

## THE BUILDER

There were three stonecutters at work in a stoneyard, all busy fashioning the rough chunks of rock into smoothly symmetrical building blocks. A passerby, so the story goes, stopped to watch the workmen, even as you and I would do; and after observing the three for a time asked each of them the same question.

"What are you doing there?"

The first workman answered, "I am cutting stone."

The second said, "I am making \$7.50 a day."

But the third replied, "We are building a cathedral, don't you see?"

Which of these men do you think would make the best Lion?

Judging from his answer I think we should be safe in assuming that the first workman would be just a member of the club, filling in his time at meetings, going through all the motions, as it were. It is even possible that he would be critically inclined, yet unable to offer constructive criticism.

Looking at the second man's answer, "I am making \$7.50 a day," it is rather obvious that he would join the club for what he got out of it.

We can pass over these two workmen without much consideration.

But the third workman replied, "We are building a cathedral, don't you see?"

It is this third fellow who interests me. He interests me no matter where he may be found, whether he be a stone-cutter, a manufacturer, a merchant, a teacher, or a clerk; for he is a true builder.

There is enthusiasm in his reply. It is in his words, in his surprise that anyone should not know and feel the glory of building a cathedral.

Here is a workman whose compensation was in his accomplishment. It is not in his mind that he is merely cutting stone, nor that he is earning \$7.50 a day. He is a partner in a glorious enterprise. HE is helping to build a cathedral. To him this salient fact overshadows all others. He has a vision, an ideal, toward the fulfillment of which all his attention is directed. He is doing the greatest work in the world, and it doesn't make any difference if the hours are many or the pay is small. His mind is focussed on an objective. Stand aside, laggards! This man knows where he is going!

As I repeat in my mind the answer of the third workman a great number of other significant features stand out. This man is thorough in his work. He is one of those who bend all their attention to the job in hand, for he was concentrating so steadily on trimming a rough stone that he was not

conscious of the presence of his questioner. So intent was he upon his work, and so thoroughly "sold" on the sublimity of it, that he could not refrain from adding to his answer a surprised, "Don't you see?" It is the answer of a busy man suddenly interrupted.

There is the spirit of genuine cooperation in his words, too. He did not say, "I am building a cathedral," or "They are building a cathedral." No. "WE are building a cathedral." Clearly he implied, "Tom, and Bill, and Henry, the foreman, the superintendent—we are all working together in the construction."

The two other stonecutters may have been forgetful of him and of each other, but he is mindful of their part in the building, too. He is cooperating with them, and in his eyes they are cooperating with him.

"Don't you see?" As far as he is concerned the whole world's wrapped up in what he is doing, and he is surprised to find even a passerby not knowing what the work is all about, not having a vision of the completed temple.

We can assume with certainty that this third man would belong to the best club and the best association; that he would give it all he had, and would be surprised to find anyone who did not think as he did. As a member of a Lions Club he would not be a member of a lot of other clubs. He would concentrate on his Lion membership.

I like to think of him as a Lion stonecutter. I like to think of him as building a Lions Club, for he certainly would fill his niche as a member. Lions like him are building a cathedral, don't you see? A Lions Club! We are members of it. We are partners in it. We have a large vision of it. We are enthusiastic about it. We are proud of it. It is OUR club. Yes, OUR CATHEDRAL.

To these "third men" of the world the simple task of cutting stones is not just stonecutting. It is cathedral building; for the stone which is cut today with great care and concentration is tomorrow a part of the mighty cathedral.

Build today, then, strong and sure,  
With a firm and ample base;  
And ascending and secure  
Shall tomorrow find its place.

Thus alone can we attain  
To those turrets, where the eye  
Sees the world as one vast plain,  
And one boundless reach of sky.