

Harris Closing Charge

Brethren, you are now to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended in our lodges:

Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that around our altars you have promised to befriend and relieve every worthy brother who shall need your assistance. Remember that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid in his reformation.

These generous principles are to extend further:

Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Recommend it more especially to the household of the faithful. Finally, Brethren, be ye all of one mind, live in peace, and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

(By Bro. The Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris, ca. 1792, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts)