

The Helping Hand.

OCEANO, FEBRUARY 15, 1905.

DEAR COMRADES:—

We again desire to call your attention to an important part of the Temple Work known as the **HELPING HAND DEPARTMENT**. We ask you to re-read the last communication concerning this Department, sent out over a year ago, dated September 23, 1903, and especially the following quotations taken from that circular, which are as applicable to-day as they were then.

"We should remember that we are the hands and working instruments of the Masters on this plane. They furnish the necessary directions and energy for action, but we must do the outer work. Were the Masters to do the outer work, the humanity of which we are a part would gain nothing, —for humanity can only advance by its own efforts and sacrifices.

"No officer of the Temple receives any salary, but the expenses of the board and lodging of the actual staff of workers at the Centre must be provided for out of Temple funds. This is all the compensation (if it may be so called) that any worker at Headquarters has ever received. In return, each one gives all his or her time, best service and strength to the Temple Cause. It should be remembered that no funds belonging to the outer phases of the work, such as the Temple Home Association, can be used in the general Temple work."

The plan referred to in the circular, of asking members who are able, to pledge a definite amount per year, will be followed again, as we hope to establish thereby a systematic, substantial basis of support for the work, from the unselfish heart-side of the movement, and continue to create a more direct flow of force between the centre and the contributors than has been possible in former years. We, therefore, enclose the form of agreement referred to, for the use of each member able to coöperate in the plan. It is earnestly requested that each member should indicate in the form sent, the best amount that he or she can give monthly for the ensuing year, and either send the total yearly amount at once, or remit it in monthly instalments, according to circumstances. Even if a member can give but a very small amount

each month, it will help to swell the sum total. It has been recommended for those who cannot send the amount in advance for the year, to put aside a small offering each day, with a thought of help for the work, and, at the end of each month, send the total to Headquarters. It is, in fact, of greater interior importance that each and every contribution made should be accompanied by a definite thought of unity and helpfulness directed to the Centre. We recognize the fact that there are members in such circumstances that they are utterly unable to help financially—and to such we do not appeal. We desire to help them instead, by building up this work. Where circumstances make it impossible to do more, the positive thought of help can and should be sent by those so situated. We are building greater than we know, and our real position in the Great Inner Temple is built up atom by atom, by the united thought-force we pour into the heart of the outer semblance of that Inner Temple.

There are times in all our lives when some great crisis or need leaves us without words sufficiently terse and powerful to convey a tithe of the reality of that crisis or need, and the Temple, as an entity, is facing such a period. We have tried to show our members, as far as was possible, what this seventh year of the Temple work means to all, and the very fact that so many are bound to fail in their testing, leaves a greater burden on those who remain faithful to the Lodge.

We have brought the work up to a point where success will be assured, if our comrades will stand side by side with us and give us the moral, mental and financial support that is absolutely requisite for the building up of the central nucleus. Surely, even the most careless, thoughtless comrade cannot fail to see how rapidly the Master's prophecies concerning the preliminary disrupting conditions of the whole world are being verified; and, if we needed proof of the necessity for the preparation of some place of shelter from the coming storms, we have it in the verifications of all such prophecies up to this time.

Some of our members, who are unable to see any chance for their ever obtaining any personal advantages from the building up of the Headquarters Centre, become careless or selfish, and make no effort to help their hard-pressed brothers and sisters, seemingly forgetful that when they have done their best with their whole hearts to do the duty assigned, our Elder Brothers can take up their efforts and carry them to final success, putting many stones out of our pathway. It is said, "Our own will come to us." If that be so, every stone we put into the building of the Temple will aid in sheltering and helping us at some future day, when our own need is greatest.

There are very many of our comrades who are unable to pay even the small amount of yearly dues, whose only earthly comfort is the Temple Instructions and aids. Unless those in better circumstances will aid us in helping these, by enabling us to pay Headquarters expenses, we are helpless; for, as we have endeavored to show in the past, we have no official or financial connection with any outer branches of the work, therefore, have no outside help.

If there is any one thought above others, that this communication should carry, it is that of the overshadowing, interpenetrating force of love, service and sacrifice, that has given the Temple its initial impulse, and that has carried it successfully through the many storms waged around and within it during its existence.

