

“SLOANE MS. No. 3848” (G)

(A.D. 1646.)

THE might of y^e Father of Heaven, wth y^e wisdom of y^e glorious sonne ; through y^e goodness of y^e holy gost ; y^t bee three psons in one god, &c. bee wth us at o^r begininge ; and give us grace soe to governe us in our liveinge ; y^t wee may come to his blisse y^t never shall have endinge.

Good Brethren & Fellowes our purpose is to tell you, how & in what manner this Craft of Masonrie was begun, and afterwards founded by worthy Kings and Princes & many other wort^h men ; and also to y^m that be heare ; wee will declare to y^m the charge y^t doth belonge to every true Mason to keepe : For good sooth if you take heede therunto it is well Worthie to bee well kept, for a worthie Craft and curious science, For there bee seaven liberrall sciences, of y^e w^{ch} it is one. The first is Grammer ; y^t teacheth a man to speake truth and write truly ; The second is Rethoricke y^t teacheth a man to speak faire & in subtile tearmes. The third Loggick, y^t teacheth to disearne truth from falsehood. The fourth is Arithmeticke ; y^t teacheth to account & recount all manner of numbers ; The fift is called Geometree ; and it teacheth y^e meate & measure of y^e earthe ; and other things, which science is Masonrie ; The sixt is Musicke ; w^{ch} teacheth songe & voyce of tongue ; of organs & harpe ; The seaventh is called Astronomie ; that teacheth to know y^e course of sonne & moone ; and other Ornaments of y^e heavens ; These 7 liberrall Sciences, y^e which seaven bee all one Science ; That is to say Geometry, Thus may a man proue, y^t all Science in y^e world bee found by Geometry ; for it teacheth meate and measure ponderation & waight of all manner of kind earth : And there is noe man y^t worketh by any Craft but hee worketh by some measure ; and noe man y^t byes and sells, but by measure & weight, and all Geometriarians & Craftsmen and Merchants find noe other of y^e Seaven Sciences ; and especially Plowmen and tillars of all manner of graine ; both of cornes seeds vines plaints ; sellers of all other fruites ; For Gramer neither Astronomie ; nor any of all these can finde a man one measure or meate ; wthout Geometry wherefore I thinke that science most worthy that findeth all others ; How this worthy science was first begun I shall tell you ; before Noes flood was a man called Lameth as it is written in y^e 4 Chapt^r of Gene. and this Lameth had two wives, y^e one was called Adar, y^e other Sella ; and by the first wife Adar hee begott 2 sonnes. The one was called Jabell y^e other Juball ; And by y^e other wife hee had a sonne & a daughter ; and these foure children found y^e begininge of all Craft in y^e world ; This Jabell was y^e elder soone ; and hee found y^e Craft of Geometry ; and hee deped flocks of Sheep & lambes in y^e field, And hee first wrought house of stone & tree, and it is notes in y^e Chapt aforesaide y^t his brother Juball found musicke of Songe harpe & Orgaines ; The 3 Brother Tuball found out Smiths Crafts of Iron & steele ; and there sister found weaving ; and these children did knowe that god would take vengenc for sinne eather by fire or water ; wherefore they writ y^e Sciences w^{ch} weare found in 2 pillars of stone ; y^t y^e might bee found after y^e flood ; The one stone was called marble that cannot burne wth fire ; The

