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March 27, 2001

Dear Mr. Wallace,

FR  
Petition Number/306.

The matter of Freemasonry is an important one, for everybody.

Before the Scottish Parliament was inaugurated, we, the public citizens, were informed of the full plans, and were invited to make comments and representations concerning any matters relevant, in response to the written proposals.

At that time, I took occasion to send my concerns, after perusing the wide issues of this whole area of national life, to the appropriate office, and I sent two copies of the enclosed book, in order to provide evidence for my worries.

Charles G. Finney was a Freemason, but renounced it, because, after careful consideration, he found that he could not continue in what he found to be profoundly wrong. Mr. Finney was a trusted lawyer - and also sometime President of Oberlin College, Ohio. Recently I have a new edition of all the letters of J. Quincy Adams - a former President of the United States of America - written to important people, in regard to Freemasonry; and these are unanswerable. If you so require, I can provide you with a copy of all those letters, newly printed in one volume - 186 pages. That President was not a member of the Craft, but he made a careful study of the entire matter, and his written statements have never been denied, nor answered in any final acknowledgement.

If anyone says that Masonry in another country is different from Masonry in Scotland, this can hardly be accurate, for a constant pride of members of the Craft is that they find eachother in all parts of the world, with no barrier between nationalities nor cultures, for the principles are basically the same everywhere.

I plead that, in regard to the open pledge of our Parliament, as it became established, OPENNESS was, and still is seen to be, the honest desire of our elected members, and this should not be in any way flouted: not to undertake to fulfil this pledge would be a sad and serious turning back on early aims, declared plans, and repeated promises.

With sincere regards,

I am,

Yours very truly,



Malcolm A. Ritchie.

*Copy for Mrs. Minogue*

## PREFACE TO NEW EDITION

**A** RE-ISSUE of C. G. Finney's book about the real nature of Masonry, that is, its character and claims, in the United States of America and also in Britain, may seem to some people unnecessary and unkind. Yet, the growing concern and dissatisfaction that exists today about this society call for proper knowledge and understanding. Verifiable knowledge seems to evade many people — even members of this fraternity themselves.

This volume from the last century brings the deeply considered view of a tried and tested Christian man, who had entered the lodge where he lived, and went through the first three degrees of Masonry. He then, on becoming wholly surrendered to Jesus Christ as Lord, renounced Masonry and explained why to all his hearers and readers. He shows Masonry in its moral, or ethical, aspect.

From our own century there is available for all to read a most carefully researched and documented volume by Mr. Steven Tsoukalas. The book is entitled "Masonic Rites and Wrongs: An Examination of Freemasonry". The publishers are Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co. of Phillipsburg, New Jersey, U.S.A. and the ISBN no. is 0-87552-457-5 (pbk). Whilst Finney's work deals with the moral issues, Tsoukalas deals with the doctrinal issues involved.

Readers ought also to be clear that four notable branches of the Christian Church have given pointed study to this matter and have all arrived at the same conclusion, namely, that Christianity and Freemasonry are not compatible. The Church of the Nazarene declared its mind in 1960; the Methodist Church in Britain did so in 1985; the Anglican Church did so in 1987 at their Annual Synod; and the Church of Scotland clearly stated the same at its General Assembly of 1989.

Although a few things may have changed within Masonry since Finney's work was first published, the nature of the craft of Freemasonry remains the same.

M. A. Ritchie.  
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