

FREEMASONRY'S

Place in the World

BY ILL. MELVIN M. JOHNSON, 33°

M. P. Sovereign Grand Commander

THERE are well over three million Freemasons in the United States. More than half a million of them belong to the Scottish Rite. It is true that quite a number are unaffiliated but, nevertheless, a substantial proportion of the latter are actuated by the ideals to which we adhere and are in thorough sympathy with our purposes and objectives.

Without undue self-glorification, we may safely say that the vast majority of the leaders of Masonic thought and action belong to our Rite. Three million men whose character, ability and standing have passed Masonic committees and the ballot box with approval are an influential proportion of the adult male citizenry of the United States. Their influence is far from a negligible factor in the community. That influence never reaches its possible maximum.

It is a part of our responsibility, as those counted among the leaders of the Craft, to see that the ideals for which our Fraternity and Rite stand are not only propagated among our membership but are made an integral part of the life of the community, the nation and, indeed, of human kind at large. Thus it becomes our primary duty ourselves to appreciate the bases and principles of our Institution together with its purposes and objectives. There are needs at the moment which each individual interprets from his own personal viewpoint and surroundings, but no needs are more general than the restoration of human faith, of confidence of men in themselves and their fellow men, in their sincerity, their honesty, their altruism; and the promotion of the brotherhood of all mankind.

In these days when, in various parts of the world, there are leaders of great numbers of men who are encouraging atheism, and not the worship of God; selfishness and not altruism; intolerance, and not toleration; hostility, and not neighborliness; hate and not love; the world is in serious danger. A departure from the ideals and principles upon which the civilization which we have known has been built will cause it again to crumble, as has happened in centuries long past. Unless those ideals which are the landmarks of civilization can be preserved to actuate the impulses of the leaders of thought and action and, through them, the majority of mankind, our children and children's children are destined to a repetition of the darkness of the Middle Ages, and of those ancient days of which we read in history when the great civilizations of the world toppled and fell.

True, the tide has always come back, but misery and chaos have spread everywhere when it has receded, and have persisted until the flood again approached. Can such a terrible disaster be stayed? Congresses, legislatures and parliaments may meet and pass statutes galore; dictators may impress their will upon great peoples, but only the moral conscience of the whole people, inspired by enlightened leaders, will save them. When a man loses his physical health, then he begins to take care of it; but when he loses his moral health, he clings closer to his vices. This is true of nations as well as individuals.

Here, then, lies Freemasonry's greatest duty and opportunity. It has selected those ideals which are unchangeable landmarks, the total of which is summarized in the maxim "Brotherhood of man based upon the Fatherhood of God." To see

Harold A. Cross.
 Delmar D. Darrah.
 J. L. Dickhaut.
 Emma J. Dunlap.
 John Ehrenpreis.
 Mathilde T. Endrea.
 The Family of Samuel E. Erickson.
 Mrs. M. Farster.
 Abe Frazin.
 Hans E. Hagglund.
 Mrs. Robert A. Hall.
 Mrs. Hanscom and children.
 Mary C. Heimbach.
 Madeleine J. Holmes.
 Mrs. Ella Jaspar.
 N. H. Johannsen.
 F. B. Keller.
 Victor Kunzer, Sr.
 W. J. Leacock, Jr.
 Ralph H. Maxwell.
 Charles L. McCarty.
 John W. Meyer.
 Mrs. Edward A. Price and Family.
 The Family of Hiram B. Rairden.
 Mrs. Frank Ransford and Family.
 Jacob Reichenbach, Corinne Middleton.
 C. V. Rice.
 Mrs. Claus E. Roos and Family.
 Mrs. Willard Clark Sanford and Family.
 Elfreda Schuneman and Alice.
 Mrs. E. B. Sherman.
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith.
 John G. Stebbins, Carol A. Rowe.
 Frank C. Stolp.
 The Family of the late Dr. George N. Vogelei.

HOSPITAL BENEFIT BY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1939, the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra of 90 pieces, under the able direction of Dimitri Mitropoulos, will give a concert at the Auditorium theater for the benefit of the Illinois Masonic hospital, the proceeds to be used for the purchase of new X-ray equipment. This concert is being sponsored by the Illinois Masonic hospital women's auxiliary and the Hellenic Craftsmen of Chicago.

The Minneapolis Symphony orchestra enjoys an enviable reputation among lovers of good music throughout the United States, and Dimitri Mitropoulos—one of the four greatest conductors the world—will make his Chicago debut. This concert will be one of the outstanding events of the season.

SAMUEL E. ERICKSON

Samuel E. Erickson, a member of the Chicago Scottish Rite Bodies, 78 years old, former clerk of the Superior Court and for many years active in Cook County Republican affairs, died Dec. 11, in the Illinois Masonic Hospital. He was taken there after he suffered a stroke at his home, 532 Aldine Avenue.

Brother Erickson was brought to Chicago from Sweden as an infant. He was a telegraph messenger boy and worked in shops and factories before entering politics. In 1890, at the suggestion of Joseph Medill, he ran for the state legislature and served six terms. Later he engaged in the real estate business and at one time was president of the Chicago and Cook County real estate board. He was Superior Court Clerk from 1920 to 1928. In recent years he had traveled extensively.

A son, County Commissioner William N. Erickson, and three daughters, Mrs. Gustav Andreen, Mrs. Kenneth Olson, and Mrs. Clifford K. Ostrom, survive. Funeral services were held in the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenview and Elmdale Avenues, at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14. Interment Graceland Cemetery.

MASONIC TEMPLE AT NAIROBI, KENYA COLONY, DEDICATED

More than 300 Masons witnessed the dedication of the new Masonic Hall at Nairobi, Kenya Colony, East Africa. The Dedication Officer was H. R. Hone, Deputy District Grand Master for East Africa, who delivered a stirring address stressing the need for Masons to rededicate their lives more devotedly to the tenets of the Fraternity: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Masons gathered from all parts of East Africa for the occasion, including Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Uganda, and the Belgian Congo. The Hindus wearing turbans, Mohammedans wearing the fez, the jewels and decorations of the Grand Lodge, representing the varied hues and colors of the several Jurisdictions, presented an inspiring scene. The universality of Freemasonry was also remarkably demonstrated at the dedication by the opening of the various Sacred Books in the order given: The Bible, the Koran of the Mohammedan, and the Sacred Volume of the Hindu.