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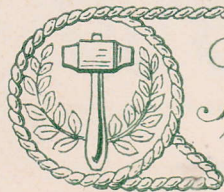
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

PUBLISHED FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LODGES OF THIS JURISDICTION
(Entered as second class mail matter at the Manila Post Office)



CHRISTMAS, A SEASON OF HAPPINESS

And numerous indeed are the hearts to which Christmas brings a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families whose members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide, in the restless struggle of life, are reunited, and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual good-will, which is a source of such pure and unalloyed delight, and one so incompatible with the cares and sorrows of the world, that the religious belief of the most civilized nations, and the rude traditions of the roughest savages, alike number it among the first days of a future state of existence, provided for the blest and happy! How many old recollections, and how many dormant sympathies, Christmas-time awakens! —CHARLES DICKENS.



The Grand Master's Message



CHRISTMAS, AN OCCASION FOR REFLECTION

Christmas is an annual festival and a season of gift-giving. Many of us have waited patiently, yes, anxiously for this period of the year when we gather choice possessions in order to present them to our loved ones and friends. Here neither quantity nor cost counts because the gifts are given as Christmas gifts and our main concern is to make the recipients happy and satisfied. This attitude is likewise reciprocated and pretty soon cheer radiates through the individual, the home, the neighborhood and the entire community.

Christmas is also an occasion for reflection. Amidst merriment and rejoicing, we should meditate and consider the plight of the poor and the needy; these less fortunate brethren deserve our care and kindness as much if not more than those who are prosperous and well. Even a warm handclasp, a contagious smile, an encouraging word or a simple token of our sympathy can be transformed into valuable gifts of encouragement and inspiration because they are an expression of the human heart. And the Masons wherever they are should share with others this kind of spirit for Masonry in practice is useful to all men including the illiterate and the oppressed, the disconsolate and the afflicted.

Let us then express in words and translate in deeds the oft-repeated greeting of love and remembrance: **A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.**

ALBERT J. BRAZEE, JR.
Acting Grand Master



THE CABLETOW

EDITORIALS

CHRISTMAS THEN AND NOW

The first Christmas was celebrated as a day of worship by men high and low, rich and poor alike. It was characterized by the simple but sincere homage of the faithful to a child destined to become the true friend of man and the saviour of the world.

Fortunately for humanity, the records anent Christ's nativity have been preserved for us to read and reread that we may fully comprehend their significance. Let us review the historic events of that day of days. Not velvet but swaddling clothes were on hand for the Babe of Bethlehem; there was no inn for it but merely a manger; the elite were comfortable in houses of luxury while the shepherds kept watch over their flock by night in the field that was chilly; even so, the good tidings of great joy were brought not to a limited few but to all people; and from on high came praises to God and a proclamation of peace on earth and good will toward men. These are lessons that mean cheerfulness and humility, faith and hope, sacrifice and love.

That was almost two thousand years ago. Recently, Christmas was again celebrated with the traditional mass and gift-giving. Some of us simply wished and not prayed for peace; our concern mostly dealt with the immediate present unmindful of whatever the morrow might bring; there was lavishness in distributing presents to our selected group of friends but grudge in parting with even the crumbs from our table for the famished and the forgotten. And the Holy Land of all lands — where centuries before, Christ mingled with the multitude teaching the value of mutual understanding, preaching the gospel of love and living the Golden Rule — was and still is the lamentable setting of suspicion, the hatching place of greed, and the fertile ground for the reign of hate with the consequent killing of the guilty and the massacre of the innocent. This indeed, is neither human progress nor an encouraging sign for men and nations to work together in one world.

We feel but do not admit outwardly that there is something lacking in us. Time and experience indicate that we still have pride in our behavior and selfishness in our hearts; in

fact; there is little if any place therein for kindness and sympathy. Herein lies the obstacle to the realization of our desire for universal brotherhood; herein also lies the opportunity for us to make amends.

If in the past we have been tempted by the tinkle of gold and the shout of "mine" in our own exclusive circle, let not these sounds no matter how loud, deafen us again. When the next Christmas and those yet to follow come, we should hear distinctly the good tidings of great joy and heed promptly the call of others from the community as a whole.

— Mauro Baradi, M.P.S.

RIZAL IS RIZAL

ONE of Rizal's most important works is his "Noli Me Tangere" published in 1886. This was ten years before his demise. In it he made known the weakness and evils of Spanish rule in the Philippines and fearlessly exposed the hypocrisy and scandals of those who posed as men of God. His traducers declaimed that the author was an ignorant man, a heretic and a traitor to God and the novel was replete with lies, an insult to the heads of the Church and the Christian world. Those holding the contrary view, asserted that Rizal far from being ignorant was an honor to the civilized world; that in his work, he depicted conditions as he observed them and suggested reforms for the common good; that his object was to appeal to the sense of fairness and justice of those in high places so that the heavy yoke of an over-burdened and oppressed people might be lightened. There is one thing about the national classic in which both critics and defenders agreed: that through it, Rizal expressed a yearning for the freedom of his people and the independence of his native land.

More than half a century has passed since the martyr of Bagumbayan was executed. But neither the use of misrepresentation to deceive those unfamiliar with Rizal's suffering and sacrifice nor a resort to forgery to suit the vanity of other men can affect adversely our ever-increasing admiration of and undying reverence for the nation's greatest hero and patriot. Truth is truth; likewise, Rizal is Rizal.

—Mauro Baradi, M.P.S.

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● OFFICIAL SECTION ●

**MEETING OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
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THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
AS A CORPORATION**

NOTICE is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippine Islands, a corporation duly registered under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, will be held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, 520 San Marcelino, Manila, on January 27-29, 1948, at 4:00 o'clock, when the Directors for the ensuing year will be elected, and such other business as may come up during the meeting will be transacted.

ANTONIO GONZALEZ, P. G. M.
Grand Secretary

30th Annual — Manila — January 22

Grand Master Presiding, M. W. Michael Goldenberg,
Acting Grand Master Elected, M. W. Michael
Goldenberg, Grand Secretary, M. W. Antonio
Gonzalez, Lodges 81 — Members 4,349

Grand Representative of Vermont, Ramon Ramos.

AFTER five years we have the privilege of again reviewing the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. With sincere pleasure we welcome you back, brethren, into the land of the living, so to speak. You have suffered more than any words of ours can express, and, by the same token, our sympathy for all you have been through, our thankfulness that you are rehabilitated and functioning, and our pride in your Masonic stamina are all beyond our power to make you understand.

I wish I might reprint here the report of the Acting Grand Master, but, of course, space forbids. It is a vivid account of the terrible years of oppression, yet, withal, a glowing tribute to the spirit of Masonry which lived and worked underground during that whole tragic period. To say that Philippine Masonry, Grand and Subordinate, lost everything except its spirit, in the Jap invasion, means just that. Their rehabilitation and the relief they have dispensed seems almost incredible in so short a time, for the report before me is as of January, 1946, and records the progress of only a few months. With such spirit as they have shown, the future of this Grand Body and all its subordinate parts is assured.

The Grand Secretary's report is a long and minute narrative of the suppression of Masonry, his own trials, tribulations and imprisonment resulting from his total refusal to cooperate with the Japanese, and the later period of rehabilitation. It is fact stranger than fiction. It clearly portrays the steadfastness and loyalty of the Island Masonry.