other was called Letera that cannot drowne wth water; Our intent is to tell you truly how & in what manner these stones weare found; where these Crafts weare written in Greeke; Hermines that was sonne to Cus; & Cus was sonne to Shem, w^{ch} was y^e sonne of Naoth: The same Hermenes was afterwards Hermes; the Father of wise men and hee found out y^e 2 pillers of stone where y^e Sciences weare written & taught y^m forth; And at y^e makeinge of y^e Towre of Babilon there was the craft of Masonrie first found & made much of, y^e Kinge of Babilon w^{ch} was called Hembroth or Membroth hee was a mason and loued well y^e craft; as it is saide with y^e maistr of y^e Stories; And when y^e Citie of Ninivie & other cities of East Azia should bee made. The Kinge of Babilon sent thither sixe at y^e desire of the King of Ninive his cozen; and they went forth, and hee gaue h^m a Charge on this maner, That y^e should bee true & liue truly together; and that y^e should serue there lord truly for their payment; for that he might have wor^{pp} for sendinge y^m & other Charges hee gaue them; and this was y^e first time y^t any Mason had any Charge of his Craft; Moreoov^r when Abraham & Sara his wife went into Egypt there weare taught the seaven sciences unto Egyptians; And hee had a worthy Scholler called Euchild and hee Learned right well and was Maistr of all the 7 Sciences; And it befell in his daies that y^e Lords and States of y^e Realme; had soe many soones y^t y^e had begotten; some by there wives; & some by Ladies of the Realme; For y^t Land is a holy Land and plenished generacon; And y^e had noe competent Liveige for there children; wherefore y^e made much sorrowe: And y^e King of y^e Land made greate counsell, & a pliaint to knowe how y^e might finde there Children meanes, & they could finde noe good wages; And caused a cry to bee made throughout y^e Realme; y^t if there weare any man that could informe him; y^t hee should come to him and bee well rewarded; and hold himselfe well apaide; and after this cry was made came this worthy Clarke Euchild and said to y^e Kinge and all his great Lords if you will have yo^r children gov^{rn}ed and taught honestly as gentlemen should bee; under condicon that you will grant y^m and mee a commission; y^t I may haue power to rule them honestly as these Sciences ought to be ruled; and y^e Kinge wth his counsell granted them; & sealed y^t commission; And then y^t worthy Docter tooke the Lordes sonnes and taught y^m this Science of Geometry in practice to worke masonrie all manner of worthy workes; y^t belongeth to buildinge of castles all manner cort^s temples and churches; wth all other buildings; and hee gaue y^m charge in this manner; First that ye should bee true to y^e Kinge and to y^e Lord^s ye served; & that they should love well together; and be true one to another; & that they should call one another fellowes; and not servants no knave nor other foul names; and that y^e should truly serue there paymt to y^e lord that others serve; and that y^e should ordaine y^e wisest of them to bee made Mr. of y^e Lords worke; and neither for love great lineinge nor riches; to sett another that hath little cunnige to bee Mr. of y^e lords worke wherebye hee should bee evilly served or they ashamed; and that y^e should call the gov^{rn}or of y^e worke Mr. of y^e worke whilst y^e worke wth him; & many other charges which weare too long to tell; and to all these charges hee made y^m sweare the great oath men used in y^t time; and ordained for them reasonable payment; y^t ye might live by it honestly: & alsoe that y^e should come & assemble wth others that ye might have counsell in these crafts; yea might worke best to serve there lord; for his p^{ft}t and wor^{pp} and to correcte themselves if ye had trespassed; and thus ye craft of Geometree was gov^{rn}ed there; and y^t worthy Mr. gave it y^e name of Geometry and it is called masonrie in this Land long after the Children of Israell were come into the land of It is now amongst us in y^e country

