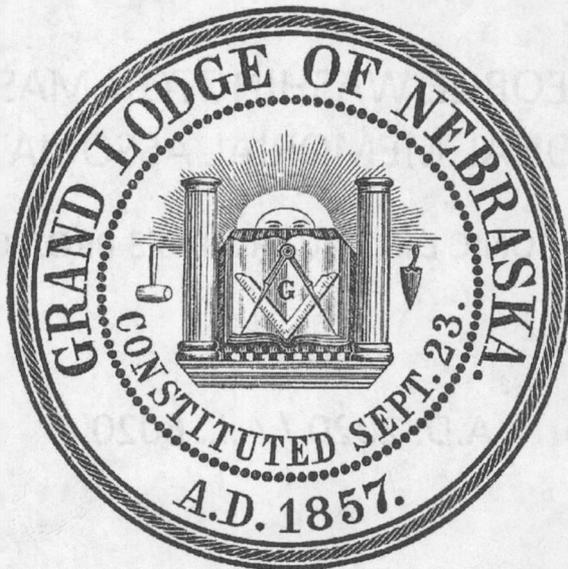


**1876**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**GRAND LODGE**  
of  
**Ancient Free & Accepted**  
**MASONS**  
of the  
**STATE OF**  
**NEBRASKA**



**A.D. 1876 / A.L. 5876**

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NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

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A.D. 2020 / A.L. 6020

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Grand Lodge of Nebraska,

ANCIENT, FREE, AND ACCEPTED MASONS,

AT ITS

NINETEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

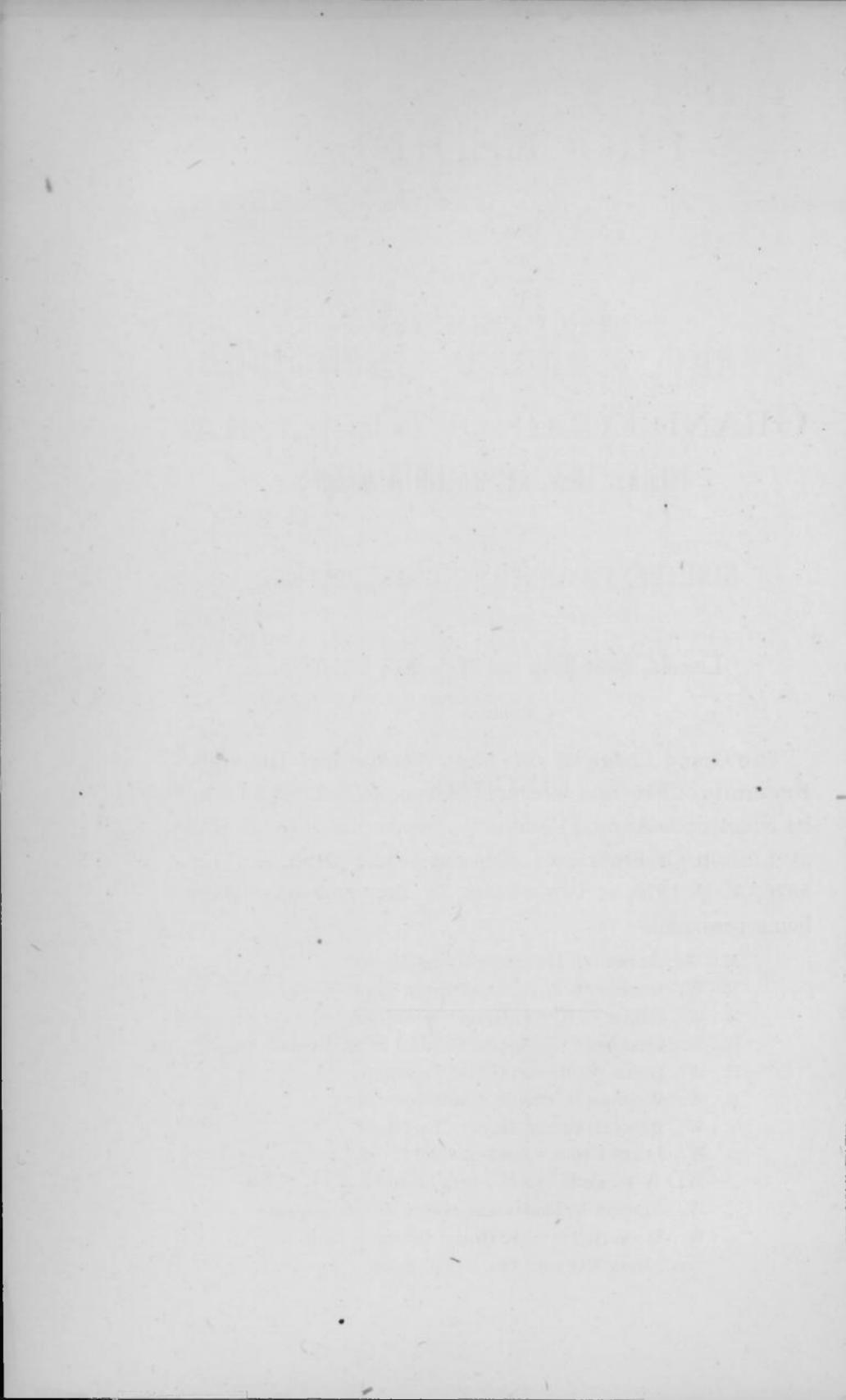
HELD AT

LINCOLN

JUNE 20TH AND 21ST, A.: L.: 5876.

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1876.



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA.

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons,

AT ITS

NINETEENTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

Lincoln, June 20th and 21st, A. S. L. S. 5876.

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The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorabe Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska began its Nineteenth Annual Communication in the Masonic Hall at Lincoln, Nebraska, on Tuesday, June 20th, A. S. L. S. 5876, A. D. 1876, at two o'clock in the afternoon; there being present:—

- M. S. W. ALFRED G. HASTINGS, Grand Master ;
- R. S. W. GEORGE H. THUMMEL, Deputy Grand Master ;
- R. S. W. HIRAM C. RIDER, Grand Senior Warden ;
- R. S. W. CHARLES F. GOODMAN, Grand Junior Warden ;
- R. S. W. JAMES W. MOORE, Grand Treasurer ;
- R. S. W. WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Secretary ;
- V. S. W. RICHARD BURGE, Grand Chaplain ;
- W. S. JAMES LAIRD, Grand Orator ;
- W. S. WILLIAM E. HILL, Grand Lecturer ;
- W. S. NEWTON R. PERSINGER, Grand Senior Deacon ;
- W. S. JAMES A. TULLEYS, Grand Junior Deacon ;
- Bro. JOHN McCLELLAND, Grand Tiler.

A Lodge of Master Masons was opened in ample form.

The Grand Master announced the following committees :

ON VISITING BRETHREN.—BROS.: JAMES McCONNELL, JAMES W. CHAD-  
DUCK, and CORNELIUS T. HASKINS.

ON CREDENTIALS.—BROS.: EBEN K. LONG, FRANCIS E. WHITE, ALFRED  
KELLEY, JESSE T. DAVIS, and CHARLES H. GOULD.

Bro.: White, for the committee on Credentials, made the following report, which was adopted, subject to additions and amendments during the session :—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that they find the following Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and Representatives of Lodges present and entitled to one vote each in each capacity in which they appear ; provided, that in no case whatever shall a member, by virtue of due proxy or authority, cast more than three votes :—

GRAND OFFICERS.

M.: W.: ALFRED G. HASEINGS, Grand Master ;  
R.: W.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL, Deputy Grand Master ;  
R.: W.: HIRAM C. RIDER, Grand Senior Warden ;  
R.: W.: CHARLES F. GOODMAN, Grand Junior Warden ;  
R.: W.: JAMES W. MOORE, Grand Treasurer ;  
R.: W.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Secretary ;  
V.: W.: RICHARD BURGE, Grand Chaplain ;  
W.: JAMES LAIRD, Grand Orator ;  
M.: W.: WILLIAM E. HILL (P. G. M.), Grand Lecturer ;  
W.: VELOSCO V. LEONARD, Grand Marshal ;  
W.: NEWTON R. PERSINGER, Grand Senior Deacon ;  
W.: JAMES A. TULLEYS, Grand Junior Deacon ;  
Bro.: JOHN McCLELLAND, Grand Tiler.

CUSTODIANS.