In 1941 the Grand Lodge had a membership of about 6,000. The first Lodge returns after the liberation accounted for eighty-one Lodges with a membership of 4,349 Master Masons, 137 Fellowcrafts and 242 Entered Apprentices. Of the Master Masons, 1,520 were Americans, 2,037 Filipinos and 792 of other nationalities. This evidently does not include the District of this Grand Lodge in China, for it is indicated that contact there had not been made by January, 1946.

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JOSE J. DE GUZMAN

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

By Wor. Bro. Tomas de Guzman

I take great pleasure in expressing thru THE CABLETOW the Fraternal Greetings of our members to all masons whithersoever dispersed.

At the same time, I take also this singular opportunity to acquaint brethren of sister Lodges in this Jurisdiction what we are doing, and how far we have gone towards the fulfilment of our duty and obligation to the service of worthy brother masons.

We invite any sojourning brother who, by chance or circumstances, is wafted in this valley, to see our lodge hall at Ilagan, Isabela. Our lodge is a haven for benighted travelers. For them we have amply provided the Lodge with equipment and beddings for their accommodations.

We invite any visiting brother to attend our lodge meetings and exchange views and ideas about Masonry in general and our lodges in particular.

And we invite all masons to accept this expression of our humble hospitality. Do not fail to see either our secretary, who is the postmaster of Ilagan, or the writer whenever they happen to travel in this valley. Just knock and the doors of our lodge shall open unto you.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

By Wor. Bro. Domingo Alcaraz

IN behalf of the brethren of our Lodge (at Aparri, Cagayan) and of my own, I am taking this opportunity of transmitting, thru the columns of the CABLETOW, our fraternal Christmas Greetings to all the Masons of the world, wishing them happiness and contentment in their renewed faith and determination to make of this World a pleasant dwelling for all peoples of this earth to live in; that thru the modest teachings of Masonry, founded on pure masonic and moral virtues, they should be influenced to well understand each other in order to avoid strife and self-supremacy among men and nations and so that the weak shall live as happy as the mighty, without forgetting that only God is the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

If this present masonic year 1947 ends with little or no material gains — indeed, it was during the rehabilitation era — let it be our singular pride that masonic spirit has survived from the severest ordeal of mankind, as manifested by the “come-back” of most of the old members and founders of Mabini Lodge No. 93, serving as it did, in the early reorganization of the Lodge and earnest revival of masonic interest of the brethren.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Wor. Bro. Luis F. Reyes

THE dawn of peace and enlightenment is again drawing near to be commemorated as a traditional history of the birth of our Lord Christ Jesus. It marks the day of the coming of the Messiah, not as a son of man, but as the son and the only begotten son of the Great Almighty God. It is the Word that has come to the flesh to live among men and preach the wisdom of Heaven. He is the veritable incarnation of the love of God, and is sent unto men as the materialized manifestation of that Divine Love. God created all that has been created thru him, that is thru His son, and the whole humanity found life, light and love upon the coming of Christ into the flesh. It is indeed the greatest day of all times that marks the emancipation of humanity from darkness, the deliverance of mankind of its sins, so that its salvation must come thru Christ as the Saviour of the whole universe.

So, in commemoration of this august event, it is our solemn duty to kneel down in heartfelt prayer and thank God for His unspeakable gift to ailing humanity, materialized by the sending of the true Messiah of salvation thru whose never-failing mediation and influence we are led in the right path toward spiritual cleansing. It is therefore fitting and proper that in celebrating Christmas we should consider that the birth of Christ is real and not merely a legend; that he is a true Messiah and not a false prophet; that he is the only begotten son of God and not merely a son of man. We should take him as the genuine symbol of loving kindness, a real teacher who teaches us the gospel of humbleness, charity and mercy. We should look up to him with unquestioning trust and unwavering love, for he not only fought for the sacred cause of truth, but also gave his life to save mankind from darkness.

Under these considerations, Christmas, in its real spiritual significance, should inspire peace and good-will among men. But unfortunately, Christ's message of "Peace on Earth and Good-will among Men" has apparently no more effect upon the conduct of the individuals today, because the world's morality has broken down. The ambition for power and personal aggrandizement and the greed for more wealth are now making an endless stream of human blood. Does this all mean that Christianity is a failure, that the Messiah whom the shepherds sought in a lowly stable in Beth-

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

By Wor. Bro. Ovenson

IN the name of Zapote Lodge No. 29 it is my great pleasure to extend the Season's Greetings to all Masons of the Philippines and their families, and in doing so implore the assistance of our Almighty and Eternal Grand Master, that He will be pleased to influence our hearts and minds, not only of the Members of our Craft, but of all humanity in general, regardless of race, color, or creed, in order that they may be able to practice those moral duties in keeping with the great masonic principle — "The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man".

It is my sincere conviction that, if all of our actions are influenced by the spirit of "Brotherly Love" and "Fear of God", this tumultuous and chaotic world of today will be a thing of the past and in its place will rise a new world of lasting and eternal peace and love among mankind, and all men together will achieve the accomplishment of one of the greatest objectives of our Order.

lehem lived and died in vain? Not at all. For, in the hearts of the humble and the meek who do not ignore his deathless teachings, who respond to his injunction, "Love thy enemy", the message which Christ left will ever be increasingly felt until that day comes when men will apply Christian principles to the conduct of domestic as well as international affairs. Then will our world be a far better and safer place for us to live in, for it will bring to man a new joy to their lives, a new meaning to their existence, and a new feeling of friendliness to the whole world. So, let us be helpful and look forward to that day when the spirit that was in the Christ Child shall be the ruling of all humanity and when Christmas shall last all thru the years to come.

No message within the memory of man is replete with more significance than that of Christ Jesus whose nativity brought to the whole world an era of peace and good-will. And at no time should his message be more deeply remembered than at these trying moments when the atmosphere is again laden with suspicion and resentment; sister nations are bristling with deadly weapons for both aggression and defense; and numberless families on the other side of the world are actually confronted with the painful circumstances of want,
(Turn to page 115)

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CHRISTMAS CHEER

A *LITTLE* girl woke up early on Christmas Day and went to her grandpa's room where she saw him smoking a pipe and reading a newspaper. "Merry Christmas" grandpa the girl said. "What is merry about Christmas?" came the reply. Without hesitation the girl said that the children next door were singing and dancing around a Christmas tree while Santa Claus stood by and laughing to his heart's content. "Let us go out and watch their celebration" the girl insisted. Both looked out of the window and saw everybody happy. The old man was reminded that there was no Christmas tree in his home and he not only rushed to buy one but hung on it, gifts galore. "Thank you grandpa. I am as happy as can be." said the old man: "I should thank you for bringing me cheer today." And the two enjoyed the day together. —Contributed.

