

## THE GOLDEN CHAIN

"Oh, may the golden chain thus lengthened be brighter for each link."

How often have we listened to those words as they fell from the lips of the Chaplain while we stood around that sacred altar; listened to them in the various moods to which human nature is subject, some in reverence, some with indifference, while a few with minds so far away they heard them not at all. We have heard these words many times, we have probably repeated them many times ourselves, but how many of us have given serious thought to what we might contribute to that golden chain to make our particular link shine with undiminished lustre in making the perfect whole.

When a workman starts to make a link he must first have a base metal, a metal that will remain strong and true through the wear and tear of its daily use, and upon which all must depend. For the link in our golden chain we, too, must have a base metal, and for this we take Fidelity and Constancy, those things that have been the vital part of every great achievement since the time of man. No matter how great our love, how high our ambitions, or how good our intentions, if we have not the loyalty upon which to build the structure to house these valuable possessions, they will avail us nothing. Love without loyalty is valueless, for it will fail the object of its affection in the hour of need; ambition without this prime requisite will vanish in the dreams of the idler; while good intentions without loyalty are indeed as a "house built on the shifting sands", for the first wave of adversity will wash them away.

With Fidelity and Constancy firmly blended into the strong base that must bear the burdens of our life, we then add Purity, that purity in thought and action that has been the building element in the lives of those who have stood on the peaks of power and influence and to whose guidance we have unquestionably turned, knowing that their thoughts were only for that which was right and that which was true.

We now have our foundations which will stand the test of time, but it is a lifeless object, and to breathe into it the breath of life we add Faith, that faith that enabled those who have gone before to gaze into the future and see that small gathering grow into one of the largest fraternal organizations in the world; the faith that can hold fast in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties and see the future with its rich promise of reward; that faith that can see through the dark clouds of adversity

The picture of the Cross shining in all its glory.

We are now ready for the final polish, and for that we take Love. That love that develops tact in working with its sisters and brothers; that love that puts the Good of the Order before personal feelings and desires; that love that says "we" and not "I"; that gets the vision of the vastness of the Order and realizes how little, yet how important, is each individual; that sees beyond the door of the anteroom and gazes into the vast realm of opportunity which calls so loudly, for the harvest is ripe but the laborers are few.

Our link is now complete, but useless until merged into that Golden Chain, for without this, no matter how well the metals have blended, or how beautifully it is made, it cannot fail to fulfill the purpose for which it was intended, and for this last action we take Service. It is the service of willingness to give our best to our Order, of helpfulness without criticism; the service of Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God: As it is well known that pure gold shines brightest when in constant use, may we ever keep our gold of service shining brightly by constant activity in behalf of our Order, by practicing its teachings so that those who have not had the privilege of passing through the portals may have only the highest regard for the organization of which we are a part; and lastly, that someone may be a little happier for our having passed that way. As we take our place in that great chain of fraternalism which encircles the globe and add rays of light to its brilliancy, may we keep our eyes fixed upon that Star in the East, and learn to worship Him in spirit and in truth.