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Address to Masonic Bodies at Seminole,
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Lodge and Government.

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Civilization is but a restraint upon our natural instincts and inclinations. Therefore Religion and government are the two most persuasive influences for progress in civilization. The ministers will take care of the religious side, I am to address upon "Government."

The masonic Lodge requires its members to each and all be subservient to government. As a matter of fact this institution came into its present existence because of threat against its liberty and freedom- that is, the liberty and freedom of an ancient labor craft who possessed trade secrets that the membership refused to divulge to the "Inquisition."

So above all other things the Masonic Lodge does stand for liberty and freedom for peoples.

Had I my wish in regard to the teachings of the common schools, in addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, I would have each child so steeped in the history of this country his imagination would immediately go to the surrounding and incidental struggles of the patriots when a section or locality of the Union was mentioned. This would make government better understood and more highly appreciated. I would have him in his imagination image the sacrifice of blood and treasure spent to insure to him the liberties and the freedom which he now so casually enjoys. When the map of the country is either constructed by him or casually seen that it would bring to him a picture of the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, their kneeling in thanks for a spot where their freedom could be enjoyed, even with the painted savage lurking in the untrod woodlands, unpenetrated by the white man's foot. I would have him see Concord and Bunker Hill and Lexington, together with the names of Adams and Hancock, when the name of Massachusetts state is mentioned. I would have him heard the impassioned pleas for the rights of personal freedom and liberty. When Virginia was mentioned, I would have him immediately refer in his mind to the impassioned plea of Patrick Henry "is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." I would have him image the stern and sincere countenance of Thomas Jefferson as he penned the immortal "Declaration", giving to the world the reasons why the colonies were justified in severing their connections with Great Britain and fighting for a government of their own. When Philadelphia be mentioned I would have him envisage the placid countenance of old Benj. Franklin, Morris, Dickinson and Pelitiah Webster, and I would have him think of Valley Forge, with its snows and sleet; the patriots barefooted leaving blood stains upon the snow clad valley, and the immortal Washington praying for strength in the forest. When the South and the North are mentioned I would have him remember the titantic struggle between those sections for the preservation of the Union and the sanctity of state's rights. I would have him see the gigantic figure of

Abraham Lincoln sorrowing in the White House at Washington, issuing proclamations to emancipation of slaves. And when the Argonne or Belleu Woods were mentioned I would have his mind speed to the stern faced soldier boys of our own time, fighting for the principles of freedom and liberty and that the world might be made safe from wars and sanguinary struggles. I would have him realize that that war was fought for the preservation of freedom and liberty TO THE PEOPLE and not to slavery under despotic government. I would have him realize from all of this, clearly and without doubt, that the liberties which he so wholesomely enjoys came to him through the sacrifice of life and fortune. That under no government, other than our own, can these liberties be enjoyed. That they are inimical to any kind of a despotic or centralized government. And in this way I would enhance the value of his own government in his mind. We are too prone to believe that our present liberties are incidental to all governments. We have so long and so peacefully enjoyed them that we do not think of them as liberties given to us by a compact between the people and government, but as natural rights granted under all governments. I would have our children understand that it was only through and by means of a great struggle and loss of human life, that they have, under government, the right to Worship their God as they see fit. To speak their mind and criticize the administration of the people's business; to assemble peacefully for the discussion of their rights and liberties, and to petition congress for redress of wrongs. That they have the right of a trial by jury and are allowed the privilege of cross examination of the witnesses against; that they have the right to a speedy trial and are secure against barbaric and unusual punishment and have the right to bail. That they have the right through Habeas Corpus to be brought before some appropriate tribunal and have enquiry made as to why they are imprisoned And I would have them understand above all other things that THE DESPOTISM OF GOVERNMENT is the thing that makes men slaves, destroys their freedom and deprives them of their liberties. For when you form governments you, of necessity, delivery into that government's hands certain powers and authority, and that is backed, of course by armed force. When these armed forces are used for the purposes of the GOVERNMENT and not for the preservation of the RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, that then the people of the nation are slaves to the Government. This is despotism. You may then be told what to say, what to do, how to run your business; how to worship your God and be confined in prison for no other offense than that some hireling of that government believes you are adverse to some of its policies. When the people of the United States fully understand these things then they will strive to retain the freedom which they possess. That freedom can only be retained at the expense of eternal vigilance.