CHRISTMAS AND MASONRY

By Wor. Bro. Primo I. Guzman

CHRISTMAS is gift-giving to those whom we love. Masonry is service to our fellowmen. Thus Christmas and Masonry stand for the same ideal: Love of God and man. If we practice this message daily then it can be said that our Christmas is truly a happy one.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Wor. Bro. Ciro I. De Jesus

ONCE again Christmas is with us. It is sad to say that Christmas spirit is generally remembered and practiced only once a year. Even then its effect is pleasing, enervating and ennobling. If the spiritual good cheer of Christmas Day were generally manifested thruout the year it would transform mankind. Hence, it should be made a perennial and perpetual expression of love in one's heart. Love is still the greatest thing in the world and the world grows better in proportion as love increases. For the redemption of mankind from selfishness, envy, greed and emnity; and for the realization of a universal brotherhood of men to the end "Thy Kingdom come on earth as in Heaven", let us translate into action what Saint Francis of Assisi had prayed for:

"Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in the giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to
Eternal Life. Amen!"

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By Wor. Bro. P. Custodio Wagelle

IN the name of CAVITE LODGE No. 2, I extend my heartfelt CHRISTMAS GREETINGS of the Season. On this occasion, I convey my sincere wish that PEACE and HARMONY may prevail to all mankind.

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CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

CHRISTMAS DAY

By Wor. Bro. Teofilo A. Abejo

Every year we celebrate Christmas, the birthday of the Prince of Peace, and acknowledge the sovereignty of Jesus of Nazareth, not because of the antiquity of the Christian religion; for several other religious systems antedate it by several centuries; not because of the imposing and magnificent monuments and temples erected to Him, for in that respect we were excelled even in the very morning of civilization in the valley of the Nile where, for thousands of years, temples and pyramids, sphinxes and obelisks have stood and outlived the gods which they represent; not because of the miracle of His birth and the humbleness of His childhood, for the birth of several other prophets were also attributed to divine interposition, and we are told that many Greek heroes were direct descendants of the gods; not because of infamy of His crucifixion, for several other prototypes of divinity in other religious systems have suffered death similar unto the Tragedy on Calvary.

We celebrate and rejoice on Christmas day to commemorate and honor the teachings and religious philosophy of the Perfect Master exemplified in His pure and blameless life, and in His appeal to Man's intellect to do right not because of any future reward or punishment, but because it is RIGHT; to be just because it is the only just thing to do; to love truth for TRUTH'S sake; to love our enemies as well as our friends because we are all brothers, the children of our Father who is in Heaven.

His Gospel which embodies the purest philosophy and the highest principles of life may be fully illustrated and expressed in only one word of one syllable — LOVE.

December, 1947.

Merry X'mas To All Masons
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HOW THE OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS CAME ABOUT

By Walter A. Quincke, F.P.S.
Los Angeles, California

Why Do We Keep Christmas?

Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. The religious event is observed by the Protestant, Catholic and Greek churches on diversified dates in different parts of the world. The festivities of the day may be traced to the ancient rites celebrated in Scandinavia, Rome, Greece and Egypt, where the pagan people feared, as the days shortened in the darkest month of the year, that the sun was dying, and observed a time of rejoicing when the sun began to stay with them a little longer each day. The leaders of the early Christian Church endeavored to adapt the harmless features of the heathen sun festivals as a conciliation to those who had broken with their old beliefs and vowed their allegiances to the new faith. But despite their effort at control, Christmas resulted in orgies not to be countenanced by the Christian Church. Revelry continued in England, until, some years after the coming of the Puritans to America, the Roundhead Parliament abolished Christmas for 12 years, and in America the Court of Massachusetts followed suit. But Christmas must be kept, and it was later re-established in a more sane fashion by law in both countries, because the people were unwilling to do *without* the festival.

Why Do We Celebrate Christmas On December 25?

Nobody knows whether that is the exact date on which Christ was born, or what people first celebrated the festival on that date. After the triumph of Christianity the prejudice of the early Christians against the celebration of birthdays as heathenism died out. Some time between 337 and 352 A.D., Pope Julius directed Saint Cyclic to ascertain the correct date. He reported that the Western churches observed it on December 25th, altho other churches kept the day in January, April, May, March and September. Pope Julius was so satisfied with Saint Cyclic's report that he set December 25 as Christmas Day, and our observance of that date has come down to us from that decision.

Santa Claus And Christmas Stockings

Saint Nicholas seems to have been the *original* of our Santa Claus. He was the Bishop of Myra about the year 300 A.D., and was very popular because of his good deeds and kindness, especially to children, whose patron-saint he is supposed to be. And old legend says that he wished to bestow a gift surreptitiously upon an old nobleman who, tho poor, did not want anyone to know of his poverty. When the good bishop reached the house saw the old gentleman asleep by the fire, so he climbed to the top of the chimney and dropped his gift therein, thinking it would fall on the hearth. But it so happened that the money fell into one of the old gentleman's stockings, which his daughter had hung up to dry, where it was found and used as a dowry for his eldest daughter. And the old legend says that Saint Nicholas never failed to put a gift in the stockings which were hung for him thereafter whenever a daughter of the house was to marry. When our Saint Nicholas comes around on Christmas Eve we look for gifts in our stockings.

The date of the bishop's death, December 6, is observed in many countries, and the closeness of his feast to that of Christmas Day has probably confounded the two celebrations. Santa Claus seems to be the name by which the good spirit of Christmas is most generally known.

Why Do We Present Gifts?

It was the custom among the Romans to make gifts to each other at their winter festival, and the custom also may have

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

descended to us from antiquity. But Christians like to feel that it is because the Wise men brought gifts to the Infant Jesus, and because of the gift of God to the world. Gifts to the poor seem, from the earliest Bible times, to have been an expression of a thankful heart. We bring Him gifts when we give to those who are in need.

Burning Christmas Candles

Burning candles at Christmas tide is a custom derived from the Roman Saturnalia. Not only were candles used for the purpose of illumination during that festival, but they were also exchanged as gifts in token of cheerfulness and good will.

It is probably that the employment of candles was derived from the Jewish Feast of the Dedication, which was held about the same time of the year as the Saturnalia and the Yule. The burning of candles was one of the incidents of that feast, and it is not unlikely that at the time of the birth of Jesus thousands of candles were brightly burning throughout Palestine, a fitting, tho unintentional, proclamation of the *Light* that had come into the world. A fact that bears out this supposition in that the Catholics of the Greek Church call Christmas the "Feast of Lights."

Whence The Christmas Greeting Card?

Christmas greetings cards were first printed in London (England) more than ninety years ago, but did not become popular until seventy-six years ago.

The first Christmas greeting card was only a visiting card on which was written the greetings, "A Merry Christmas," or

CHRISTMAS IS LOVE

By Wor. Bro. Genaro C. Bermejo

THIS is Christmas season. The Prince of Peace, the Great Teacher, gave us the commandment, "Love one another."

The global war ended more than two years ago, but there is still strife between nations, between peoples in the same nation, and even among members of the same family. The world, each nation, and each family is sorely in need today of the Spirit of Peace and Goodwill that marked the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem.

The lessons taught by the Great Teacher are still applicable to the solution of human and world problems today as during his time. But they go unheeded, especially the "Love one another."

If we love one another, there will be no more hatred, and therefore, no more war, no more intolerance, no more injustice. There will be no more man's inhumanity to man.

If we love one another, we will be united into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree. Only then will we enjoy the realization of universal and perpetual peace.

Let us, as men and Masons, live and labor for the fulfillment of that hope.

"A Happy New Year." Snow scenes, holly branches and robins appeared later on embossed cards, probably picturing English Christmas scenery.

