

How we are to interpret some of the landmarks

“Freemasonry is a fruitful source of suggestions. Its antiquity carries us back to the customs, thoughts and prejudices of the remote past. In some cases it is open to discussion how we are to interpret some of the landmarks; whether we shall too literally adopt the letter that kills or the spirit that gives life. The former course, pushed to an extreme, might easily lead to a mechanical Masonry, so unyielding, impractical and unreasonable as to be of no real use or benefit to anybody. The latter course, which takes the true and genuine spirit of Freemasonry, and seeks to give it an ample opportunity to blossom and bear fruit in earnest, helpful and manly men, appears to us to be the interpretation which the younger generation of Masons are seeking to place upon the institution. In the matter of physical qualifications, yea, in the matter of moral qualifications, the indications are numerous all along the lines that wholesome and sensible ideas pervade the minds of the leaders in Masonry.”

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1914 report on Foreign Correspondence – NEW HAMPSHIRE