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“I accept this very appropriate and to us invaluable gift in behalf of our Grand Lodge; a gift which reflects credit upon the good taste and judgment of the donors, and cannot but be complimentary to him whose lineaments the artist has so truthfully traced upon the canvas.

“With nations and societies, as with individuals, the portraits of those we love who have been most useful, and who have held our interests most dear, have always been cherished and esteemed. They are our *Penates*, to be preserved from generation to generation, and the first to be rescued in time of danger. Scarcely is there a house, a public hall, or a temple dedicated to our mystic art, that does not bear upon its walls the portraits of the great and good, who have been of greatest usefulness.

“To us, this portrait is invaluable, not only to remind us of the man whom we all esteem, and with whose life and character we are conversant, but to the young men who may have the good fortune to enter our *sanctum sanctorum* in after years, this picture can be pointed out, and we can tell them how faithful our friend and brother, JOHN T. HILTON, was to the order for more than forty years, and urge upon them the ardor, zeal and constancy that characterized him, not only for what would benefit the craft, but the community at large.”

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