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CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

CHRISTIANITY AND MASONRY

By Wor. Bro. C. F. Arkoncel

MASONIC historians claim with proofs of authenticity that Jesus Christ was a member of the Essenes, an ancient fraternity of architects connected with the building of Solomon's Temple. Of the Essenes, Ginsburg says:

"The earnestness and determination of these Essenes to advance to the highest state of holiness were seen in their self-denying and godly life; and it may fairly be questioned whether any religious system has ever produced such a community of saints. Their absolute confidence in God and resignation to the dealings of Providence; their uniformly holy and unselfish life; their unbounded love of virtue and utter contempt for worldly fame, riches, and pleasures; their industry, temperance, modesty, and simplicity of life; their contentment of mind and cheerfulness of temper; their love of order, and abhorrence of even the semblance of falsehood; their benevolence and philanthropy; their love for the brethren, and their following peace with all men; their hatred of slavery and war; their tender regard for children and reverence and anxious care for the aged; their attendance on the sick, and readiness to relieve the distressed; their humility and magnanimity; their firmness of character and power to subdue their passions; their heroic endurance under the most agonizing sufferings for righteousness sake; and their cheerfully looking forward to death, as releasing their immortal souls from the bonds of the body, to be forever in a state of bliss with their Creator, — have hardly found a parallel in the history of mankind."

The life and saying of Jesus revealed in the New Testament furnish a treasure of evidence tending to prove the profundity of influence produced by His connection with the Essenes. His

holiness and selfabnegation fired Him in determination to die a martyr's death on the Cross to redeem the sins of mankind flowing from the innate imperfection of man himself. His absolute trust in God which distinguish the proficient man and Mason was made patent when in his agony he said: "Father, in thy hands, I commend my spirit." Like the worthy and worshipful patron of Masonry, the holy Saint John, he lived the life of holiness and undying unselfishness. He loved virtue above worldly fame and coveted no riches or pleasures. His simplicity of life, modesty and temperance was a classic in all ages, recognized even in the monitorial instructions of Masonry. He comforted the down-hearted, healed the sick in their sufferings, and admonished the little children to come unto Him for comfort. Reminding us of Brotherly love, he loved His disciples with an epic love that extended all over the globe, even to Peter who denied Him thrice and Judas who betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver. He was tempted by Satan to deny the existence and power of God, but His fortitude and strength of character overwhelmed all temptations. Without losing temper and equilibrium of mind he endured the tortures from the hands of Pilate's soldiers, until He was crucified on the Cross to welcome Death as a kind messenger to take man from his transitory existence to a future and better life hereafter.

It is for the exceptional and impressive virtues of Jesus Christ that the faithful of Christendom celebrate His nativity with universal jubilee every year. Christians during the Christmas week go to the churches and chapels to welcome and to pay homage to the beautiful child of virtue, born lowly in the manger, of the womb of Virgin Mary, son of God who in a dream admonished Joseph to take upon the lucky child as his own. During the week of nativity masses and religious services are held

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and celebrated to proclaim the birth of Jesus; Christmas carols are sung in His praise and adoration; people spontaneously exchange greetings of fraternal affection, exchange pledges of loyalty, renew broken friendships, and heal forever their past enmities. After this auspicious week of religious festival, people, as if by a magic wand, are prone to practice Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

The Holy Week of Christianity is no less significant to Masonic contemplation and meditation. During this religious festivity, Christians are profoundly reminded of the sufferings of Jesus for the redemption of their sins, for which they are admonished in no less profundity to practice the virtues of the Gospel, to their fellowmen; to practise the Golden Rule; and to follow the Ten Commandments which are the cornerstones of universal love, peace, and security.

It had been asserted time and again by religious fanatics that Christianity is inconsistent with Masonry and that a Mason cannot be a good Christian and follower of the gospel. Nothing can be further from the truth than this gratuitous allegation. While Masonry is not a religion in itself, it is essentially religious in the sense that a man cannot be made a Mason if he has no religion. Although it has its own rituals and unique literature comparable if not superior to the world's classics, its tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and principles of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, are highly and deeply influenced by the Old and New Testaments, which are the repositories of Christian principles and doctrines.

A RARE CHRISTMAS GIFT
By Bro. Jose N. Quedding

DURING the early days of liberation, Wor. Bro. Anastacio Uy Mochay almost singlehandedly reconstituted Araw Lodge with the few members he could locate. At every stated meeting he had

to leave his house to call personally on the members so as to be sure of a quorum but even that sacrifice failed to get sufficient response from his brethren. After each meeting he went home tired and worried but still rich in hope. Altho it was very apparent that his efforts faded yet he did not lose faith and continued to hope and work unmindful of his weak physical condition. I was able to fathom his zeal and determination to rehabilitate Araw Lodge and his benevolent outlook towards Freemasonry when, on our way home one night after a stated meeting while wet by rain and sweat, he remarked to me that such was the life of a true Mason for otherwise, he could have stayed at home on such a rainy day and be comfortable in bed but he said that there was that inner urge in him that compels him to go in spite of himself.

Having witnessed such a beautiful devotion and sacrifice in its naked reality, I was overwhelmed by the same enthusiasm manifested by him so that, together with Bro. Jose Carlos, we decided to join Araw Lodge to aid and assist a distressed worthy brother Mason. Under our combined efforts the Araw Lodge began to brighten again by the admission of new members. New blood was injected on the once anemic Araw Lodge and life began to throb again. But before full recovery was attained the dear old man was called by his Creator and we became orphans prematurely.

As King Solomon and Hiram of Tyre continued to finish the Temple after the demise of the Grand Master Hiram Abif so must we now continue the tedious work begun by Wor. Bro. Mochay. This revelation of the last few years of his life which showed in bold relief the message which he had unintentionally formed by leading the life of an exemplary Mason will be our source of Inspiration, Strength, and Determination.

Such is the Christmas Gift sent to us from beyond the grave. It is rare and unique but it is lasting because it will be safely deposited in the hearts of all brothers who are now travelling from West to East.

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A DJUDGED a great success was our November Reunion when 71 candidates, the biggest class since liberation, became Masters of the Royal Secret. The class was named in honor of our heroic and brother Jose Abad Santos, who you will recall, was executed by the Japs for refusing to swear allegiance to Nippon. From November 19th to the 22nd, the Halls were filled to capacity when the 4th, 14th, 18th, 30th, and 31st Degrees were being conferred in full ceremonial form, complete with music and the desired paraphernalia. On the second day, at the Stated Meeting of Lakandola Lodge of Perfection, the Deputy of the Supreme Council, Ill. Bro. Frederic H. Stevens, 33°, paid us an official visit. He was accompanied by Ill. Bros. Francisco Delgado, 33°, and Louis Haussman, 33°, and the Knights Commander of the Court of Honor. He addressed the Lodge and gave the members a detailed report of the transactions at the Biennial Sessions of the Supreme Council last October, particularly on the petition to organize an independent Supreme Council for the Philippines, action on which was postponed until some propitious time. The Jose Abad Santos Class were hosts to over 300 Scottish Rite Masons at a fraternal 22, 1947. The Class elected the following officers: Vicente Garcia, 32°, president; Charles B. Torche, 32°, Secretary-treasurer, Anastacio B. Querimit, 32°, historian; and Paul Kinnison, orator.