A mere appeal for money amounts to but little. It is the purse, filled, not alone with gold, but by a common feeling, a mutual purpose, a combined determination for progress in the Master's work, that is needed. We are one in this work, with efforts and responsibilities commingled and interdependent, and, according as we bear the burdens, and meet the needs of the organization as a unit, can the possibility of establishing its principles be maintained.

Trusting that this communication may convey a true representation of conditions, and also tend to establish the right attitude of heart in regard to the work, the workers, and this special department, this letter is sent out on the wings of love and faith. To those who have so willingly contributed in the past, there is sent a special word of thanks and appreciation. To those who have been faithful in the payment of dues, though unable to give more, we convey the same thanks. To those who have found it necessary to say, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I unto thee," there is sent, if possible, even deeper appreciation and sympathy, for their sacrifice is the hardest.

To each and all, let there go the words of encouragement, trust, faithfulness, steadfastness of purpose, labor and determination; for, upon these depend success and victory.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Executive Board { WILLIAM H. DOWER, JANE W. KENT,
FRANCIA A. LADUE, CHARLES L. HARRIS.

NOTE.—All communications to this department, and all money orders, to be sent to Jane W. Kent, Treasurer.

THE HELPING HAND.

February 1, 1907.

With the ushering in of the New Year the earnest seeker for Truth naturally turns inward upon himself with the question, "What can I do at this cyclic moment of Opportunity to help in the Advance March for the uplift and encouragement of Humanity?"

Out of the Silence of the Over-Soul comes the answer, "Give thyself and all that thou hast for this purpose. Nothing else is sufficient."

Again the soul questions, "What is the meaning of this answer; give me the key to the mystery?"

The meaning, the key to the mystery is this, and the heart of the child will reveal it unto thee.

Thy love, faith, obedience must be *concentrated* upon the Purpose, and as surely as day follows night will opportunity of service and helpfulness come to thee to aid in the Call sent forth to rally round the Forces of Love and Truth that shall bring the light of the Christ into the world of darkness and separateness binding all hearts together as brothers.

To each Temple member the Cry Goes Forth to rally forces to strengthen and advance the work for the coming year.

The Temple *Soul* asks the question of itself: How can this best be accomplished? The answer thrills forth. Only through the hearts of its individual members united as One in whole-hearted, concentrated love, faith and obedience in the Single Purpose of securely establishing a Center where the Lodge Forces can pour forth for the help of suffering humanity.

From some may come the word "Lord, I will follow Thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home in my house."

But Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God."

This may sound impracticable or cruel, when applied to the subject of this communication, but what honorable soldier or even a common army does not realize the force of this principle? Nothing short of death causes him to drop from the fight in time of need, and even as he falls will he cheer his comrades to Victory.

One of our most earnest desires is to convey to every Temple member a lucid idea of the Temple work, not only what it stands for as a whole, but its needs as well as its holdings.

As a rule we believe members understand that the Temple is entirely dependent upon dues and contributions for its support, having no claim upon the funds of the Temple Home Association or other outer aspects of the work.

Year after year until it has grown to be an old story, statements have been made of the financial and other difficulties in the way of covering clerical and printing expenses, and of meeting the actual needs of the working staff. Attention has repeatedly been called to the continual increasing expenses in advancing the work, and entreaties made to fortify ourselves against the rapidly growing financial and social crisis fast closing in upon us from the world at large.

The appeal for help has always met with cheerful response. The most disastrous situations have been tided over, and an onward push given as well. At the same time if we would be honest with ourselves, if we would look clearly at the picture the Great Reviewer places before us, we can not help but see that as an organization, as a body, we could have done better, could have given better, more united service, if we had fully appreciated our great opportunity.

The majority of the members may be seen in close rank, with every sign of the true warrior evident. On either side and to the rear, however, are the wounded, the discouraged, or the stragglers, needing or calling for assistance from the main force of the army.

To the wounded must be given the heartiest assistance, for among them are many of the most loyal hearts, whose bravery in weakness gives strength to the strong. For all there is loving encouragement, but the time is at hand for us all to recognize the vital issue before us, that each one of us must carry our share of the burden; must hold steadfast in our places if we would have the high tide of the New Year bear us still higher upon the Rock that shall endure for ages.