1st District, Bro.: DAVID E. HUME ;  
2d “ Bro.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE ;  
3d “ Bro.: NEWTON R. PERSINGER ;  
4th “ \_\_\_\_\_  
5th “ Bro.: HIRAM C. RIDER ;  
6th “ \_\_\_\_\_  
7th “ \_\_\_\_\_

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

- M. W. DANIEL H. WHEELER, Past Grand Master ;
- M. W. WILLIAM E. HILL, Past Grand Master ;
- M. W. MARTIN DUNHAM, Past Grand Master ;
- M. W. FRANK WELCH, Past Grand Master ;
- R. W. LEE P. GILLETTE, Past Deputy Grand Master.

REPRESENTATIVES.

NAME OF LODGE.	NO.	MASTER.	SENIOR WARDEN.	JUNIOR WARDEN.
Nebraska.....	1	William Martin.....	G. Stevenson, proxy..	G. Stevenson, proxy..
Western Star.....	2	E. F. Thorpe.....	E. F. Warren.....	E. F. Warren, proxy..
Capitol.....	3	Geo. W. Lininger.....	S. K. Jackson.....	Jacob King, proxy.....
Nemaha Valley.....	4	J. C. McNaughton.....		
Omaha.....	5	William Adair.....		
Plattsmouth.....	6	F. E. White.....	J. F. Johnson.....	D. H. Wheeler, proxy.
Falls City.....	9	J. R. Cain.....	R. A. Wherry.....	James Cameron.....
Solomon.....	10	Charles Lawrence.....		
Covert.....	11	James S. Gibson.....	W. I. Baker.....	E. K. Long, proxy.....
Nebraska City.....	12	James W. Chaddock.....	J. B. Northcutt.....	John Adle.....
Orient.....	12	Tyler C. Hoyt.....		
Peru.....	14	B. W. Knott.....		
Fremont.....	15	J. H. Crabbs.....	L. B. Smith, proxy.....	C. Driscoll.....
Eureka.....	16			
Tecumseh.....	17	S. L. F. Ward.....	S. L. F. Ward, proxy.....	C. T. Haskins.....
Ashland.....	18	Thomas Johnson.....	H. A. Alden, proxy.....	John Simington.....
Lincoln.....	19	R. H. Oakley.....		James McConnell.....
Rock Bluffs.....	20			
Washington.....	21	Jesse T. Davis.....		C. H. Willard.....
Macy.....	22	V. V. Leonard.....	J. N. Wise, proxy.....	E. H. Kirkpatrick.....
Pawnee.....	23	S. H. Cummings.....	J. L. Edwards, proxy.....	
Lafayette.....	24	W. Robb, proxy.....	Charles Mangou.....	W. Robb, proxy.....
St. Johns.....	25	Alfred Kelley.....	John G. Taylor.....	W. McFadden, proxy.....
Beatrice.....	26	Hiram P. Webb.....	C. B. Palmer.....	N. K. Griggs, proxy.....
Jordan.....	27	P. Schwenk.....	E. K. Valentine, proxy.....	P. Schwenk, proxy.....
Hope.....	29	J. R. King.....		P. Fraker.....
Blue River.....	30	Geo. B. France.....	E. Courtwright.....	A. B. Stephens.....
Tekamah.....	31	J. R. Reed, proxy.....	J. L. Laughlin.....	
Platte Valley.....	32	Wm. Woodhurst, proxy.....	W. Woodhurst, proxy.....	W. Woodhurst, proxy.....
Ashlar.....	33	Wm. A. Deuel.....	D. Ackerman, proxy.....	C. P. R. Williams, proxy.....
Acacia.....	34	H. Holcomb.....	C. J. Phelps, proxy.....	L. C. Smith, proxy.....
Fairbury.....	35	George Cross.....		
Lone Tree.....	36	N. R. Persinger.....		C. D. Chapman.....
Crete.....	37	W. H. Morris.....	R. L. Cornwall.....	J. M. Wolfe.....
Oliver.....	38	Wm. Clemmons, proxy.....		F. W. Redford.....
Papillion.....	39			
Humboldt.....	40	Henry A. Scott.....	S. M. Hilbert.....	W. W. Turk.....
Northern Light.....	41	Lewis Ley, Proxy.....	Lewis Ley, proxy.....	Lewis Ley, proxy.....
Juniata.....	42	Ira G. Dillon.....	C. K. Jones, proxy.....	B. E. Swift, proxy.....
Hebron.....	43	C. B. Coon, proxy.....		W. W. Fitchpatrick, prx.....
Harvard.....	44	Ezra Brown.....	Wm. J. Turner.....	Frank M. Davis, proxy.....
Palmyra.....	45	W. S. White.....	S. S. Seeley.....	S. S. Seeley, proxy.....
Gibbon.....	46	C. Putnam.....	E. B. Carter.....	C. P. Edwards, proxy.....
Salem.....	47	John W. Holt.....	R. Burge, proxy.....	W. H. Felt.....
Fairmount.....	48	C. B. Webber.....	G. C. Maxfield.....	C. C. Chapin.....
Evening Star.....	49	A. K. Marsh, proxy.....	A. K. Marsh.....	A. K. Marsh, proxy.....
Hastings.....	50	F. M. Abbott.....	L. C. Gould, proxy.....	L. C. Gould, proxy.....
Fidelity.....	51	C. C. Cook.....		
Hiram.....	52	Samuel G. Glover.....	Peter Hammang.....	S. S. Blachard, proxy.....
Charity.....	53	Jas. A. Tulleys.....	I. B. Hampton.....	Geo. W. Ball, proxy.....
Lancaster.....	54	J. M. Cramer.....	E. H. Tuttle.....	J. K. Marlay, proxy.....
Mosaic.....	55	Sam'l W. Hayes, proxy.....	Sam'l W. Hayes, prpx.....	S. W. Hayes, proxy.....
York.....	56	W. M. Knapp.....	J. A. Eatherly, proxy.....	
Mount Moriah.....	57	J. M. Parry.....		
Lebanon.....	58	Marshall Smith.....	H. P. Coudrige.....	R. H. Henry.....
Wahoo.....	59	J. C. Polesley.....	E. Pickett.....	
Melrose.....	60	D. E. Bomgardner, prpx.....		D. E. Bomgardner, prx.....

In addition to the foregoing, we also report the attendance of the following

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

1st District, Bro.: EBEN K. LONG ;  
 2d " Bro.: SAMUEL W. HAYES ;  
 3d " Bro.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL ;  
 5th " Bro.: WILLIAM H. MORRIS ;  
 6th " Bro.: CHARLES H. GOULD.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND LODGES.

*Alabama* — Bro.: JAMES W. CHADDUCK ;  
*British Columbia* — Bro.: WILLIAM ADAIR ;  
*Illinois* — Bro.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL ;  
*Kentucky* — Bro.: J. N. WISE ;  
*Louisiana* — Bro.: J. N. WISE ;  
*Michigan* — Bro.: D. H. WHEELER ;  
*Missouri* — Bro.: J. N. WISE ;  
*Tennessee* — Bro.: J. N. WISE.  
 All of which is fraternally submitted.

E. K. LONG,  
 F. E. WHITE,  
 JESSE T. DAVIS,  
 ALFRED KELLEY,  
*Of the Committee on Credentials.*

A constitutional quorum of Lodges being present, the Grand Lodge was declared open for the dispatch of business.

On motion of Bro.: Lewis Ley, it was

*Resolved*, That all Master Masons in good standing are fraternally invited to be present and witness the deliberations of this Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master then delivered the following

ANNUAL ADDRESS:

*Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska*:—Borne on the swift wings of time, another year has passed and gone forever. Its pleasures and pains, its joys and sorrows, its hopes and fears, have passed away. And to-day the Grand Master's gavel has sounded to call the Craft from the

the busy scenes of life, from your quiet homes and busy workshops, to assemble in this, our Ninteenth Annual Communication.

We have assembled around this consecrated altar, in the capital of our state, encouraged and animated by the one great desire to advance the interests of our time-honored institution, and I trust, have one and all joined with our Grand Chaplain in invoking Heaven's choicest blessings upon our labors.

Permit me, Brethren, to extend to you, one and all, a warm and heartfelt welcome.

The Angel of Death has laid his icy hand but slightly upon our loved Craft in this jurisdiction during the past year, though some of our Lodges have been called to stand around the open graves of departed brothers, and some of the faces we have met in Grand Lodge will meet us no more. It is a remarkable fact that the nine eminent Masons who have filled this Grand East as Grand Masters, are all in our midst today, in the pride and strength of manhood, to aid and assist us with their counsel and advice. And may the distant future alone answer the question whose name will be the first to be stricken from the roll of our membership, to be recorded in the records among the archives kept by the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe!

