

This issue of "The Cabletow" includes a picture of the original Plaridel Temple. The building was the Deutscher Klub, built in 1914 for clubhouse purpose and for the German nationals in the Philippines. Its builder was a Master Mason, Wor. Bro. A. J. Gabler-Gumbert. When the United States entered the war against Germany (1918) the property was leased to the International Y.M.C.A. for a period of years with the option of purchasing it at the expiration of the lease. The 'Y' bought the property and on the same day deeded it to the Plaridel Temple Association for the same price which had been paid for it.

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WHO GUARDS MASONRY?

(Pennsylvania Freemason)

Who guards the portals of Freemasonry? It may rightly be said that three Master Masons guard these cherished portals. And but for the devoted and attentive diligence of these three Master Masons, the virtues of the craft might be exploited by the ambitious, corrupted by the immoral, or subverted by the seekers of evil power.

Each petitioner for the mysteries of Freemasonry has within him the will and desire either to perpetuate the Craft in the glory of the past, or to warp and use it to his own ends. Nothing stands between the unscrupulous petitioner and the lodge except three guards who are appointed by the Worshipful Master as the investigating committee. It is true, of course, that each member of the Lodge has the right and privilege of the ballot, but it is equally true that the individual member oftentimes is influenced by the report of the investigating committee.

Who guards the portals of Freemasonry? Three Master Masons who, if they are vigilant and alert that the petitioner is worthy of a favorable report, will guard well our portals, but who, if they be heedless and insensible of their responsibilities will allow a petitioner through the outer door to the detriment of the Craft. The guard or sentinel must always be awake and faithful in the discharge of his duty. In time of war the sentinel who sleeps may well pay with his life for his slumbers. Today, this very day of our current Masonic year we wage war let no man mistake it—war against the most insidious forces that would strangle and crush and dishonor our great Fraternity, and the Master Mason who permits himself to be the sleepful guard may pay with the life of our great Fraternity.

Who guards the portals of Freemasonry? All of us, Brethren. Each time we investigate the petition of one who seeks the mysteries of Freemasonry, we guard those sacred portals.

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