We feel deeply the bond of union that has been established through the Helping Hand Fund. The fact that all contributors to the same have been working hand in hand with the working staff at headquarters in an effort to carry out the instructions given us, has brought us much nearer to each other and to the Masters.

In a recent private instruction the Master H. said: "I have

previously tried to show you somewhat of the action of the divine laws of Demand and Supply and to explain the only method by which a demand (prayer) for Spiritual gifts could be made on the Infinite with any hope of fulfillment, namely, by relinquishing the material correspondence of the demanded Spiritual gift, in other words, by the action of the law of Sacrifice."

Every effort made by a Temple member to nourish and sustain the Center through which comes their opportunity and the requisite sustenance, the spiritual growth, opens a door between the one making the effort and the Lodge, and serves to unite all concerned in a common bond that furnishes redoubled energy and opportunity.

We have enlarged upon these particular points, for we greatly desire to help our comrades to see that when they are asked to sustain the Temple work in any way, the request is not made from a selfish view point or for the purpose of securing help for a few individuals, but is made in a sincere desire to assist them in gaining what they have demanded from the Lodge by asking for membership in the Temple, and, as a consequence, for such instruction as the Lodge may be able to give them through the Temple.

When our members realize that it takes at least \$40 per month to print and send out THE ARTISAN alone, and that among our members there were but fifty responses to the last year's call for regular pledged monthly contributions, and in but few instances did the amount subscribed exceed \$1.00 per month, they will be able to see that if it had not been for an occasional unexpected contribution from some spiritually sensitive comrade, who felt our need, we would be in dire straits at times to carry on the work at headquarters.

We mention these facts in order to impress it upon our comrades that they wrong themselves and the work when they think that their contributions "will not actually be needed, because others are probably supplying the needs." We have before called attention to the fact that we would be glad to furnish our comrades with important instructive matter in our hands were it made possible, but a full realization of the probable value of the same does not seem to dawn on the minds of those who have the power to make it possible, so we can only wait.

Many members have expressed a wish that a collection of all the first pages of THE ARTISAN, from the first number down to the last

might be printed in book form, but we have not been able to do it as yet.

The poet Lowell says, "The gift without the giver is bare," and no truer word was ever spoken. Unless the giver lays his offering on the Altar of Service as oil to build the altar fires, it reaches no further than the material semblance of that true altar.

So every gift to the Helping Hand should be made in a spirit of joy and thankfulness that one is permitted to do some little thing in return for the great gifts which have been showered upon us during the past seven years by the Lodge.

In sending out the accompanying form of agreement for definite pledged amount per year, wherever possible, we do not forget to offer sincere thanks to all who have so liberally and systematically contributed in the past; and to all those who have done what they could; who have been true, who have given their best, the same gratitude is given.

It is with deep faith in the members that this letter goes forth, and with the belief and hope that they will perceive the call of their own higher selves vibrating as one with the soul of the Temple.

Then will the true soul reach its apotheosis, and the lower levels of the mental Acropolis will no longer hold its allegiance. Its feet will no longer be weighted with the mud of sense, but cleaving the ether as the lightning flash cleaves the air it will soar upward to find itself a component part of universal love, thrilling with one great desire TO BE OF USE.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

WILLIAM H. DOWER.

FRANCIA A. LA DUE.

CHARLES L. HARRIS.

JANE W. KENT.

Executive Board.

NOTE:—All communications to *this department* and all money orders should be addressed to and made out in the name of Jane W. Kent, Treasurer.

THE HELPING HAND.

OCEANO, CALIFORNIA, February 15, 1908.

Once more the Wheel of Time has completed a revolution, unrolling to our view a new Cycle of the Temple work, with its opportunities and needs, difficulties and triumphs.

We have been charged to Arouse from idleness, to Awake from sleep and direct our attention to the conditions that claim our best thought and effort for the ensuing year.

Every one is aware of the condition existing in the social and business world at the present time. The late financial panic has forced into our consciousness many oft-times repeated warnings and guiding messages from the Lodge, as perhaps no other condition could have done.

The Master has said, "It only requires average intelligence to look about in the world at the present time, and discern the forces at work for the disruption and disintegration of the whole earth."