Under an ever kind and watchful Providence, we, as a State and Nation, have enjoyed a good degree of peace and prosperity. Within our own borders have the labors of the husbandman been amply rewarded; and truly we may say that the earth, ever kind and subservient to our wishes, never refuses her accustomed yield. For here, around us, are these solitary prairies, so recently the home of the Indian and the buffalo, and which so lately slept in the repose of nature, have been made to bud, blossom, and bear fruit. Masonry has kept pace with our increasing population. Besides many initiations, our numbers are being constantly augmented by Masons from the older States, and judging from an extended visitation to the Lodges, and from facts elicited by an extensive correspondence throughout the State, it affords me great pleasure to say that, with but few exceptions, harmony, peace and prosperity prevail in the several subordinate Lodges throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.

And now, my brethren, are these the results of chance? To the pure and simple minded Mason, who accepts the Great Light in Masonry as his rule and guide of faith, they are the evidence of that loving kindness and watchful care of Him who rules and governs the Universe.

To the God of our Fathers, then, let us ascribe all Praise, Dominion, and Power, for the blessings we have enjoyed in the past, and fervently implore His aid and protection in the future.

Masonry has established for itself a high standard of morality throughout this Grand Jurisdiction, and justly challenges the respect and admiration of our citizens. Brethren, ever maintain that high standard: guard strongly against every departure from our established rules!

Our Lodges look to the Grand Lodge for that light which is to guide them in their labors. How important, then, that our labors be attended with great care and skill. That unbiased and unprejudiced we may carefully weigh our every action, so that the Craft may not only expect, but when they turn to our records, may indeed and in truth find, that light and instruction which will aid and assist them in their efforts to advance the interests of this ancient and honorable fraternity. To this end it becomes my duty and pleasure to lay before you the records of my actions as your Grand Master during the past year.

#### RELATIONS WITH OTHER GRAND LODGES.

Nothing has transpired since your last communication to disturb our fraternal relations with any of our sister Grand Lodges. I have appointed and commissioned Bro. Christopher Diehl, of Salt Lake City, Grand Representative of this Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Utah. Some time in December last I received a circular from the M. W. Grand Master of Wisconsin, with reference to the several Grand Lodges taking some action in relation to the tomb of Washington; and providing there a suitable mausoleum to his memory. I herewith submit the same for your action, and recommend it to your favorable consideration. I also received a communication from the M. W. Grand Master of Florida, proposing an assembling of the Grand Masters of the various Grand Lodges in the United States, for the purpose of securing uniformity in Masonic work, etc; and suggesting December 15, 1875, the time, and Jacksonville, Florida, the place for such a meeting. But owing to the scarcity of funds in our Grand Lodge Treasury, and my own being altogether too inadequate for such a journey, I was compelled to decline the meeting. It is herewith submitted for your consideration, believing that a time may soon come when such a meeting will be of great benefit to the Craft.

I have received notices of the organization of the following Grand Lodges, and asking our fraternal recognition :

The Grand Lodge of Dakota, organized July 21, 1875, Thomas H. Brown, M.: W.: Grand Master ; Mark H. Bailey, R.: W.: Grand Secretary. Also the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, organized May 12, 1875, W. C. Clark, M.: W.: Grand Master ; and J. H. Bell, R.: W.: Grand Secretary. Also the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, organized June 24, 1875, John Yed, M.: W.: Grand Master ; and B. Wilson Higgins, R.: W.: Grand Secretary. The papers relating thereto are herewith transmitted for your consideration, and I most cheerfully recommend that they be recognized as sister Grand Lodges.

Having received proper evidence of the regularity of the proceedings had in the organization of the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory, I have, as directed by this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, extended to them our fraternal recognition. I have also received a circular with reference to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, which is herewith transmitted for your consideration.

#### NEW LODGES.

At the last session of this Grand Lodge charters were granted to six Lodges, as follows:—

*Mosaic Lodge*, No. 55, at Norfolk, Madison county.

*York Lodge*, No. 56, at York, York county.

*Mt. Moriah Lodge*, No. 57, at Syracuse, Otoe county.

*Lebanon Lodge*, No. 58, at Columbus, Platte county.

*Wahoo Lodge*, No. 59, at Wahoo, Saunders county.

*Melrose Lodge*, No. 60, at Melrose, Harlan county.

These Lodges have all been instituted and their officers therein duly installed, and from the reports received from them, they are doing good work, and square work, and I have no doubt will become lively stones fitted to adorn this Grand Temple.

The Custodian Districts were rearranged at the last session of the Grand Lodge, and their number increased to seven ; and the Grand Master was directed to appoint, in addition to the Custodian, a District Deputy Grand Master, for each Custodian District. In compliance therewith I have appointed, for the First District, Brother David E. Hume, Custodian ; and Brother Eben K. Long, D.: D.: G.: M.: For the Second District, Brother Edward R. Valentine, Custodian ; and Brother Samuel W. Hayes, D.: D.: G.: M.: For the Third District, Bro.:

Newton R. Persinger, Custodian; and our R.: W.: Brother Geo. H. Thummel, D.: G.: G.: M.: For the Fourth District, Brother Frederick N. Dick, Custodian, and also D.: D.: G.: M.: For the Fifth District, our R.: W.: Brother Hiram C. Rider, Custodian; and Brother Wm. H. Morris, D.: D.: G.: M.: For the Sixth District, Brother Milton E. Pinney, Custodian; and Brother Chas. H. Gould, D.: D.: G.: M.: For the Seventh District, P.: G.: M.: Brother Robert W. Furnas, Custodian; and Brother Charles A. Holmes, D.: D.: G.: M.:; directing the Custodians so appointed to report to the R.: W.: Grand Lecturer for certificates and instruction. While I doubt the right of the Grand Lodge to create new officers without changing the constitution, yet deeming the direction to the Grand Master to appoint District Deputy Grand Masters in each Custodian District, as mandatory and binding, I felt bound to comply therewith. It will be for you to examine this whole question and determine as to the necessity for these two officers in the present Custodian Districts; and also what powers you will give to them, as at present their power is quite limited and undefined.

#### SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION AND VISITS OF THE GRAND MASTER.

It has been my privilege, during the past year, to visit quite a number of the subordinate Lodges in various parts of this jurisdiction. I found most of them in a good, healthy and prosperous condition. Although many of them are not doing as much work as in some previous years, owing to the greater and better care being used in the selection of the material on which to work, yet all seemed desirous to learn the work and lectures as taught by this Grand Lodge.

In compliance with the request of a large number of brethren, and after consultation with our R.: W.: Grand Lecturer, I have caused two schools of instruction to be held during the past year. One at Sutton, Clay county, commencing January 17th, and holding four days. Owing to the inability of the Grand Lecturer to attend at the time and place designated, this school was under the instruction of Brother H. C. Rider, our Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden and Custodian of the Fifth District, assisted by Bros. N. R. Persinger, Custodian of the Third, and M. E. Pinney, Custodian of the Sixth District.

The other school was held at West Point, Cuming county, commencing February 15th, and holding two days. This school I conducted in person assisted by Bro. E. K. Valentine, Custodian of the Second District. Owing to the extremely unpleasant weather but few were in at-

tendance upon this school. Being present during the sessions of both these schools, and seeing representatives from thirty-five or forty of our subordinate Lodges, and the respectful, earnest attention they gave to the instruction therein given, I am satisfied that good progress has been made towards that desired goal, uniformity of work. And in this connection I would recommend that if, in your judgment, the funds of the Grand Lodge would permit, that the Grand Lecturer be employed to visit the several Lodges, not only to instruct in the work, but to correct any irregularities in the government and control of the subordinate Lodges.

#### LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

During the masonic year, as fixed by this Grand Lodge, I have issued dispensations for the forming of new Lodges as follows:—

On December 22d, 1875, to twelve Master Masons, authorizing them to open and hold a Lodge at Riverton, in the county of Franklin, to be called Riverton Lodge, and I appointed Bro. J. R. McDonald, Worshipful Master, Bro. Wm. E. Hatch, Senior Warden, and Bro. Wm. Jones, Junior Warden. They were recommended by Charity Lodge, No. 53, with the certificate of Bro. N. R. Persinger, Custodian of the Third District, wherein said Lodge is located.

On January 1st, 1876, to fourteen Master Masons, authorizing them to open and hold a Lodge at Lincoln Valley, in Hamilton county, to be called Keystone Lodge, and I appointed Bro. Martin Ennis, Worshipful Master, Bro. J. F. Price, Senior, and Bro. Wm. J. Ball, Junior, Wardens. They were recommended by Ashlar Lodge, No. 33, also by Right Worshipful Geo. H. Thummel, Deputy Grand Master, with a certificate from Bro. H. C. Rider, Custodian of the Fifth District, wherein said Lodge is located.