of Jerusalem Kinge David beaun the temple of Jerusalem that is wth them templum Dei ; And y^e said King David loved masons well ; and cherished them ; and gave y^m good payment. And hee gave y^m charges that y^e shall heare afterwards ; and after y^e decease of King David ; Solomon y^t was sonne to King David pformed out y^e Temple his Father had begun : and hee sent afterwards masons of divers Lands ; and gathered y^m together ; soe y^t hee had fourscore thousand workers of stone ; and they weare named masons ; and he had 3 thousand of them ; wth which weare ordained M^{rs}. and Govnr^s of y^t worke, and there was a King of another Region y^t men called Hiram and he loved well Kinge Solomon ; and gave him timber for his worke ; and hee had a son that was named Aynon & hee was M^r. of Geometry ; and he was chiefe M^r. of all his masons ; and M^r. of all his graued workes ; and of all other masons that belongeth to y^e Temple ; & this witnesseth the Bible in libro 2. *Solo*. capite 5. And this sonne Solomon confermed both charges & manners ; y^t his father had given to masons ; and thus was y^e worthy craft of masons confermed in y^e country of Jerusalem ; and in many other Kingdomes Glorious Craftsmen walkeing abroade into divers Countres ; some because of learning more craft ; and other some to teach there craft ; and so it befell that a curious workman ; who was named Nimus Greacus & had beene at y^e makeinge of Solomons Temple ; and came into France ; and there taught y^e craft of masonrie ; to y^e men of France that was named Charles Martill ; hee loved well this craft and drew to him this Ninias Greacus ; and learned of him y^e craft ; and tooke upon him y^e charges and mannr^s. and afterwarde by y^e grace of god hee was elected Kinge of France ; and when hee was in his Estate hee tooke many masons ; and made masons there y^t weare none ; and sett y^m in worke and gave y^m both charges and mannr^s. & good payment ; w^{ch} he had learned of other masons ; and conferred y^m a charter from yeare to yeare to hold there assembly, and thus came y^e craft into France ; all this while England was voyde, both of any charge or masonrie ; vntill y^e time of St. Albons ; and in his time y^e King of England that was a Pagan ; and hee walled y^e Towne w^{ch} is now called St. Albons ; and soe in Albon's time a worthe Knight ; and chiefe Stewarde to y^e King and had gou'm^t of y^e Realme ; and alsoe of makinge y^e Towne Walles ; and hee loved masons well ; & cherished them ; & made there paym^t right good standinge wages, as y^e Realme did require. For he gave y^m every weeke iij^s. vj^d. to there double wages ; before y^t time through all y^e Lan^d a masoun tooke but id. a day, and next to y^t time y^t St. Albons mended it ; hee gott y^m a charter from y^e King and his councell ; and gave y^m charges as you shall heare hereafter. After y^e decease of St. Albons there came greivous wars into England ; through nations ; soe y^t y^e good rule of masonrie was destroyed ; untill y^e time of King Athelstone ; y^t was a worthy King in England and hee brought y^e Land into good rest & peace againe ; and hee builded many great workes & Castles and Abbies ; and many other Buildings ; and hee loued masons very well ; & hee had a sonne y^t was named Ladrian ; and hee loued masons much more then his Father. For hee was full of practice in Geometry ; wherefore hee drew himselfe to commune wth masons ; and to Learne of y^m ye craft ; and afterwards for y^e Love hee had to masons ; and to ye craft y^t hee was made mason himselfe.

And hee gott of his Father y^e King a Charter, and a commission to hold every year an Assembly where they would wthin y^e Realme ; and to correcte wth y^m. selves statutes and trespasses ; if it weare done wthin ye crafte ; and hee held himself assembly at **York** and there hee made Masons, and gave y^m Charges and

taught them the man^{rs} of Masons ; and Comanded that rule to bee holden evr after : And to them took y^e charter & Commission to keepe ; and ordained y^t it should be ruled from King to King : when this assembly was gathered together ; hee caused a cry to be made ; y^t all Masons both yong & old y^t had any writinge or understandinge of ye charges that weare made before in this land, or in any other Land ; y^t y^e should shew y^m forth and there was some in French, some in Greeke, & some in English ; and some in other Languages ; and y^e intent thereof was found ; & thereof hee comanded a booke to be made how y^e crafte was first found & made, & comanded that y^t should bee read and told when any Masons should bee made ; and to give him his charge ; and from that time untill his time Masonrie untill this day hath beene kept in y^t forme & ord^r as well as men might gou^{rne} ye same ; and urthermore at dyu^{rs} assembles hath beene put to and aded certaine Charges ; more by y^e best advices ; of Mastr^{rs} and Fellowes.

Heare followeth the worthie and godly oath of Masons. Every man that is a Masonn take Heede right well ; to this charge ; if you finde yorsel^fe guilty of any of these ; y^t you amend you ; againe especially you y^t are to bee charged take good heed that you may keepe this charge ; for it is a great perrill for a man to forseweare himselfe on a book.

1. The first charge is that you shall bee true man to god ; and y^e holy Church ; and that you vse noe heresie nor error by yor^r vnderstandinge or by teaching of a discreet man.

2. Alsoe you shall be true Leighman to the King wthout treason or falshood, and that you shall knowe noe treason, but that you amend it if you may ; or else warne the King or y^e Counsell thereof.

3. Alsoe you shall bee true one to another that is to say to every M^r & fellowe of y^e trust of Masonrie ; y^t bee Masons allowed ; & that you doe to them as you would y^e should doe to you.