THE thirty-third degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry was conferred upon Bro. General Douglas MacArthur in a ceremony at the American Embassy in Tokyo, last December 9, 1947. The degree was conferred

by Ill. Frederic H. Stevens, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in the Philippines. Bro. MacArthur was elected a 33rd Degree Mason "in recognition of his own personal achievements in humanitarian dealings with his fellow men." Conferring the degree, the Ill. Deputy, who also has the distinction of having conferred upon our beloved General, the first degree of Masonry, said that it "was received not because he is a splendid soldier, which his record obviously proves, nor because he is the great statesman we all know him to be . . . but because he is a man who, in his private capacity as an individual citizen and as a leader, has done a great deal on the humanitarian side in the Philippine Islands." The degree was conferred after a luncheon given by General and Mrs. MacArthur, in the presence of high-ranking officers and MacArthur's aides. We extend our congratulations to our distinguished friend and Brother MacArthur.

THE Christmas Festival for Widows and children of Masons has been postponed to January. Watch for further announcement. The Ladies Directorate, under whose auspices the festivities are being held, is headed by the distinguished wife of our Acting Grand Master, Bro. Albert J. Brazee, Jr., 32°.

WE wish you ALL a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. May each and every one of us rededicate ourselves to such conduct as will ennoble our lives, by keeping in mind the masonic obligations, by spreading the cement of brotherly love, and by knitting together the needs and interests of a common humanity, for the glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

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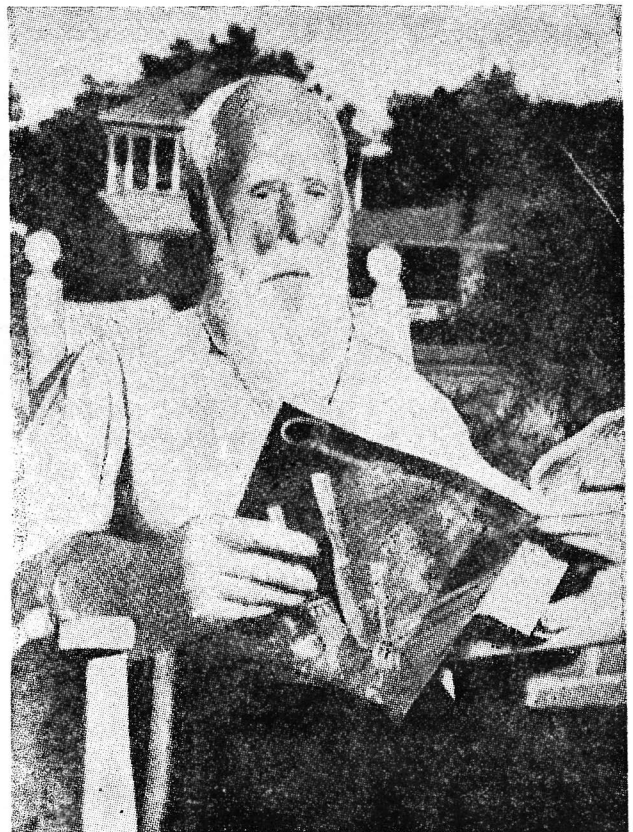
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OLDEST MASON

JOHN J. RAY, said to be the world's oldest living Mason, celebrated his 102nd birthday in Fort Worth, Texas, by holding open house for 150 friends. A Mason since 1868, the centenarian has been a Texan since 1876. He was born in Orange county, N. C.

● WHAT OTHER LODGES ARE DOING ●

CAVITE NO. 2 1948 OFFICERS ELECTED AND INSTALLED

THE Stated Meeting of this Lodge which was held on 5 December 1947 far exceeds all previous ones held during the year as far as interest and attendance is concerned. The members and many visiting brethren from different sister Lodges who graced the occasion were in high spirit and eager about the result of the election. Interesting, due to the important topics presented and resolved.

Worthy of mention, is the working plan presented by the out-going Master which calls for a budget of from P18,000 to P25,000 for the proposed Temple. The Lodge rejected the idea of constructing the building and then mortgage the same to meet the expected deficit. The plan was referred back to the building committee for further study and recommendation.

Reading of the names of the responsive members who have so far contributed to the Building Funds amounting to P912.00 as of 10 December 1947.

Information regarding the restorations of 26 original members to good standing during the year who were considered missing since liberation because of the loss of all the Lodge records during the war.

Topping them all was the election of officers for the ensuing Masonic Year 1948 which was held without a hitch. The 3-Lights elected then conferred and decided on the names of the appointive officers. At this juncture, the Lodge went from labor to refreshment.

When the Lodge reconvened, Wor. Bro. Rafael Trias, Grand Lodge Inspector for the Lodge assisted by Rt. Wor. Bro. T. A. Jimenez as Master of Ceremonies, installed the officers in due and ancient form.

OFFICERS FOR 1948

Wor. Master	—	Wor. Bro. FERNANDO MEDINA
Senior Warden	—	Bro. Howard E. Wagner
Junior Warden	—	" Everett B. Russell
Treasurer	—	" Jose V. Colina (Re.)
Secretary	—	" Agustin L. Galang (Re.)
Chaplain	—	" Homer H. Hopple
Marshal	—	" Cecil R. Browne
Auditor	—	" Apolonio Pisig
Senior Deacon	—	" Francisco B. Cruz
Junior Deacon	—	" John T. Havira
Senior Steward	—	" Thomas B. Patterson
Junior Steward	—	" Elbert L. Foreman
T y l e r	—	" Jose L. Jose (Re.)

After the Installation, the Master gave the brethren a mid-night repast at the Rendezvous.

BAGUMBAYAN No. 4

THE officers of this Lodge for the Masonic Year 1948 are as follows: Worshipful Master, Camilo Osias; Senior Warden, Antonio D. Alvir; Junior Warden, Luis Meneses; Treasurer, Francisco Santiago, P.M.; Secretary, Aurelio B. Aquino, P.M.; Chaplain, Enrique C. Sobrepeña; Marshal, Pedro Licuanan; Senior Deacon, Lino Bañares; Junior Deacon, Paul Kinnison; Senior Steward, James Luckie Hogan; Junior Steward, Jose M. Reyes, Jr.; Orator, Manuel M. Crudo; Organist, Dominador Gallardo, Sr.; and Tyler, Jose L. Ochoa. The officers will be publicly installed on January 10, 1948, at 7 p.m. at the Jose Abad Santos Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila.

ARAW No. 18

ON December 27, 1947, at 4 p.m. at the Plaridel Masonic Temple this Lodge will install its officers for the ensuing Masonic Year, 1948. Featuring the program will be the address of the Master-elect; the presentation of Past Master's Jewel to Wor. Bro. Chan Kee by Wor. Bro. J. Fetalvero; res-

ponse by Bro. Chan Kee; introduction of the Guest Speaker by Bro. Gregorio M. Domingo; address by Wor. Bro. Mauro Baradi. The second part will be a get-together party and refreshments.

BALINTAWAK NO. 28

WOR. BRO. Simeon Estrada desires, through the *Cabletow*, to express his gratitude to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines and its Sick Committee for the aid and assistance given him and his son during their stay in Mercy Hospital, Manila. The brethren of the Lodge join the Worshipful Master in his expression of thankfulness.