On February 10th, 1876, to ten Master Masons, authorizing them to open and hold a Lodge at Hamilton, in Hamilton county, to be called Hamilton Lodge, and I appointed Bro. Wm. H. Streeter, Worshipful Master, Bro. T. F. Tracy, Senior, and Bro. Jesse S. Miller, Junior, Wardens. They were recommended by Harvard Lodge, No. 44, with a certificate from H. C. Rider, Custodian for the Fifth District, wherein said Lodge is located. The papers for this Lodge, together with a number of demits of the brethren composing the Lodge, were presented to my predecessor and by him referred to me, but owing to differences having arisen among the workmen with reference to the location of

this Lodge, I determined to withhold the dispensation until these were settled, and consequently when the dispensation was issued several of their demits were more than one year old. Yet as they were all of the time in the hands of the Grand Master, I held that they had a right to join in the new petition for a Lodge without violating at least the intention of the rule of this Grand Lodge governing demits.

The above Lodges, together with Thistle Lodge, located at Plum Creek, Dawson county, the dispensation for which was granted by my predecessor and was renewed by direction of the last Grand Lodge, have all been working in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Grand Lodge, and I doubt not will present work fit for this Grand Temple, and I cheerfully recommend that charters be granted them. The petitions and papers are herewith transmitted.

#### SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.

I have received a large number of applications for special dispensations to confer the degrees in a shorter time than that prescribed by our rules and regulations. All of which I have refused, except in a few cases for advancement, the laws and rules respecting the rights and privileges of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts desiring to remove from the jurisdiction of the Lodge wherein they have begun their Masonic career not yet having become fully developed and applied in some of our sister Grand Lodges. It may and often does become necessary to confer the remaining degrees in a less time than that prescribed by our rules. In two of such cases I have issued such dispensations, having first become fully satisfied that the best interests of our noble Craft, not only in this jurisdiction, but elsewhere, would be best served by so doing. November 3d, to St. Johns Lodge, No. 25, to confer the Master Mason's degree upon Bro. John McGregor. January 7th, to Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, to confer the Master Mason's degree upon Bro. R. H. Rowe. The fee of ten dollars in each case has been received by me. I have also issued several special dispensations authorizing Lodges to install their officers, they having failed to do so before the expiration of the time prescribed by our rules, and in some instances for the Lodge to hold an election for some of their officers, those before elected refusing for various reasons to serve or be installed.

January 24th, in consequence of the charter of Harvard Lodge, No. 44, having become destroyed, I issued, without fee, a special dispensa-

tion to the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren of said Lodge, authorizing and empowering them to continue their Masonic labors with as full powers of a regular Lodge as if their charter were still in existence, directing them to return the dispensation to the present session of this Grand Lodge. And I most cheerfully recommend that a duplicate charter be issued to said Harvard Lodge, No. 44.

June 3d, 1876, I granted a special dispensation to Mt. Zion Lodge, No. 6, Dakota Territory, authorizing them to receive the petitions of Solomon Draper and Isaiah Miller, residents of Niobrara, Nebraska, they having first obtained the consent of Mosaic Lodge, No. 55, within whose jurisdiction they reside.

Various amendments to the By-Laws of several of our chartered Lodges have been submitted to me, which I have approved, they being in accordance with our constitution, rules and regulations.

In December last I received a cordial invitation from Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, to be present at and assist in the ceremonies in dedicating their new Masonic Hall, and install the officers-elect of the Lodge, but owing to previous engagements I was unable to be present in person. I appointed Past Grand Lecturer Bro. C. F. Catlin as my proxy, which is a full guarantee that the work was well and faithfully done. His report is herewith transmitted. (A.)

#### CHARTERS, SURRENDERED.

On or about the 20th of November last, I received a communication from Brother W. R. Cain, Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, located at Arago, Richardson county, informing me of the necessity they were under of surrendering their charter for various reasons, mainly that a large number of their members had removed to other jurisdictions, and that little or no material remained for them to make Masons of, and asked for instructions.

About the same time I received a communication from Brother Metts, Senior Warden of said Lodge, asking to move the Lodge to Falls City, as a number of their members resided there, which request was endorsed by the Worshipful Master of Falls City Lodge, No. 9. Deeming this proposed action to be unwise, I determined to visit the brethren of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, and also of Falls City Lodge, No. 9, which I did December 18th, and after a full and free consultation, the brethren of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, determined to surrender their charter, which they did on the 23d day of December last—on the receipt of which I directed

Brother J. R. Cain, Worshipful Master of Falls City Lodge, No. 9, to receive the furniture, property and jewels of Eureka Lodge, and to hold the same subject to the order of this Grand Lodge; and directed Bro. E. E. Metts, then Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge, to turn over the property belonging to said Lodge to Brother Cain, and to transmit the records, books, papers, and moneys belonging to said Lodge to the R. W. Grand Secretary. Copies of the inventories and receipts are herewith transmitted. (B.) I am informed that the furniture and jewels were purchased mainly by private subscription from the members of Eureka Lodge, and as a large portion of their membership will join Falls City Lodge, No. 9, I would recommend that the furniture and jewels be given to that Lodge.

## OFFICIAL DECISIONS.

I have been very frequently called upon during the past year for my decision upon a great number of questions which have arisen throughout this jurisdiction. Quite a number of these questions have been settled by my honored predecessors, and a large majority are settled by reference to the constitution, rules and regulations, and standing resolutions heretofore adopted by this Grand Lodge; and while these matters have involved a very large and extensive correspondence, yet I have deemed it the duty of the Grand Master to advise the brethren upon all questions that actually arise in the government and control of the subordinate Lodges, even though the constitution may settle it so plainly that he who runs may read, and I have taken great pleasure in answering those questions which have been submitted, believing that those who asked them were actuated by a desire for *further light*. It is only necessary for me to report a few of these decisions at this time. One of the great questions which seems to be presented, and which has been considered by several of our sister Grand Lodges, is the question of demits; and it seems to me that it has been presented in every possible form and shape for my decision. Some of our Lodges, and indeed some of our most eminent Masons, to whose Masonic law and judgment I have heretofore bowed in ready submission, hold to the idea that no member is entitled to a demit unless he is about to leave the jurisdiction and connect himself with some other Lodge. Others contend that no brother should be granted a demit without submitting his reasons therefor to the Lodge, and then for those present to determine by vote whether they are sufficient or not. But I

know of no authority which any Lodge has for withholding a demit from any brother who is in good standing and clear of the books. While I am aware that the withdrawal of the brethren from the Lodge in some cases might be of great injury, yet I hold that any brother wishing to leave, and having fulfilled all his obligations to the Lodge, should not be hindered or thwarted in so doing. And while I look on non-affiliated Masons as warts and barnacles upon the body of Masonry, yet if brethren wish to become such, I think they ought to be left free.

1. A member desiring to demit from his Lodge should present his request in open Lodge, at a stated meeting, and if he is in good standing and clear of the books, his request may be granted by a majority vote.

2. An installed officer of the Lodge cannot demit during his term of office.

3. A demit once granted by the Lodge, the record being the evidence thereof, severs the connection between the Lodge and the brother, and although he may not have called upon the Secretary and received his demit, nevertheless his connection with the Lodge is completely severed. He must therefore petition the Lodge as any demitted Mason.

4. A brother Master Mason never loses his right to petition a Lodge for affiliation, even though he may have resided within the jurisdiction of the Lodge and held his demit for more than a year. He may present his petition for affiliation to any chartered Lodge within the State.

5. A Lodge working under dispensation has the right to receive and act upon the petition of an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason residing within its jurisdiction for the Master Mason's degree, provided he has the necessary permission from the Lodge which conferred the degrees he has already taken.

6. No less than seven Master Masons, members of the Lodge, should form a quorum for the transaction of business.

7. A member of a Lodge cannot be suspended, even, for non-payment of dues, without a due trial, had before the Lodge, charges and specifications having first been prepared.

8. A brother cannot be expelled for non-payment of dues. It is by a special enactment of the Grand Lodge that non-payment of dues is made an unmasonic offense. Therefore, the only penalty that can be inflicted is that prescribed by the Grand Lodge, and that penalty can only be inflicted after a due trial, and the brother adjudged guilty by the Lodge.

