

## Moderate your speeches

The newly installed Grand Z., Comp. Arther Clothier, made a nice opening address, taking for his theme "charity." In simple manner he told his Companions some home truths.

"Many years ago I was indulging in the guileless pastime then known, I think, as 'pulling crackers' and pulled a motto I have never forgotten —

Moderate your speeches.  
Words once flown  
Are in the hearer's power,  
Not your own.

And I mention this because so much of the misery and unhappiness today is caused by the thoughtlessness of men who would not dream of hurting another's feelings intentionally: much is doubtless caused from a sheer love of mischief, but also without evil intent: and some other, I am sorry to say, by deliberate malice prepense. To these latter any story is good enough to let slip the dogs of slander at. Nor do they heed the wrecked homes and mental anguish thus often caused. Companions, such things are in our midst today, nor are offenders confined to any one particular class but can be found in all grades of society and every calling."

### **Sources:**

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1911 report on Foreign Correspondence – NEW ZEALAND