"Previous to every great Cosmic disaster involving this globe, there has come about a condition in the astral body of the earth, which is comparable to the condition in the human body made by a raging fever. Man is his own Nemesis. Man creates age after age, and piles up in the astral light the Karma that inevitably descends upon him at the appointed time."

The Screen of the year 1908 will unfold to the public gaze the fulfilment of many of the prophecies made to Temple members. To be sure, heavy burdens, greater strains and keener sacrifices may come, but the Temple children have been given wonderful opportunities of attainment. - "The days of preparation" have indeed been upon us, and now the days of reckoning have commenced, as every enlightened soul is beginning to realize. The need of more concentrated and consecrated effort is greater than we can express. There still remains a yet greater preparation of heart, mind and material conditions to be accomplished, that we may be able to render to the Supreme, the aspiration of our hearts, the service of our lives, thus providing for the protection, support, and upbuilding of a Centre, which will respond to every real need of the human soul.

So it is with a sense of privilege that the Temple asks its members once more to give a strong hand of help that will ensure success for the year before us. The work must and will go bravely forward, in spite of difficulties, for do we not know that the harder conditions

press upon us from the world, the more will we be pushed into the foreground, the more will we command attention, the more will we be needed?

For the new members it is necessary to repeat that the Temple is entirely dependent upon dues and contributions for its support, having no claim upon the funds of the Temple Home Association, or other outer aspects of the work.

The statements of previous years in regard to expenses hold the same. The printing of the TEMPLE ARTISAN sometimes amounts to forty dollars a month. The issuing of special Temple instructions, the meeting of office needs, all come out of the Temple funds. The dues not being sufficient to cover all these expenses, the Helping Hand Fund is depended upon to meet these deficiencies.

In the letter of last year, it was brought to the attention of the members what a small minority were contributing to this fund, and that but in a few instances the amount subscribed exceeded one dollar per month. More and larger responses than usual were received during the last year, and we sincerely hope this year may obtain even better results.

We also again make mention of the fact that when the Temple members are able to furnish enough funds, they will find in their possession much important, instructive matter, now waiting for printing.

NOW is the time to do all you can, and to make your pledge of support for the year, so that the Temple may know what it can rely upon.

The slip enclosed is for you to indicate the amount you can send monthly in regular payments or the full amount for the year *at once*, if it suits you better.

The following strong words came from the Master Morya, referring to chelas seeking conscious recognition from the Lodge.

"The curse that is blasting the world has fallen on you also, and I say to you if you offer the Lodge your support, your worldly possessions with one hand and clutch them back with the other, if you promise to sustain the Temple, and then count over with itching palms every piece given for its sustenance, remember you will receive naught in return for such offerings from the Lodge. If you make your offering with a hand stretched out for reward, instead of the hand filled with loving gifts, you can receive but the face value of the reward you seek; the true value of the loving gift will never be made known to you."

"The word 'Sacrifice' does not mean the giving up of something you do not need yourself. It does not mean the giving your cast-

off clothes, your rusty wheat, your mouldy bread. It means the giving of the *best you have*."

"The law of supply and demand is inexorable. You will receive exactly what you demand. If your demand is made by the giving of your best, you will receive my best; if it is made with one hand behind your back, you will receive what lies in one of my hands. Alas, that there should be a Temple member of even one year's standing who is yet unable to believe, to act upon, the truth so emphatically put before them, over and over."

One of the greatest functions of the Helping Hand is to arouse and foster the real spirit of united effort throughout the work.

The bond of sympathy established, continues to grow stronger, and we ask that special attention be given this year to the sending of helpful and sustaining forces to one another that we may meet with strength whatever is placed before us to conquer.

Deep is the gratitude felt toward all those who have so nobly shouldered their part of the burden in the past; and just as deep is the appreciation of the efforts of those comrades who have not been able to control conditions so that they could render material support, but have given time and service. To these we can say *Courage*, for victory must be theirs in the end.

The secret to success in our effort for the year is for each and every member to work as though the entire responsibility rested upon himself, knowing that all service rendered is to the Warrior of Light, our Own True Self, the Unconquerable, before whom all shadows flee, revealing the King in His beauty and holiness.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

FRANCIA A. LA DUE.

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