9. The powers of a Worshipful Master are absolute in the government of his Lodge, subject only to the Grand Lodge, and in the exercise of a sound discretion he has the right to temporarily exclude a member from the meeting of the Lodge. Such exclusion cannot be justified only upon grounds warranting charges for unmasonic conduct.

10. The Lodge cannot reconsider its action granting a brother a demit, if the brother was not clear of the books. The vote granting him his demit is equivalent to remitting his dues.

11. Question. "Have we a right to prohibit brethren from voting at the election of officers, they being in arrears for dues?" Answer. You have not. No member of the Lodge can be deprived of his rights and privileges without due trial and conviction.

12. Question. "Is it proper, in the transaction of the business of the Lodge, to vote *yea* and *nay*, *viva voce*?" Answer. It is not. While I know of no positive law on the subject, yet custom has become so general as to establish the usual sign by raising the right hand.

13. Question. "Is a man who has lost his right eye eligible to the degrees in Masonry?" Answer. He is not. No matter what his other qualifications may be, the lame, the halt, and the blind, are not eligible to the degrees in Masonry.

#### IRREGULARITIES.

Brethren, there are one or two irregularities to which I desire to call your attention.

There is an idea quite prevalent in our Lodges and among our Worshipful Masters that a dispensation from the Grand Master will cure any irregularities or set aside a by-law which may be in their way. This idea leads to much carelessness and inattention to our rules and regulations. Again, there is the practice of the committee on a petition for initiation to visit the candidate, and thus inform him of their appointment, of which certainly he has no right to know, and in cases of rejection it leads to annoying questions and much ill feeling in the Lodge. Again, to the habit of electioneering for or against a candidate for office in the Lodge, and to the forming of cliques and rings for the purpose of elevating himself or friend to office, irrespective of any qualifications, or of defeating another who may be otherwise well qualified and deserving. This, my brethren, is contrary to the plain teachings of Freemasonry, and subversive of the best good of the Craft, and when coupled with the right to object to the installation, should his opponent

succeed, it is calculated to bring discord and dissention into the Lodge. As I said in the opening, guard strongly against these evils.

#### COLORED LODGES.

It is well known to us all that there are in this country, and even within our own borders, organizations of colored men, claiming to be just and lawfully constituted Lodges of Masons, who have at different times asked for recognition from several of our sister Grand Lodges, and they have even knocked at our own door for admission. This recognition has heretofore been uniformly refused. But with reference to late events which have transpired, this question seems to demand some attention at your hands. The importance of the subject having attracted the attention, not only of several of our sister Grand Lodges in this country, but in Europe, and the further fact that some of the European Lodges, with whom we are in friendly communication, have adopted some resolutions looking to the formal recognition of these so-called Colored Lodges, and the certainty that sooner or later, we, as a Grand Lodge, must reach some definite conclusion and assume some positive position upon this embarrassing question, I would suggest that it be referred to a special committee to report at the next session of this Grand Lodge. Indeed I am of the opinion that this committee should report before the opening of the next Grand Lodge, and their report to be published for the use of the members, so that the brethren may be in possession of all the facts and history connected with this matter, and may then act wisely, and for the best interests of the Craft.

And now, my brethren, my work as your Grand Master is nearly finished. This hastily prepared record and work, imperfect though it may be, is before you for your criticism and approval. About to retire from the exalted position to which your partiality and kindness had assigned me, and soon to pass the emblem of authority you so generously gave me to wiser and better, though perhaps, to younger hands, I cannot let this occasion pass without expressing to you, one and all, my heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the many and undeserved honors which it has been your pleasure to bestow upon me. My associations with you have been very pleasant indeed, and from all of you (except one or two), I have been the recipient of every kindness and courtesy you could bestow. I desire to particularly acknowledge the very valuable assistance of Past Deputy Grand Master Bro.: Lee P. Gillette, and to all the officers of the Grand Lodge who have been associated with me during

the past year, for their many acts of kindness and forbearance; and especially to our Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, to whose valuable labors this Grand Lodge owes much for its high position which it now occupies with its sister Grand Lodges. And, brethren, if I have secured your confidence and esteem, then I can well and truly say my ambition is satisfied. And whether my days and years on earth be few or many, I shall always cherish the days and years spent with you as among the brightest and best of my life.

And now with our prospects most cheering, with peace and prosperity within our borders, let us all unite in the aspiration:

“May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us, and all regular Masons, may brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.”

ALFRED G. HASTINGS, *Grand Master.*

---

“A.”

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, ST. JOHN'S DAY, }  
DECEMBER 27th, 1875. }

A. G. HASTINGS, Esq., *Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska* :—

M. W. BROTHER:—I have the honor to report that in accordance with your dispensation, issued at Lincoln, Nebraska, December 22d, 1875, appointing me your special proxy for the purpose of dedicating the new hall of Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, located at Tekamah, Nebraska, I did, on Friday, Dec. 24th, 1875, visit the said Lodge for the said purpose, and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of said day, did, by virtue of the power in me vested by reason of said dispensation, convene a special communication of the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M. with the following officers:—

Bro. C. F. CATLIN, *as Grand Master* ;  
 Bro. JOHN L. WILSON, *as Deputy Grand Master* ;  
 Bro. DAVID E. HUME, *as Grand Senior Warden* ;  
 Bro. GEO. HUME, *as Grand Junior Warden* ;  
 Bro. B. P. Fifield, *as Grand Treasurer* ;  
 Bro. A. E. MOOREHOUSE, *as Grand Secretary* ;  
 Bro. GEO. GREEN, *as Grand Senior Deacon* ;  
 Bro. W. L. PIERCE, *as Grand Junior Deacon* ;  
 Bro. ISAAC GIBSON, *as Grand Senior Steward* ;  
 Bro. H. V. B. GIBSON, *as Grand Junior Steward* ;  
 Bro. J. C. SLOAN, *as Grand Chaplain* ;  
 Bro. CHRIST. HARTMAN, *as Grand Marshal* ;  
 Bro. C. S. CHASE, *as Grand Orator* ;  
 Bro. A. T. CONKLIN, *as Grand Tiler.*

And did then and there solemnly dedicate the new hall of the said Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, to Masonry, Virtue, and Universal Benevolence, in accordance with the ancient rites and ceremonies of our institution, and did also publicly install the officers-elect of said Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year. The ceremonies of dedication were public, and were of the most solemn and impressive character, and I doubt not that they will result in great good to the cause of Masonry in general and of Tekamah Lodge in particular. Immediately after the public installation of officers an eloquent and able oration, suitable to the time and occasion, was delivered by the Grand Orator, Bro. Champion S. Chase, of Omaha, after which the audience dispersed and the M.: W.: the Grand Lodge of Nebraska was closed in ample form. In the evening a banquet and ball was given under the auspices of Tekamah Lodge, which was largely attended, and which was in every particular a very enjoyable and delightful entertainment, and in which your special proxy took great pleasure in participating. It also affords me great pleasure to report to you the prosperous condition of Tekamah Lodge. They have, within the past year, built and now own the second story of a frame building 22x60 feet, and have paid for the same in full. The Lodge is composed of excellent material for a good working Lodge, and the result of their efforts in the past year will afford to you the best proof of their zeal and attachment to the principles of our ancient and honorable institution.

Sincerely thanking you for the honor conferred upon me, and the confidence reposed in me, and trusting that my actions may meet with your approval, I remain,

Your obedient servant.

CHARLES F. CATLIN,

*Proxy for Grand Master.*

“B.”

FALLS CITY, NEB., Jan. 13th, 1876.

Received of Bro. E. E. Metz, W.: M.: of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, the following Lodge furniture, to-wit: Three gavels, one setting maul, one set of working tools (five pieces), one bell, one pair slippers, one hood-wink, one cable tow, one letter “G”, one ballot-box, two Mosaic columns, one lambskin apron, one rough and one perfect ashlar, eighteen cotton aprons, one altar, three candlesticks, one Lodge charter (three great lights), one set officers’ jewels (seven pieces), which I am to hold subject to the order of the M.: W.: the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

J. R. CAIN,

*M.: W.: Falls City Lodge, No 9.*

On motion of Bro.: Warren, the address was referred to a special committee — Bros.: Warren, Griggs, and Lininger — for recommendation as to the mode of consideration.

The following report of the Grand Secretary was referred to the same committee:—

IN GRAND LODGE, JUNE 20, 5876.

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Secretary reports having found the past year a busy one — more busy than fruitful, perhaps. Much labor has been performed in connection with his office, and some matters have, for sheer want of time, received but part of the attention they demanded.