MOUNT APO NO. 45

THIS lodge honored Wor. Bro. James Wilson by celebrating his 80th birthday anniversary last October 10. The lodge opened in due form at 5:00 o'clock P.M., and raised Bro. James Eldon Barnes of Mount City Lodge No. 30, Mount City, Kansas, to the sublime degree of Master Mason. After the ceremonies, the lodge was closed, and the ladies of masons and visitors were admitted to witness the presentation of the Past Master's Diploma to the honoree. Worshipful Master Felixberto Gonzales delivered the presentation address, then the audience sang the "Happy Birthday." It being the eve of the birthday of Wor. Bro. Nicasio Valderrosa, P.M., he was made the recipient of sincere and fraternal congratulations from all those present.

A Past Master's Jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. L. R. Barinaga by Wor. Bro. Nicasio Valderrosa after his address.

The members with their ladies and visitors repaired to the Zamboanga Cosmopolitan Club where a dance and succulent refreshments were enjoyed. The party broke out after midnight with everyone feeling the spirit of brotherly love.

(Continued on page 115)

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SECCION CASTELLANA
NOTAS EDITORIALES

Felices Pascuas y Prospero Año Nuevo

Esta es la salutación del presente mes que por antonomasia la conocemos como el mes de las Navidades. Tiene su alto simbolismo para los Masones y ello es que conmemoramos la renovación de nuestra fe en una Humanidad buena y santa. Muchos años y siglos antes de la era cristiana esta temporada tenía su especial significado, y no hay más que leer la Historia para ponerse al corriente de lo que entonces era para el mundo un símbolo. Desde la era cristiana las fiestas que se conmemoran han variado de significado y se las relacionan con el advenimiento del Mesías esperado. Se suponía que la Humanidad había caído en la más negra de las culpas ante el Gran Creador y era necesario el advenimiento de un Redentor para una Humanidad menos pecadora y más conscientes de sus responsabilidades morales y espirituales. Es por eso porque decimos que este mes es todo un símbolo para la Masonería, pues, que significa que la Humanidad se regenera y, como todo aquello que es susceptible de regeneración, no es mala por naturaleza, sino que bien guiada sería buena y santa y cumplidora de sus terrenales destinos. Tenemos fe en esa Humanidad por lo mismo que viene de las manos de nuestro Gran Arquitecto y para que esa Humanidad cumpla con sus destinos no tiene otra cosa sino convencerse que los diferentes elementos que la integran son Hermanos venidos de una misma Fuente, origen de todo lo creado. Pongamos esa nota en nuestras actividades, inyectemos más fuertemente esa ideología en la conciencia de la Humanidad, y ésta caminará por sus propios derroteros de amor universal, haciendo así menos desgraciados, o si se quiere, más felices a todos los hombres.

¡Deseamos, pues, a todos Felices Pascuas y Próspero Año;
(Antonio Gonzalez, F.P.S.)

Nuestros Nuevos Oficiales

Coincidentemente con nuestras celebraciones Pascuales, celebramos también en nuestras Logias subordinadas la renovación anual de nuestros oficiales. Es bien sabido que en este mes de Diciembre se celebran las elecciones para los oficiales que han de regir los destinos y la administración de nuestras Logias para el siguiente año.

Nuestras Logias han demostrado siempre acierto en la selección de sus oficiales. Han tenido en los años pasados más en cuenta los méritos masonicos de sus miembros que no sus méritos en la vida profana. Las cualidades internas y no las externas son las que distinguen a un masón, y esto mismo debe prevalecer en la selección de los oficiales.

Un hombre puede ser brillante en su vida profana; pero esto no quiere decir que ha de ser necesariamente brillante en su vida masonica. Un masón puede distinguirse en el mundo profano por su sabiduría y acierto en las diferentes actividades a que estuviera dedicado. Sin embargo, esto solo no es garantía de que sería necesariamente un buen oficial de Logia. Un profundo conocimiento de nuestra ideología, su filosofía, su historia, un roce constante con sus Hermanos de Logia para conocer sus diferentes caracteres e idiosincrasias, y hasta sus debilidades y prejuicios, mucho humanismo, mucha caridad, menos egoísmo e individualismo, más dación por el bien ajeno que no por el bien propio, estudio constante de nuestras leyes, regulaciones y jurisprudencia, todo esto y mucho más se necesita para que un oficial pueda cualificarse debidamente para el cargo a que fuera elegido.

Desde luego que el poseer el ritual es un elemento indispensable para la labor del masón que dese servir a la Logia. Pero el ritual no es más que un medio para un fin, y no el fin mismo. Un buen ritualista dará magnificencia al acto en que se confiera el grado. Tal vez la impresión que cause dure imperecedera en la mente y en el corazón del iniciado. Pero la labor del oficial quedaría anulada si no llegase más que hasta ese punto. El oficial deberá ser el vivo ejemplo de lo que se imparta por medio de las enseñanzas ritualísticas.

En una palabra, el oficial electo debe vivir la Masonería que encarna en su persona, y así será el un seguro éxito.

(Antonio Gonzalez, F.P.S.)

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WHAT OTHER LODGES ARE DOING

(Continued from page 113)

MALOLOS NO. 46

WORSHIPFUL Brother Hermenegildo Pascual, Past Master of this Lodge was recently transferred to Malolos, Bulacan, as Chief Clerk in the office of the Provincial Auditor.

Before his transfer to Malolos, Mr. Pascual was holding the same position in La Union, then in San Pablo City and lastly in M.P.C. Headquarters at Balintawak. His transfer to Malolos constitutes a double promotion for him because aside from the fact that Bulacan is a first class province, he is returned to his home town.

Congratulations, Wor. Bro. Pascual.

BROTHER Eugenio Enrique, until recently, the Station Master of the Manila Railroad Company at San Fernando, Panganga, was promoted to the position of Transportation Inspector of the same company with station at Dagupan, Pangasinan.

Brother Enriquez has seen service in the company in various capacities before his elevation to this position. He began as a simple laborer ("moso") in the railroad station at Malolos; then as freight clerk and later on as station master at the same town.

His brothers in the lodge congratulate him for his most deserved promotion.

The brothers in Pangasinan specially those at Dagupan are requested to extend to him every facility and comfort that may make him feel at home.

BROTHER Melecio E. Aniang was elected Municipal Councilor of the municipality of Malolos, Bulacan, in the election held last November 11, 1947. Congratulations, Bro. Aniang.

TAGA-ILOG NO. 79

THREE THINGS FOR DAILY LIVING

THREE things to govern: Temper, tongue, and conduct.
 Three things to cultivate: Courage, affection, and gentleness.
 Three things to despise: Cruelty, arrogance, and intolerance.
 Three things to commend: Thrift, industry, and promptness.
 Three things to wish for: Health, friends, and contentment.
 Three things to admire: Dignity, gracefulness, and intellect.
 Three things to give: Alms to the needy, comfort to the sad, and appreciation to the worthy."

"Three things for daily living" was the subject of the message delivered by Wor. Bro. Sesenio Rivera, Worshipful Master of Taga-Ilog Lodge No. 79, F. & A.M. during the regular stated meeting of the Lodge on November 22, 1947, at the Plaridel Masonic Temple. At the end of the present masonic year, Wor. Bro. Rivera will have completed two eventful consecutive years as Master of his Lodge.

Christmas . . .

