before Christ.

The Temple of Solomon, the building of which God entrusted to the son and successor of David, after conferring upon Solomon the gifts of riches, wisdom and honor is another symbolic structure in Masonry. In the building of this Temple, Solomon not only paid Hiram, King of Tyre, for the almost priceless materials which that monarch provided in abundance, and which entered into its construction, but the myriads of workmen whom Solomon engaged to build the Temple, were suitably and amply regarded, for their labor. Just compensation for value received, embodying honor, justice and integrity, are the foundation of all successful and enduring building; and these qualities are among the foundation stones of Masonry. Christ Jesus illustrated this fundamental principle, in his parable of the lord of the vineyard, and his laborers, who, including those who came at the eleventh hour, each received a penny.

During the "dark ages" in Europe, the true symbolism of Masonry became hidden, under the pall of materialism. In Britain its spiritual meaning was almost entirely lost, in the formation of workmen's guilds, supposed to be formed under its laws and rules, but which were wholly materialistic, although employed in the erection of ecclesiastical structures. With the spiritual awakening, which preceded and accompanied the period of the Reformation, Masonry partook of the spiritual revival. Many Mesonic ledges existed in England prior to the eighteenth century end which practised speculative Masonry. In the year 1717, the first Grand Lodge of England was formed, in London; ten years later, the first Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed, and ten years later again, the first Grand Lodge of Ireland appeared.

The first appearance of Masonry in America was contemporaneous with the birth of George Washington. St. John's Lodge was organized in Boston, in the year 1733. In the year 1752, at the age of 20, Washington became a Mason, having been received into the Fredericksburg Lodge, in Virginia, in that year. Washington's Masonic activities are hidden in obscurity, until the revolution was fairly launched. During the war, the American Union Lodge was formed, and became the avenue for the expression of the Masonic inclinations and activities of the soldiers and officers of Washington's army.

The membership was composed entirely of revolutionary soldiers. Washington was known to have attended Masonic meetings, held in military tents, at which his own subordinates presided. The seal of the American Union Lodge was composed of 13 links, held together by two hands. This was a development of the "snake" emblem, which the motto, "Join or die\*." This was an exhortation to the colonies, to come together in a common union. The "Snake" Flag, which grew out of this design, with the motto, "Don't Tread on me," was one of the earliest American flags.

Throughout the period, from 1733 up to the Battle of Lexington, provincial lodges had been formed in all the Colonies. Grand Lodges existed in these Colonies, and Provincial Grand Masters were appointed, by the English Masonic Authorities. In the year Joseph Montfort, an American patriot, was

appointed supreme Provincial Grand Master, and is said to have been the first, last, and only Mason to have held this office. With the unfolding of the Revolution, and the growing conviction in the minds of the colonist patriots, that complete separation from Britain was inevitable, the American Masonic bodies decided that the time had come to break away from the British Masonic organization, and to become independent. So, in the year 1777, independent American Masonry was born. The Grand Lodge of Virginia proposed the creation of the office of Grand Master of America, and nominated George Washington to fill it; but the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts frowned upon the suggestion to create this office. However, by many of the American Masons, Washington was supposed to have been elected to this office, and a medal was actually struck in his honor as supreme Grand Master. Benjamin Franklin was Grand Master of the St. Masonic lodges of Pennsylvania.

The extent to which Masonry had permeated the life of the new-born nation, may be gathered from the following facts, vary briefly related. In 1776, the Festival of St. John the Evangelist was held in Philadelphia. In the procession, Washington, although holding no Masonic office, was honored with first place in leading the parade, and his home lodge was represented. At Washington's inauguration, in 1789, the Bible on which he took the oath, was furnished by the Grand Lodge. The oath was administered by a Mason, Robert R. Livingston, of New York. On this same BIBLE, President Harding took his oath. The corner-stone of the Capitol, at Washington, was laid by George Washington, in his Masonic regalia, with Masonic ritual, on September 18, 1793. The first Continental Congress, composed of 350 members, of which 118 were college men, was preponderantly Masonic. On motion of George Washington, Peyton Randolph, Past Grand Master of Masons of Virginia, was chosen to preside over its deliberations. Randolph also presided over its second session; but, passing on, John Hancock, the famous first signer of the Declaration of Independence, also a Mason, was chosen. Nearly all of Washington's Major Generals, including General Henry Knox, the closest friend of Washington, were Masons. This was true of his Brigadier Generals. Of the foreigners who aided the American Cause, Lafayette was made a Mason by Washington at Morristown, N.J. and Baron Von Steuben, the disciplinarian of Frederick the Great, and author of the Manual for Washington's army, was a Mason. The Committee of five appointed to draft the Declaration Of Independence — Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston — were Masons.

In and by this immortal document, Washington "threw a sovereign across the sea," and precluded the European doctrine of the "divine right of kings" from America for all time:" while Jefferson forever abolished the union of ecclesiasticism with statecraft in America, and sealed the ideal for which the Pilgrim Fathers came to America, "Freedom to worship God." Of the 255 members of the Constitution Convention, presided over by Washington, 250 were Masons.

The reverse of our Seal, which, in defiance of Congress' express com-

mand, has never been cut, bears the symbol of the Pyramid. Christ Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will build it up." The Scripture plainly informs us, that he referred to his body, which he afterwards absolved from death. It is this Christ who, after his ascension, proclaimed to the beloved disciple,

I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I  
am alive for evermore, Amen! (Revelation.)

The TEMPLE which is now being built, here in America and for whose revealing, under the guidance of the ever-living Christ, America was discovered, in the year 1000, colonized, in the year 1620, and founded in the year 1776, — this TEMPLE is the ideal of spiritual man, created in the image and likeness of God. The Great Architect of the Universe is the designer of this spiritual TEMPLE, and Christ is the executor, and the "head stone of the corner."

James P. B. Hyndman