The compendiums have caused much examination of the old records of the fraternity in Nebraska; and the correspondence in this connection has been large. This work, however, needs doing but once; and the introduction of the compendiums has developed a considerable number of superior Secretaries in our constituent Lodges.

It is with more mortification than he can express that your Secretary refers to the very tardy issuance of the printed proceedings of the last session of the Grand Lodge. It would weary you to recount all the delays disasters, and blunders that caused this extreme tardiness, and your Secretary has long been weary of them. He dismisses the distasteful subject, hoping only that his past record may palliate this one failure.

The *uniform Nebraska diplomas*, authorized by the Grand Lodge, have been perfected and supplied to all the constituent Lodges from No. 1 to No. 49 inclusive. To make them immediately useful to the many Nebraska Masons who will visit our eastern cities this Summer, a copy of the diploma has been sent to *each Lodge* in Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, New York City and Boston. For the cost thereof orders have been drawn on the Grand Treasurer from the appropriation for books and blanks. It is recommended that the diplomas issued be paid for by the Lodges receiving them at the rate of from eight or ten cents each, thus providing funds for furnishing other diplomas from time to time as needed. It is only by printing a large number of these diplomas at a time that they can be furnished so cheaply. The plates are all electrotyped, thus insuring uniformity and correctness.

The forms of the annual returns have been carefully remodeled and have been electrotyped. The cost of these blanks hereafter will be that of paper and press-work only; and an accumulation of blanks is avoided. Criticism of these blanks is invited.

Your Secretary has but one or two more measures to introduce in order to put the Lodges of this jurisdiction in good condition so far as

his field of labor is concerned; and as these measures are of minor importance, he proposes that, our home affairs being well regulated, the Fraternity in Nebraska shall step beyond the jurisdiction and cultivate the acquaintance of the Masons that are said to be throughout the globe; and that the incoming year be devoted to strengthening the feeble ties that now exist between other Grand Lodges and our own. For want of a closer acquaintance it would be with difficulty that a Nebraska Mason could obtain fellowship abroad; and yet the way to such fellowship is easily found.

He desires to be understood as seeking for intercourse with only the bodies, Grand and subordinate, of the three degrees of Masonry, leaving the future to determine our relations with the various Orientals that foster other degrees than ours.

The reprint has been continued to the extent of the appropriation. A further appropriation of one hundred and fifty dollars is requested.

An appropriation of fifty-five dollars is requested to cover the cost of ten compendiums remaining on hand, Lodges Nos. 18, 27, 31, 38, and 60 not having yet taken them; the sum thus appropriated to be repaid to the Grand Lodge from time to time as they are purchased by the constituent Lodges.

It is suggested for consideration that the representatives of other Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge of Nebraska be requested to submit, at each Annual Communication, a digest of the decisions and important legislation of the Grand Lodge which he represents; such report to be transmitted to the Grand Secretary by May 1st of each year, and to be consolidated, thus forming the principal part of our report on Foreign Correspondence. Your Secretary has long sought to find some appropriate duty for these representatives, and has been led to make this suggestion by the action of the Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Nebraska (R. E. Sir Oakley), in recommending the same action to the Order of which he was the head.

The carrying of the accounts of the Grand Lodge into a Ledger, as ordered, will result in the saving of sundry little arrearages, &c., that would otherwise be lost, and the Secretary of the incoming year should make up the account of each constituent Lodge *backwards* from the present entries to the date of the organization of each Lodge; and sufficient room has been left for this purpose.

Attention is invited to the accompanying statements.

WM. R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary.*

The following committees were announced by the Grand Master:—

*On Accounts*—Bros.: EDWIN F. WARREN, STEPHEN K. JACKSON, CHRISTOPHER C. COOK, CHARLES P. R. WILLIAMS, and LEWIS LEY.

*On Charters and Dispensations*—Bros.: WILLIAM H. MORRIS, JAMES S. GIBSON, NEWTON R. PERSINGER, JAMES R. CAIN, and ROLLAND H. OAKLEY.

*On By-Laws from Chartered Lodges*—Bros.: N. K. GRIGGS, PETER SCHWENK, EZRA BROWN, LUCIUS C. GOULD, and ALBERT K. MARSH.

*On Ways and Means*—Bros.: SAMUEL W. HAYES, WILLIAM A. DEUEL, GEORGE B. FRANCE, ROBERT A. WHERRY, and MARSHALL SMITH.

*On Charity*—Bros.: SIDNEY L. F. WARD, DAVID E. HUME, GUSTAVUS STEVENSON, HOMER HOLCOMB, and JACOB C. POLSLEY.

*On Grievances*—Bros.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE, GEORGE W. LININGER, HIRAM P. WEBB, EDWARD F. THORP, and THOMAS M. ABBOTT.

*On Unfinished Business*—Bros.: JONATHAN N. WISE, HENRY P. COOLIDGE, FORINGTON W. REDFORD, WILLIAM WOODHURST, and TYLER C. HOYT.

*On Pay Roll*—Bros.: WILLIAM ADAIR, CHRISTOPHER PUTNAM, and FRANCIS E. WHITE.

*Returns of Lodges*—Were referred to the Committee on Credentials.

*On Jurisprudence*—The Past Grand Masters present, with Bro.: Welch as chairman.

*On Foreign Correspondence*—The Grand Secretary, Bro.: Jonathan N. Wise, and one other to be hereafter appointed.

The by-laws of Omadi Lodge, No. 5, and Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, were referred to the committee on By-Laws.

Bro.: Valentine, chairman of the committee on Grievances, submitted the following report:—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom the Grand Master has referred the following communication from Acacia Lodge, No. 34, viz:—

HALL OF ACACIA LODGE, NO. 34, A. F. & A. M. }  
SCHUYLER, NEB., MAY 18, A. L. 5876. }

WM. R. BOWEN, Esq., *Grand Secretary, Omaha, Neb.*:—

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I am instructed to inform you that at a meeting of Acacia Lodge, No. 34, held this evening, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the following named members, comprising all who are in arrears for dues for more than one year, be and are hereby suspended from Masonic privileges and benefits until said dues are paid, viz: Wm. G. Sutherland, Frank E. Frye, John B. Lord, Chas. S. Parker, Geo. Sprecher, Henry S. Sprecher, Samuel Curry, James A. Fraser, Benton H. Toncray, Chas. L. Boughton, John N. Rippey, John F. McKenzie, John Welch, and John McPherson."

Respectfully and fraternally,

CHAS. E. SUMNER, *Secretary*.

ENDORSEMENT:—

Fraternally submitted to the M. W. Grand Master, inviting attention to the manner of the suspension.

OMAHA, MAY 20, 1876.

WM. R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary*.

Would most respectfully submit the following report:—

That the action of said Lodge in the suspension of its members for non-payment of dues, without trial upon written charges and specifications, was in accordance with Rule 18, now in force in this jurisdiction, but would respectfully submit that said rule is inconsistent with Masonic law and usage, and would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

*Resolved* That Rule 18, adopted by this Grand Lodge at its regular communication in 1872, found on page 112 of said proceedings, be amended by striking out the words "except for non-payment of dues" found in the third line of said resolution, leaving Rule 18 to read as follows:—

**RULE 18.** No Subordinate Lodge shall proceed to suspend or expel a brother for un-masonic conduct of any description whatever, unless it be upon written charges and specifications, made out and filed with the Secretary, whose duty it shall be to furnish the accused brother with a copy thereof, if of a nature to be reduced to writing, at least ten days previous to the trial, with notice of the time and place of trial. It is the privilege of the accused to take any proof or testimony to be heard in evidence that he may desire upon giving three days' notice to the Master of the Lodge; and in all cases when the hearing comes on the whole of the testimony shall be reduced to writing, and be carefully preserved by the Secretary of the Lodge. *Provided*, That when a brother charged as aforesaid, shall abscond, proceedings may be had in his absence, without notice.

And your committee would therefore recommend that the action of said Acacia Lodge, No. 34, be disapproved, and your committee further recommend that the committee on Returns of Subordinate Lodges be instructed to insert the names of all brethren so suspended on the returns of said Acacia Lodge, No. 34, as members in good standing May

31st, 5876, and that the Grand Secretary so notify the Secretary of Acacia Lodge.

E. K. VALENTINE,	} <i>Committee on Grievances.</i>
G. W. LININGER,	
E. F. THORP,	
T. M. ABBOTT,	
HIRAM P. WEBB,	

Bro.: France moved "that Rule 18 be referred to the committee on Jurisprudence for decision whether the same is in accordance with Masonic law and usage, and that the report of the committee on Grievances be also referred to the committee on Jurisprudence," which, being seconded,

Bro.: Griggs moved that the resolution of Bro.: France and the report of the committee on Grievances be referred to the committee on Jurisprudence, which was agreed to.