(Continued from page 106)

misery and despair. In other words, our minds are disturbed by thoughts of confusion sadly prevailing in many parts of the world, for which it is our sacred duty that in offering our prayers to the Almighty we should not fail to remember all our brethren in distress so that they may be illumined and that the gladdening spirit of Christmas may awaken their hearts to this divine goodness and fortify their faith in our just and ever-loving Father who is in heaven.

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"HIGH TWELVE" No. 82

THIS Lodge is inviting the Masons, their ladies and friends to the public installation of its officers and official visitation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, Manila on Saturday, January 3, 1948 at 7:30 p. m. The program for the occasion is as follows: 1. Opening of the Lodge (Master Masons only); 2. Reception of Visitors; 3. Reception of the Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge; 4. Installation of officers; 5. Address, Wor. Bro. Mauro Baradi, Master-Elect; 6. Presentation of Past Master's Jewel to Wor. Bro. Pedro J. Arcilla by Rt. Wor. Bro. Esteban Munarriz, Senior Grand Warden; 7. Song, Miss Nena Celis with Miss Leonila Celino at the piano; 8. Address, Most Wor. Bro. Emilio Pascual Virata, Grand Master; 9. *Rigodon de Honor* in honor of the 1948 Officers of "HIGH TWELVE" Lodge No. 82. Rt. Wor. Bro. Albert J. Biazee, Jr., Deputy Grand Master and Most Wor. Bro. Antonio Gonzalez, P.G.M., Grand Secretary will be the Installing Officer and Master of Ceremonies respectively.

The Lodge Officers for the year 1948 are: Worshipful Master, Mauro Baradi; Senior Warden, Hermogenes P. Oliveros; Junior Warden, Domingo del Callar; Treasurer, James O'Bannon; Secretary, Gregorio Cariaga, P.M.; Chaplain, Ciriaco del Mundo; Marshal, Alfonso T. Navales; Senior Deacon, Domingo C. Bascarra; Junior Deacon, Florencio Asiddao; Senior Steward, Jose A. Espinosa; Junior Steward, Max Gunders; Organist, Juan M. Salud; Almoner, Alejandro Evangelista, and Tyler, Vicente Caguiva.

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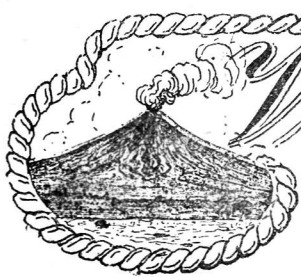
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Si Rizal At Ang Kanyang Pananalig

Simulat ni M. C. JABSON

—Nang hawin mo ang maitim na sapot na nakababalot sa iyóng bayan galipin at ibilad mo sa matá ng daigdig ang kanyáng tinataglay na sakit at mga kaisiraán upang ihingi ng kaukulang lunas . . . —nang iyóng pagukulan ng ala-ala yaóng tatlong Dákilang Bayani ng 1872 na sinawi ng mapangimbot na katampalasanan na boong kagitiingan na iyóng inilarawan—noón pá'y ipinakilala mo na ikáw ay isáng Dákilang Anák ng ating Inángbayan.—At, itó'y di nagkabila, ikáw ay Bayani ngayon na aming itinatanghal at pinipintuho . . .

SA karamihan ng ibát ibáng katangiang tinataglay ni RIZAL na nagbigay karangalan sa kanyáng pagkatao at siyáng lumikhâ sa kanyáng dí mapapantayang KABAYANIHAN, ay waláng hihigit sa matibay niyáng PANANALIG.

Si RIZAL ay kinikilalang pantás at dalubhasa sa ibát ibáng sangay ng karunungan at sining; hinangaan siyá ng daigdig bilang isáng pahám na paláisip; nagpupugay sa kanyá ang sambayanan dahil sa katayugan ng kanyáng mga kaisipan at pagkukurò— at magíng yaón mang mga “Fraile at Fanatico” ngayong nangunguna sa pagkilala at pagpupuri sa kanyáng kadákilaan . . .

Ang ma-alamat na kasaysayan ni RIZAL ay nagpapatibay, nahinamak niya ang ubos-kayang pagsisikap ng mga “Fraile” kanyáng nagíng guro, sapamamagitan ng “polemica” o pagtatalo ay hinangád na papagbuhin siya ng kanyáng kaisipán at pananalig. Palibhasá si RIZAL ay isáng taong matalino at may lubós na pagkaunawá; isáng taong gumagawá nang alinsunod sa tunay na atas ng sariling budhí; isáng taong paláisip at makatuwiran na ang bawát gawí nay ibinabatay sa tunay niyáng damdamin at pananalig— ang mga pagsisikap na yaón ay pawang naunsiyamí at nabigò. Hindí itó kataka-takáng mangyari, sapagka't sinasabi ni RIZAL bilang pangaral niyá, na anyáy: “The man ought to die for his duty and conviction. I sustain all the ideas that I have revealed regarding the state (or status or condition) and the future of my country and I gladly die for her and more still for procuring for you justice and tranquility.” na sa ating

wiká ay: “Ang tao ay dapat mamatay sa kanyáng tungkulin at pananalig. Pinaninindigan ko ng lahat ng simulaing aking inihayag ukol sa kapamayanan at sa kinabukasan ng aking bayan at mamamatay akóng maligaya sa kanyá at lalú't higit sa pagsisikap ko sa iyó na mabigyan ng katarungan at katiwasayan.”

Bakit si RIZAL ay pinag-usig at ipinapatay . . . ? Anó ang kanyáng nagíng kasalanan . . . ? —At, sino-sino ang mga taong nagpa-usig at nagpapatay sa kanyá . . . ? Tatlong katarungan itó na kaipala'y hindi lubhang natatalós ng aking mga kababayan.

Si RIZAL y pinaratangan MASON na waláng pinananaligan kundí ang Isáng Dákila at Makapangyarihang Manglilikhâ ng Daigdig; isáng taong may malaya at bukás na isipan (libre pensador) . . . Pinaratangan siyang NANG-UUPAT sa kanyáng mga kababayan upang maghimagsik laban sa Pamahalaang Kastilang Makafraille . . . Pinaratangan siyang NAGTAGTAG ng Kapisanang “Liga Filipina” na ang layunin ay humingi ng mga pagbabago sa Mataás na Pamahalaan ng España sa pamamagitan ng payapa at makatuwirang pamamaraan o “diplomacia”, sapagka't nadadama niyá, na ang bayan ay binubusabos, binubuhay sa karimlan, sinisiil at pinagkakaitan ng katarungan ng mga taong noó'y makapangyarihan sa pamahalaan. Itó ang tatlong pangunahin paratang na ipinag-usig kay RIZAL na siyang naghatid sa kanyá sa parang ng Bagumbayan noóng umaga ng ika-30 ng Disyembre ng 1896.

