

Strengthen the Home Front

WB RUFINO G. TOLENTINO, P.M.

Pintong Bato Lodge No. 51

The practical object of Masonry, according to a great Masonic writer, is the physical and moral amelioration, and the intellectual and spiritual improvement, of individuals and society. As neither objective can be effected except by the dissemination of truth, we masons spread truth and light fighting lies and falsehoods for that purpose. It is falsehood in doctrines and fallacies in principles to which most of the miseries of humanity and misfortunes of nations are owing. Side by side with the dissemination of truth, masons practice charity in all its forms, helping the needy and the distressed within their capacity, and bringing joy and happiness to those who are sick and low in spirit. It is common knowledge that the masonic fraternity as a public service is maintaining a Hospital for Crippled Children, where children of masons and non-masons who are suffering from deformities are treated free of charge. We try to make these unfortunate beings useful again in society instead of being a burden. Masons contribute to the home of the aged, to the Children's Garden in Taytay where children without parents or relatives are looked after, taken care of and given education. Masons take part in civic movements, assist in the formulation of legislation calculated to be be-

neticial to our people or to our country and do a lot of other good things not generally known by many because we do not advertise our good deeds, preferring to remain anonymous.

In spite of all the good things Masons have done and are doing, there are certain elements in our country who fight Masonry and try their best to discredit us MAAONS, even resorting to lies and falsehoods to attain their ends. They secretly tell people going to their churches and students attending their schools that Masons are Godless and are followers of the devil, that they trample upon the crucifix or whip the image of Jesus Christ. Nothing can be farther from the truth. We believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the source and origin of all that is; and we offer prayers to Him. How can they say we are godless and servants of the devil? Those of you who have attended a funeral or necrological service must have seen the crucifix used as a sacred symbol in the ceremonies. We certainly will not trample it. And we can not treat with disrespect any image of Jesus Christ because He was a member of the fraternity. The Holy Bible you will recall gives an account of His life from birth to the twelfth year, and from the time

He was baptized in the river Jordan by Saint John the Baptist when. He had already attained full manhood up to the end of His ministry on earth and ascension to heaven. During the interval, of which nothing is mentioned in the Holy Bible about Him, He attended school at Mount Carmel in Palestine after which He traveled abroad, visiting the different centers of learning in India, Tibet, Assyria, Persia, Greece and Egypt. It was during His sojourn in Egypt that He joined the fraternity.. It is recorded that the ceremonies took place in the highest chamber inside the Great Pyramid which was reached after passing through several lower chambers, and that during the conferring of the Master's degree, while Joseph (that was the name He used at the time) knelt before the altar, when the period of silence and meditation was coming to a close, a great light filled the chamber which was otherwise lighted only by candles and three torches. A white dove descended in the light and rested on the head of Joseph while the Hierophant rose and various bells in the chambers beneath began pealing the great announcement to the world. A slight figure rising behind the Hierophant like an angelic being, commanded Joseph to rise while the voice of this being proclaimed "this is Jesus, the Christ, arise! and all within the chamber united in saying "Amen!" It is known that no such happening during a ceremony had ever occurred before or after the event, in the history of the fraternity.

Brethren, as I was saying there are certain elements that fight the Masons, and they carry the fight most-

ly through our women. You have heard of the sad case of a daughter of a brother mason who refused to eat on the same table with her father's guest simply because the guest happened to be a mason. There is no doubt that the mind of that daughter had been poisoned by her teachers who told her evil things against masons. That poor girl without knowing anything about masonry or about masons blindly believed what she was told. We could imagine the embarrassment, and perhaps the shame, of the father of the house whose guest had been insulted in his own home and by his own daughter.

There is another case where an active brother mason who died was not given a masonic funeral service because the widow refused to permit it. We could see nothing objectionable in a masonic funeral service. I think it is more solemn and more impressive than a church service.

Then there is the case of a former high government official, a Past Grand Master of our Grand Lodge, who during his last illness was visited by a priest. And this priest tried to induce the family of the sick brother to make the latter abjure masonry and renounce his masonic connections. Luckily for us, neither the brother nor his family acceded to the request.

Brethren, the cases I have cited clearly show that the enemies of Masonry are invading the homes of masons. It is high time for us to strengthen the Home Front. Let us make our women who appear to be

In Memoriam

WB CLAYTON W. ROBERTS

Strengthen...

On February 3, 1961, at Sukiran, Okinawa, Worshipful Brother Clayton W. Roberts, P. M., Secretary of Okinawa Lodge No. 118 suffered a heart attack and died suddenly.

Once again, our Lodge has been host to that "Unwelcome Guest" that stilled the breath of a beloved Brother and left us saddened and pensive. We are human and we grieve despite the teachings of our Faith, and our profound belief in the repeated promises of our Saviour that a better life awaits us when we "shed our mortal shell." Even God among us was not exempt from this very human trait, for we have recorded in the Scriptures that Christ wept at the passing of his beloved friend Lazarus (John 11:35) even though He knew that Lazarus' death, from which he would be raised, was but a means by which a miracle of God would be performed, that the Disciples and witnesses might more truly believe.

Perhaps Jesus was not so much sorrowed at the mere fact of Lazarus' death, for certainly Jesus knew that Lazarus would be restored to the living. Rather, He was moved out of compassion for the grief and suffering of those he loved who did not understand fully the Divine significance of the situation. We should not confine ourselves to thinking that Jesus was there at that time, performed his wonderful act, felt the sorrow he did, and that it ended that day—or at the Cross. We should cling to the firm belief that He is still with

the most common objectives if enemy attacks take more interest in matters masonic. Let us convince our wives, sons and daughters, our mothers and sisters, and the widows of masons, to become members of organizations related to Masonry like the Order of Rainbow for Girls, the Order of Job's Daughters, the Order of De Molay for boys, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth. These orders for women and young boys teach love of God and country, love of parents, and love of our fellowmen. They practice charity by helping the poor and the needy. Our women will find in these organizations many things that will interest them and will cause them to take more active part in civic work. Our boys will find in the Order of De Molay useful outlet for their excess energy which will train them in good citizenship and leadership.

Brethren, I repeat, let us strengthen our Home Front,

those of us who mourn, and is moved by the same Divine compassion as he was that day at Lazarus' grave.

Martha, the sister of Lazarus, was comforted by a resounding message from Jesus before her brother emerged from death to life. Our comfort is in this same message as Jesus tells us also, "I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Leo A. Hatten