[NOTE.—Rule 18 was amended and the report of the Committee on Grievances was adopted, as will appear later in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at this Annual Communication.]

Bro.: Valentine, chairman of the Committee on Grievances, submitted the following report, which, on motion of Bro.: Griggs, was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred the appeal of Bros.: J. H. Culver and J. L. Davison, from the action of Blue River Lodge, No. 30, wherein said brethren were suspended for non-payment of dues without written charges and specifications having been preferred against them, and without trial, would respectfully report that they have had the same under careful consideration and find that the action of said Lodge was irregular and void, and should therefore be disapproved.

E. K. VALENTINE,	} <i>Committee on Grievances.</i>
G. W. LININGER,	
E. F. THORP,	
T. M. ABBOTT,	
HIRAM P. WEBB,	

Bro.: Valentine, chairman of the committee on Grievances, submitted the following report. Bro.: Warren

moved its reference to the committee on Jurisprudence, which was not agreed to, and the report of the committee was adopted :—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom the Grand Master has referred communication from Western Star Lodge, No. 2, viz :—

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., MAY, 6, 1876.

BRO.: W. R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary of Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A.: F.: & A.: M.:—*

R.: W.: BROTHER:—At the regular communication of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A.: F.: & A.: M.:, held May 5, 1876, the following brethren were indefinitely suspended for non-payment of dues: J. L. Fort, W. W. Wardell, F. Kruger; and J. S. Royalty was expelled for non-payment of dues.

Fraternally,

J. C. WATSON, *Secretary.*

ENDORSEMENT—

Fraternally submitted to the M.: W.: Grand Master, inviting attention to the *expulsion* herein reported.

OMAHA, MAY 20, 1876.

W. R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary.*

Would respectfully submit that the action of said Lodge in the expulsion of Bro. J. S. Royalty, for non-payment of dues, is not in accordance with Masonic usage, and therefore recommend that the action of said Lodge be disapproved. And your committee would recommend that the Committee on Returns of Subordinate Lodges be instructed to insert the name of J. S. Royalty on the returns of said Western Star Lodge, No. 2, as a member in good standing May 31, 1876, and that the Grand Secretary so notify the Secretary of said Western Star Lodge.

E. K. VALENTINE,	} Committee on Grievances.
G. W. LININGER,	
E. F. THORP,	
T. M. ABBOTT,	
HIRAM P. WEBB,	

Past Grand Master Welch submitted the following report from the committee on Jurisprudence. The report was adopted, except so much as recommended approval of the sixth decision of the Grand Master (with reference to the number and grade of Masons necessary to transact the business of a Lodge), which was recommitted to the committee on Jurisprudence for further consideration :—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the several official decisions made by the M. W. the Grand Master during the past year, have had the same under consideration and would respectfully recommend their approval by this Grand Lodge.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

FRANK WELCH, D. H. WHEELER, W. E. HILL, M. DUNHAM,	} Committee on Jurisprudence.
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Past Grand Master Wheeler moved to amend Rule 18 of the Rules and Regulations for the Government of Lodges by striking out the words "except for the non-payment of dues," in the third line of said Rule as printed on page 112, proceedings of 1872. The Rule was so amended without dissent.

The following report of the committee on Grievances was adopted :—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your committee to whom was referred a communication from Solomon Lodge, No. 10, to-wit :—

HALL OF SOLOMON LODGE, No. 10, A. F. & A. M., }  
 FORT CALHOUN, May 12th, 5876. }

W. R. BOWEN, Esq., *Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Nebraska* :—

R. W. BROTHER :—At a regular communication of Solomon Lodge, No. 10, A. F. & A. M., held April 4th, 5876, Lyvanus Avery, Harvey Clark, and W. H. Phillips, were expelled from this Lodge for non-payment of dues.

At the same communication article 7 of our by-laws was amended by striking out the word *four* and inserting the word *two*, so that the article will now read : Each member shall pay annually the sum of *two* dollars into the fund of the Lodge, &c., and respectfully ask that said amendment be ratified by the Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

N. CLARK, *Secretary.*

ENDORSEMENT :—

Fraternally submitted to the M. W. Grand Master.

OMAHA, MAY 20, 1876.

WM. R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary.*

Would respectfully submit that the action of said Lodge in the expulsion of said members, for non-payment of dues, is not in accordance with Masonic usage, and therefore recommend that the action of said Lodge be disapproved. And your committee would further recommend that the committee on Returns of Subordinate Lodges be instructed to insert the names of all brethren, so expelled, on the returns of said Solomon Lodge, No. 10, as members in good standing May 31, 5876, and that the Grand Secretary so notify the Secretary of said Solomon Lodge.

And your committee would further recommend that that portion of said communication referring to amendment of by-laws, be referred to Committee on By-Laws from Subordinate Lodges.

E. K. VALENTINE,	} Committee on Grievances.
G. W. LININGER,	
E. F. THORP,	
T. M. ABBOTT,	
HIRAM P. WEBB,	

Past Grand Master Wheeler moved to amend Section XIII. of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, by inserting after the word *suspended*, in the fifteenth line of said by-laws as printed on page 107, proceedings of 1872, the words "after due trial and conviction," which was seconded and laid over under the rules.

Bro.: Valentine presented the following report from the committee on Grievances, which was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred the communication from H. N. Bryant, asking this Grand Lodge to review its action taken at the last Grand Communication, sustaining Lone Tree Lodge, No. 36, in case of the appeal of said Bryant from the action of said Lodge, No. 36, having had the same under consideration would respectfully recommend that said case be not re-opened.

E. K. VALENTINE,	} Committee on Grievances.
G. W. LININGER,	
E. F. THORP,	
T. M. ABBOTT,	
HIRAM P. WEBB,	

On the motion of Past Grand Master Wheeler, it was

*Resolved*, That the election of officers be made the special order for two o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Bro.: Warren, for the special committee of which he was chairman, made the following report, which was adopted :—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your special committee to whom was referred the address of the M.: W.: Grand Master, and the report of the Grand Secretary, would respectfully report :—

1. That so much of the Grand Master's report as refers to the "Tomb of Washington," be referred to a special committee of three. [Bros.: France, Valentine, and Griggs were appointed.]
2. That so much thereof as alludes to the assembling of the Grand Masters of the several jurisdictions be referred to a special committee of three, consisting of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary, to be elected at this communication.
3. That so much thereof as alludes to the organization of other Grand Bodies, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.
4. That we concur in the doubt expressed by the Grand Master as to the legality of the appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters, and recommend the matter be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.
5. That so much as refers to the Grand Lecturer and Schools of Instruction be referred to a special committee of which the Grand Lecturer shall be chairman. [Bros.: Hill, Lininger, and Wheeler were appointed.]
6. So much as alludes to Lodges under dispensation to Committee on Charters and Dispensations; also so much as refers to surrendered charters.
7. So much as refers to decisions of the Grand Master, to Committee on Jurisprudence; also that portion referring to irregularities.
8. That portion alluding to Lodges of Colored Masons be referred to a special committee of three, to report at the next session of this Grand Body. [Bros.: Furnas, Wheeler, Bowen, Griggs, and Stevenson were appointed.]
9. That so much of the Grand Secretary's report as alludes to Compendiums, to Committee on Ways and Means; also that portion relating to stereotyping and reprint.

10. That so much as refers to the duties of Foreign Grand Representatives be referred to Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,

E. F. WARREN,	} Committee.
N. K. GRIGGS,	
G. W. LININGER,	

Bro.: Valentine made the following report, which was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred communications from one Hudson A. Moore, complaining of the action of Nebraska Lodge, No. 1, with reference to certain alleged grievances, have had the same under consideration, and after a full examination into the same beg leave to report that the action of the Secretary of said Lodge, in refusing to furnish the information sought by said Moore, is highly commendable, and we therefore recommend that the action of Nebraska Lodge, No. 1, in the premises be approved.

E. K. VALENTINE,	} Committee on Grievances.
G. W. LININGER,	
E. F. THORP,	
T. M. ABBOTT,	
HIRAM P. WEBB,	

Bro.: Warren was granted permission to be absent during the remainder of this Communication.