Suriin natin ng mahinahon kung bakit inusig si RIZAL sa kanyáng pagka-MASON. Si RIZAL ay umanib sa MASONERIA na taglay ang taimtim na pananalig na ang mga simulaing aral nitó ay ganap na tumutugon sa kanyáng damdamin at sa paniniwalang ang mabilis na pagkasulong ay dito niyá matatagpuan. “Logia Masónica” sa Inglatera, Francia, Belgica, Austria at Alemanía at nakilala niya ang mga pamunuan at tanyag na MASON sa mga bansáng yaón at nagkaroon siyá ng tuwirang pakikipagunawaan. Doón ay nakasama niyá sina Marcelo H. del Pilar, Lopez Jaena, magkapatid na Luna, Mariano Ponce, Antonio Regidor at ibp., na pawang kasapi sa Kapatirang itó at ngayon ay pawang kinikilala rín mga Bayaning Pilipino. —At anó ngá ang MASONERIA na inaniban ni RIZAL? —Ang MASONERIA ay isáng Kapisanan Kapatirang Pangdaigdig na ang pangunahing simulaing ay na-

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babatay sa KALAYAAN (Libertad) PAGKAKAPANTAY-PANTAY (Igualdad) at PAGKAKAPATIRAN (Fraternidad) ng mga tao, na taimtim na nananalig sa katarungan ng Dakilang Manglilikhâ at naninindigan sa kalayaan ng pag-iisip at kalinisan ng budhi; na ang MASONERIA ay natatag may apat na libong taon (4000) bago ipinanganak si Jesucristo, samakatuwid, lumalakad ngayon sa 5947 taong buhay ang panahong inilalaganap niyâ sa Sangkatauhan.

Bilang matapat na alagad sa mga dakilang simulain at aral ng MASONERIA, si RIZAL ay naging kalaban ng bulag na paniniwalâ (fanatismo), ng pagpapakunwarî (hipocresia) ng kamangmangan (ignorancia) ng paniniil (tirania) at pagmamalabis (abuso). Ang mga kasiraang ito ng mga pamunuan mamayan ay kanyang inilarawan ng buo s kanyang mga sinulat na aklât na NOLI ME TANGERE at EL FILIBUSTERISMO at sa kanilang mga dahon ay maliwanag na isiniwalat kung paano binubusabos ng mga Alagad ng Relihiyong Katolika Apostolika Romana at nilalason at inalilihis ang mga isipan at diwâ ng kanyang mga kahabag-habag na kababayan sa tulong ng mapaniil at mapagmalabis na pamahalaang pinamumunuan ng mga taong bulag sa paniniwalâ. Ang MASONERIA ay ibinibilang na kaaway ng Relihiyon Katolika, sapagka't ang mga simulain niya (bagaman hindi relihiyon) ay kaibayo at ipinalalagay na nakapipinsala sa kapakananhanapbuhay na nasabing Relihiyon—at dahil dito ang lahat ng kanyang kasapi ay walang tarus na pinag-uusig at ipinapapatay ng mga taong nagpapanggap na kahalili ng Diyos dito sa lupa...

Si RIZAL ay pinag-usig at ipinapatay, hindi sapagka't nakagawâ ng imbing kasalanan sa kapwâ o nakalabag sa batâs, hindi—kundi sapagka't ang mga Alagad ng Relihiyon ay natatakot na ang bisâ ng mga simulaing iniaaral at pinalalaganap ni RIZAL ay naglalagay sa panganib sa mga paniniil at pagmamalabis nilang mga Alagad ng Simbahan, na kung makilala't maunawaan ng mga taong pikitmatang tagasunod sa ka-

nilang walang habas na pag-iimbot, na sa lumaon o madali ay siyang tiyak na magbabagsak sa kaharian ng karimlan na kanilang pinagsasamantalahan at mapapalitan ito ng liwanag ng katotohanan na siyang magdudulot ng tunay na kalayaan, pagkakapantay-pantay at pagkakapatiran ng mga tao na mamamatay sa katarungan.

Matapus matatay si RIZAL, matapus itakwil ng Simba hân Katoliko at sumpain ang mga ginawâ at mga sinulat niyâ at matapus bumagsâk ang kaharián ng España dito sa Pilipinas,—si RIZAL ay itinatanghal at pinipintuhong Martir at Bayani ng Bayang Pilipino; kinikilalâ siya at nagkapitâk sa kasaysayan at si RIZAL ay pinagpupugayán ng mga dakilang tao sa digdig. Subali, palibhasa ang mga Alagad ng Relihiyon ay nakauunawa at nakikita nilang ang likas na kadakilaan ni RIZAL ay hindi na mapipigil at mahahadlangan ang dalisay na pagmamahal ng Bayang Pilipino na lalung lumalaganap at bagkus natatanim sa pusò at diwâ ng mga mamamayan, na ito'y nasasaksihan sa tuwing darating ang ika-30 ng Disyembre ng bawâ't taon na ipinangingilín bilang isang araw na dakilâ, ang ARAW NI RIZAL,— muli na naman gumamit ng mapagbalat-kayong sandata at ngayon ay walang pangimung ipinamamaraling si RIZAL ay "nagbalik-loob" muling sumailalim sa Simbahang katoliko Apostolikong Romano, na siyang nagpauusig at nagpapatay sa kanyâ, sa hangarin na mailingid ang kanilang pagkakasala at mapakibagayan naman at mapanatiil ang dating bulag na paniniwalâ ng kanilang mga kahabag-habag na tagasunod...

Itô'y isang kalapastanganan sa dakilang Ala-ala ng ating BAYANI...! —Maanong matakot kayò sa kasaysayan at pagpitaganan ang Katotohanan—igalang natin ang matibay na PANANALIG ni RIZAL na siyang nagbigay dangal at kadakilaan sa kanyâ...!!

O, RIZAL, luwalhatiin ka nawâ ng Diyos sa Kanyang walang hanggang sinapupunan—at hari nawang ang mga aral mo't halimbawâ ay manatiling nakatanim sa diwâ at isipan ng iyong mga minamahal na kababayan...!!!

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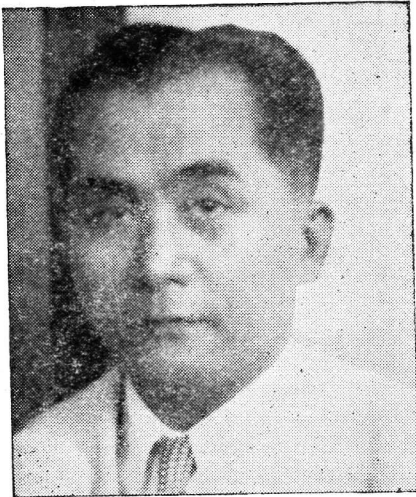
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the Philippine National Bank in Davao at the age of 15 years to manager of the same institution at 28, is something to be reckoned with. During the Japanese occupation he constantly risked his own life to protect the money and interests of the Bank in Iloilo City; and the first thing he did after liberation was to turn over to the authorities the Bank's records which were intact as well as the full amount of P1,717,650.00 in lawful currency, which was entrusted to him. This outstanding example so impressed President Manuel A. Roxas that he appointed Bro. Cervantes as Chairman and General Manager of the National Abaca and Other Fibers Corporation (NAFCO) in November, 1946, which position he still holds.

In 1933, Bro. Cervantes was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Pangasinan Lodge No. 56; five years later he was elected as its Master and has been very active as a Mason ever since. He is a member of the Philippine Bodies, A. & A. S. R.

Besides being devoted to his family of twelve—a loving wife and eleven children—Bro. Cervantes still finds time to serve various social and charitable institutions. He may be poor in worldly riches but possesses man's virtues in abundance.

Like the other Cervantes (Spanish novelist and poet) before him, Bro. Cervantes is thoroughly convinced that "HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY."—*M. B.*

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