



Ethos — EDITORIAL —

Freemasonry, too good to lose!

Volume 6 Issue 8 — August 2010

FROM THE EAST

It was great to have so many on hand for Lodge Caledonia's annual visit. In September we will have "to return what was lost" to our brethren in the North. As I have had enough pie for one year!

This month will be the Election of Officers and I hope you are willing to support the Lodge as enthusiastically as you have supported my year so far.

I hope you will all support my fraternal this month to Lodge Capitol on Monday August 16 at 7:00pm, for the handover of the DGIWs Jewel of Office for District 104 from VW Bro Geoff Ludowyk to VW Bro Peter Camiller.

FROM THE WEST

All the news from the Wild West.

Your fast draw senior warden has been in sunny Townsville, dress shorts and thongs, so news is a little light on. of note Morrie Adamson is improving and thanks all at Ethos for their concern.

FROM THE SOUTH

This month, I will be catering the south so please bring your appetites as I am sure you will enjoy my Master Chef Cuisine.

Please feel free to bring along some dessert.

FROM THE NORTH

To Goulbourn, Lodge Ethos they came and went, and forgot to bring the Gavel.

And so instead we got told an old tale of travel.

On how in days gone by a fire had been lit on the shores of Lake George.

This was of course meant for us to bond and make our friendship to forge.

The hiccup came when we were to return, with no Gavel in hand.

On the attack they went! (For it's the best means of defence).

On how slack we were, and how we had forgot! What a sorry band.

We smotting our head thus.... 3 times for honours in the south.

Poor Sid, our Master at the time, he got blamed. He was down in the mouth.

Until one Monday evening on a cold winter's night the phone it did ring.

When a little South African mousy voice was heard to sing,

Sorry, Sorry, he said I have to front up

Its like this.... bla...bla..bla... a wife she did tidy up!

What can one say about this fact of life?

For many of us have this kind of wife.

Its better not to Lie, Just eat this humble pie.....

WM Edwin Power - Lodge William Ross #76

The Final Toast: An Examination

By R. Ex. Companion Andrew Allan

The following talk on the classic Masonic poem, "The Final Toast" was given to the companions and visitors of Quinte Friendship Moira Chapter RAM #7 GRC on the occasion of R. Ex. Companion Allan's final visitation.

The presentation we know of in Lodge as the Junior Warden's toast, or in Chapter as the Third Principal's toast, is actually the last line of each verse of a six verse poem called 'The

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Final Toast' which comes to us from the middle of the nineteenth century. The full poem is as follows:

Are your glasses charged in the West and South, the Worshipful
Master cries,
They' re charged in the West, They' re charged in the South, are
the Wardens' prompt replies,
Then to our final toast to' night your glasses fairly drain
"Happy to meet ' Sorry to part ' Happy to meet again again
Oh! Happy to meet again!"

The Masons' social brotherhood around the festive board,
Reveals a wealth more precious far than selfish miser' s hoard
They freely share the priceless stores that generous hearts
contain
"Happy to meet, sorry to part' happy to meet again!"

We work like masons free and true, and when our task is done,
A merry song and cheering glass are not unduly won,
And only at our farewell pledge is pleasure touched with pain
"Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again!"

Amidst our mirth we drink "To all poor Masons o' er all the
world" '

On every shore our flag of love is gloriously unfurled,
We prize each brother, fair or dark, who bears no moral stain
"Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again!"

The Mason feels the noble truth the Scottish peasant told
That rank is but the guinea' s stamp, the man himself s the gold
With us the rich and poor unite and equal rights maintain
"Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again!"

Dear Brethren of the mystic tie, the night is waning fast
Our duty' s done ' our feast is o' er ' this song must be our last:'
"Good night". "Good night ' once more, once more repeat the
farewell strain '

"Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again!"

These verses have, from time to time, been attributed to either
Rudyard Kipling or to Robert Burns, both of them dedicated
masons. Perhaps it is because I am Scottish that I always felt
(wrongly it seems) that the verses were by the Scottish bard.
Probably because of the reference to "the Scottish peasant" and
the direct quote from Burns' poem "A man' s a man for a' that" in

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the fifth verse. There is also a reference to "brethren of the mystic tie" contained in the sixth verse which is another quote from Burns, this time from his "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James' Lodge, Tarbolton". Burns' Masonic references are many but one of my favorites is a stanza, which was added to his poem "No churchman am I". This stanza was added for presentation in a Masonic Lodge and goes:'

Then fill up a bumper and make it o'erflow,
And honours Masonic prepare for to throw:
May ev'ry true Brother of the Compass and Square
Have a big' bell' _ A bottle. when barrasA with care! _

What a marvelous sentiment!

Rudyard Kipling's Masonic references are many, but probably nowadays the best known is contained in the movie "The Man Who Would Be King" which was based on a story by Kipling. However 'The Final Toast' doesn't seem to me to be typical of Kipling's verses. But those who attributed it to him did get one thing right, because 'The Final Toast' came to us from India where Kipling spent many years.

In a paper presented to Quatuor Coronati Lodge No.2076 in 1978, Bro. Will Read advises us that the verses were actually written by Bro. David Lester Richardson who was born in London in January 1801. He served in India with the army and was at one time Aide' de' Camp to the Governor General, Lord William Bentinck. Bro. Richardson was initiated into Freemasonry in the Lodge of Industry and Perseverance (what a wonderful name) No.126 in Calcutta but it appears he never held any office. However one does not need to hold office to make a significant contribution to the Craft, and Bro. Richardson's contribution is priceless.

So to all of you, my Companions, it is time to say, Happy we have met, I'm sorry we must part, but happily we shall meet again. Until then may The Great Jehovah walk with us and be our constant Companion. May He bless us and all who belong to our Gentle Craft, now and for evermore.

So Mote It Be.

<http://www.masonicdictionary.com/final.html>