

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE EDIFICE
versus
THE SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHED WORK OF
THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE

At different periods of time during the past two decades the subject of the building of The Temple has been advanced and efforts made to enlighten the members of our organization as to the vital importance of carrying out the Master's directions regarding the same to all who were aspiring to Initiation in the interior degrees of the Great White Lodge and to those who felt the great need of a suitable place in which to hold divine service.

The accomplishment of that purpose is of such incalculable importance, it is not surprising that every possible effort to frustrate that purpose has been made by the Brothers of the Shadow and it became necessary for an arousing and expression of earnest desire by the members themselves in order to counteract those efforts.

During the late convention the subject was again introduced and awakened much enthusiasm. It was decided that as soon as was practicable the plan of the building and the necessary instruction should be submitted to the members by the Official Staff, but in the meantime considerable correspondence has taken place between members present at the time and others at a distance and we find that a more or less imperfect idea of the proposed plan has been caught by many.

However devoted and enthusiastic one or more of our dear comrades may be, they could hardly appreciate the importance of the building of the Temple edifice so deeply as do the undersigned owing to the fact that they have had greater opportunities for learning what the building of that Temple would mean to the Masters and to the world at large, than have as yet been given to the general membership, and if there has seemed less enthusiasm

or less diligence in the pushing of that plan, it is for the reason that we have been forced to use our knowledge of current events and of conditions of Temple work, interior and exterior, in considering the subject, and found it necessary to make sure of our ground before taking specific action.

It has been absolutely necessary that we should learn to what extent we can depend upon the hearty co-operation and support of the members in carrying out such a Herculean task as would be ours in superintending the building of The Temple according to the plan outlined to us.

Every head of a family or organization is more or less conversant with the present financial pressure and the rapid increase in the price of all necessities and conveniences of life.

Not alone does this increase materially affect all food values. The many war taxes, increasing cost of building materials, printing, labor, paper of all kinds, postage, as well as freight rates, travel, etc. are already crippling our work to a great degree, and there will inevitably be a still further increase. We may even be obliged to discontinue The Artisan which contains the Master's instructions; the correspondence courses and other methods of propaganda, in the near future, if the members cannot appreciate our difficulty and come to our assistance generously.

This is such a very vital matter that in considering the building of The Temple or any part of it we must be fully assured that those who would subscribe to that fund will not in any way lessen their offerings to The Helping Hand, the propaganda work, yearly dues or other obligations.

While the sum of such offerings and subscriptions was increased last year the expenses were correspondingly increased and the consequence has been an indebtedness for actual necessities.

The importance of The Helping Hand Department has not been sufficiently appreciated by all the membership. The inadequacy of the nominal dues to cover even printing expenses is not always taken into consideration. No other organization of this character would attempt to carry on its work with such a limited income, but if the dues were increased many worthy members would have to be cut off.

This feature of our work is brought out so strongly at this time because of the necessity before mentioned of our being as-

sured that subscriptions to the Building Fund of The Temple would not be permitted to take precedence over subscriptions for the support of the various departments of the work.

Unless these departments are sustained there would be no occasion for a Temple for divine service, a Priesthood, or Neophytes for Initiation. Such a loss to every Templar and to the world could not be exaggerated. Consequently, we urge a quick response to this letter from all who are inclined to help in the building of The Temple as to their willingness to so subscribe without lessening their support of the general work, in order that we may have the necessary data to work upon.

It should be borne in mind that the undersigned are the actual directing agents of every department and branch of The Temple work such as The Helping Hand, Childrens' and Propaganda Departments, etc. Officers are appointed in these various Departments to carry out the directions of those agents and do the detail work. The various Departments are however all *one* in The Temple. Altogether these are the hands and feet of the Masters and each is vitally necessary and must be co-ordinately sustained the same as ever in the face of any new plan like the Building of The Temple, lest the heart of The Temple cease to beat in sending its currents out to the world. This fact is all-important and must be faced squarely.

Also, it should be borne in on the soul itself that in the building of a Temple Edifice, devotion should be the incentive and harmony the key-note. The outer Temple will be a Temple of Light and to be that it must be the offspring of Love and Wisdom.

A plan of The Temple and the requirements for building will be sent to all members desiring such, as soon as the question is settled. Hoping that all our comrades will consider the matter as seriously as it deserves,

We remain, fraternally yours,

Francia A. La Due,

Guardian in Chief

William H. Döwer,

Official Head

Answers to this letter should be directed to the Guardian in Chief,

Mrs. F. A. La Due

Halcyon, California, Dec. 15, 1917