4. Alsoe that no Mason bee thiefe in companie soe far forth as you shall knowe.

5. Alsoe every Mason shall keepe true Counsell of Lodge and Chamber ; and all other Counsell that ought to bee kept by y^e way of Masonrie.

6. Alsoe that you shall bee true vnto y^e Lorde & M^r that you serue ; and truly to see for his pfitt & advantage.

7. Alsoe y^t you doe noe vilanie in that house whereby the Craft shall bee slandered.

These bee Charges in generall w^{ch} every Mason should hould both Maistr^{rs} and fellowes.

Nowe I will rehearse other Charges in singular for M^{rs} and fellowes.

1. First that noe Maister shall take upon him any Lords worke or other worke, but that hee knowe himselfe able & cunnige to pforme the same, soe y^t the Craft haue noe disworth but that ye Lord may bee serued & that truly.

2. Alsoe that noe Maister take any worke but he take it reasonable, soe y^t y^e Lord may bee truly serued wth his owne good ; & y^e M^r to liue honestly ; and to pay his fellowes truly there pay as the manner of y^e Craft doth require.

3. Alsoe that noe Maister nor fellowe shall supplant others of there worke ; (that is to say) if y^e haue taken a worke, or stand M^r of a Lords worke you shall not put him out of it ; if hee bee able of Cunning to pforme y^e same.

4. Alsoe that noe Mr nor fellowe take any apprentize ; to bee allowed his apprentize ; but for seaven yeares ; and yt ye apprentize bee alsoe of his birth and limbs as hee ought to bee.

5. Alsoe that noe Mr nor fellowe take allowance to bee made Mason wthout ye asent of his fellowes yt at the least five or sixe ; and that hee that shall bee made Mason ; to bee able our all syers ; (yt is to say) that hee be free borne, and of good Kinred and noe bondman ; and yt hee haue his right Limes as a man ought to haue.

6. Alsoe That noe Mr put a Lordsman to taske yt is vsed to goe to Joyrney.

7. Also every Mason shall giue noe pay to his fellowes but as hee shall diserne ; soe that hee bee not deceived by falce workemen.

8. Also That noe fellowe slander other falsly behind his backe ; to make him loose his good name or worldly goods.

9. Alsoe yt noe fellowe wthin the Lodge or wthout answer another vngodlily wthout reasonable cause.

10. Also ev'ry Mason shall pferr his elder and put him to worshipp.

11. Also that noe Mason shall play at Hazards or any other unlawful game ; whereby they may bee slandered.

12. Alsoe that noe Mason shall bee a common Rybold in lecherie ; to make ye Craft slandered ; and that noe fellowe goe into ye Towne where is a Lodge of fellowes ; wthout a fellowe wth him ; that may beare him witnes ; that hee was in honest Companie :

13. Alsoe yt every Mr and fellowe come to ye assembly if it bee wthin fiftie myles ; about him ; if hee have any warninge ; and to stand at ye reward of Mrs and fellowes.

14. Alsoe that eu'rye Maister and fellowe if he have trespassed, shall stand at ye reward of Mrs & fellowes to make them acord if ye may, (but if ye may not to goe to ye Common Lawe.

15. Alsoe That noe Mason make moulds square or rule to any rough Lyers.

16. Alsoe That noe Mason sett noe layes wthin a Lodge or wthout to have mould stone wth noe mould of his owne workinge.

17. Alsoe when ye come our ye country to sett them on worke as ye manner is (yt is to say) if they have mould stones in place ; he shall sett him a fortnight in worke ; & giue him his hire ; and if there bee noe stones for him ; Then refresh him wth some money ; to bring him to ye next Lodge.

18. Alsoe you shall & evrye Mason shall serue truly ye workes ; and truly make an end of yor workes, bee it taske or Joyrney ; if you may haue yor pay as you ought to haue ; These Charges that we have rehearsed & all other yt belongeth to Masonrie you shall keepe ; to ye vttermost of yor knowledge ; Soe helpe you god & by the Contents of this booke.

Finis p me Eduardu Sankey
decimo sexto die Octobris Anno Domini 1646.

(An exact Transcript from the British Museum.)