A congratulatory circular-letter from the Grand Orient of Egypt to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska was referred to the committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The following communication from Western Star Lodge, No. 2, was introduced by Bro.: Warren, and was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF A.: F.: & A.: M.: OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA:—

The petition of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A.: F.: & A.: M.: of Nebraska City, Nebraska, respectfully shows: That, prior to the 29th day of August, 1873, Bro.: Jacob Cole, a member of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Union City, Indiana, was taken sick while within the jurisdiction of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, and appealed to said Lodge for assistance; that such assistance was afforded, said Lodge employing

nurses and caring for said Bro.: Cole until his death, which occurred on said date; that thereafter Western Star Lodge buried said Bro.: Cole, and paid all expenses incident thereto; that the expenses of said Lodge, incurred during the sickness and for the burial of the said deceased brother, aggregated the sum of \$75.50, as per itemized statement herewith filed; that Bro.: Joel N. Converse, a member of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, Indiana, or, if not such member, a brother Mason residing at Union City, Indiana, contributed the sum of \$25 towards defraying such expenses; that the total sum expended by Western Star Lodge, No. 2, in and about such business, deducting said contribution, amounted to the sum of \$50.50.

And this Lodge further respectfully shows: That, under the direction of said Lodge, the Secretary thereof presented said account of expenses incurred, showing said credit, to Turpin Lodge, No. 401, Indiana, and requested said Lodge to remit said amount of \$50.50, incurred as aforesaid; that Turpin Lodge remitted the sum of *ten dollars*, and no more on account thereof, and refused to reimburse Western Star Lodge to any greater extent, leaving a balance of \$40.50 still unpaid; that copies of the letters written by the Secretary of your petitioner are herewith returned, but that copies of the letters of said Turpin Lodge cannot be furnished, the same having been lost; that, together with the same, are herewith returned certified copies of the records of said Western Star Lodge, so far as the same relate to the matter of the death and burial of Bro.: Jacob Cole.

Wherefore your petitioner prays that an order may be drawn upon the Treasurer of this Grand Lodge for the sum of \$40.50, to reimburse Western Star Lodge, No. 2, for the expenses so incurred.

E. F. THORP, *Master*.

E. F. WARREN, *Senior Warden*.

No. 1.

(*Copy.*)

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., Sept. 10th, 1873.

W. H. SWAIN, *Secretary, etc., Union City, Ind.*:—

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Enclosed herewith I send you an account, itemized, of the expenses attending the last sickness and death of our brother, Jacob Cole, late a member of Turpin Lodge, No. 401. We have to request that you remit us \$50.50, as required by masonic courtesy and the usages of our fraternity.

By order of the Lodge.

Fraternally, etc.,

E. F. WARREN,

*Secretary Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A.: F.: & A.: M.:*

No. 2.

(Copy.)

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., Nov. 20th, 1873.

W. H. SWAIN, *Secretary, etc., Union City, Ind.* :—

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Yours of the 17th inst., enclosing post office order for \$10, duly received. While we thank you for that sum, we must think there is some mistake in your computation. By referring to the itemized account sent you, you will see that the *total* expense attending Bro.: Cole's death was \$75.50—not \$35—and that this Lodge actually expended \$50.50 of its own funds in that work of charity. If, therefore, it is the intention of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, to reimburse us for the actual outlay—and I see by the tone of your letter that such was the intention—it still lacks \$40.50 of balancing the account.

A few words as to masonic courtesy and custom: It is *our* universal practice to pay the expenses incurred by any Lodge, anywhere, in relieving the necessities of a worthy brother member of this Lodge—we have always done it, and are always *asked* to do it; and it seems but fair that we should be treated likewise, and not be asked to support others, as well as our own brethren.

You say you “regard the nursing of a sick brother, under any circumstances, only a duty incumbent on all Masons, and it should be done without expectation of pecuniary compensation.” True; but the inference you draw from that sentiment differs from mine. We hold it discourteous to *receive dues* from a sick brother, and permit another Lodge to bear the whole burden of his support. The receipt of money to reimburse us for an outlay cannot be termed “pecuniary compensation.” It is the duty of the Lodge *to which the brother belongs* to support him, *wherever he may be* (if entitled to relief at all), and it was merely in the nature of a *loan* by this Lodge to enable Turpin Lodge, No. 401, to fulfill its Masonic obligation to its sick brother, for which, as a matter of course, a return was expected—not as a *reward*, for there can be no reward when one receives his own—but as an act of justice.

I will lay your letter before Western Star Lodge, together with a copy of this, my answer, and will advise you anon, if occasion requires.

Shall we expect the remaining \$40.50, as by the tenor of your letter I infer it was the intention to remit?

Fraternally yours,

E. F. WARREN,

*Secretary Western Star Lodge, No. 2.*

No. 3.

(Copy.)

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., Dec. 18th, 1873.

W. H. SWAIN, *Secretary, etc., Union City, Ind.* :—

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Your favor of the 27th ult. was duly received. Business in court has prevented an earlier answer. Since

my last, our Lodge has held its regular communication, and a resolution was passed fully endorsing mine of the 20th ult., and directing me to continue the correspondence, should occasion demand. You are, therefore, to consider my former letters as though under the seal of the Lodge.

I must still hold to my theory that you made a mistake in your computation of the amount expended by this Lodge in the case of Bro.: Cole. The amount charged for nursing was just as much a legitimate outlay as any other portion of the expense. The men employed for that purpose were not Masons, nor has any Mason charged for any services rendered. It was not taking money from the Lodge treasury to pay its members, and, therefore, I say if Turpin Lodge designs to reimburse us they still fail to do so. Moreover, upon what principle of justice is the \$25 subscribed by Bro.: Converse taken from the so-called "funeral expenses," and not from the other portion?

I am sincerely sorry that the Indiana practice is as you state it, because the inevitable consequence will be that Indiana Masons will not receive that assistance and attention their wants may demand, unless the Lodge assisting them is certain to have its expenditures repaid. The burden becomes intolerable when we remit for advances made our own brethren, and receive none when we help others. If your practice were general, it would do, but, so far as my knowledge goes, Indiana is the only state following the course you have marked out.

In the name of our noble fraternity, we ask that Turpin Lodge, No. 401, will reconsider its uncharitable and unbrotherly action, to the end that "peace and harmony" may prevail, and the bonds of love may unite us.

Let us hear from you soon.

Fraternally, etc.,

E. F. WARREN,

Secretary Western Star Lodge, No. 2.

*(Copy of Records of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A.: F. & A.: M.:, in the matter of Bro.: J. Cole, deceased.)*

September 5th, 1873, at a regular Communication, Bro.: N. S. Harding, Worshipful Master, presented the following report relative to the funeral expenses of Bro.: Cole, recently deceased:—

MASONIC HALL, NEBRASKA CITY, Sept. 5, 1873.

*To the Officers and Brethren of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A.: F. & A.: M.::*  
 BROTHERS:—On the 20th of August Bro.: Jacob Cole, a Master Mason and member of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, Union City, Indiana, was reported sick and requiring assistance. In company with Bro.: Buck, Worshipful Master of Nebraska City Lodge, No. 12, I called upon him and found him in great distress, and helped him. We employed attendants and kept two men in attendance every night until he died, on Friday night last, August 29th. The expenses incurred were as follows:—

Paid C. D. Ostrander, nurse.....	\$12 00
" Robert Darson, ".....	12 50
" D. Du Boize, as per voucher.....	16 00
" C. G. Fisher, undertaker, and coffin.....	30 00
" for ice used.....	1 00
" sexton of Wyuka Cemetery.....	4 00
Total amount.....	\$75 50
<i>Credit.</i>	
By subscription of brethren of Lodge.....	\$12 95
" amount received of Nebraska City Lodge, No. 12.....	18 00
" paid by Dr. J. N. Converse.....	25 00
	\$55 95

Leaving a balance due, that our Lodge is expected to pay, of \$19.55.

I submit herewith a statement of these expenses as against the Lodge of which Bro.: Cole was a member, and would recommend that our Secretary be instructed to forward it to Turpin Lodge, Indiana, with an explanation of these facts, and request them to remit to this Lodge the amount of \$50.50. Also herewith submit subscription list and vouchers for funds paid and advanced.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. S. HARDING, W.: M.:

On motion a warrant for \$19.55 was ordered drawn upon the treasury to reimburse Bro.: N. S. Harding, for moneys expended in defraying expenses of the sickness and burial of Bro.: Cole, and the Secretary of this Lodge was instructed to send to Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Union City, Indiana, an itemized statement showing the expenditures, with a request that that Lodge pay the same, to the amount of \$50.50.

At the regular communication held November 28, 1873, the following resolution was passed: —

*Resolved*, That we emphatically endorse all that our brother, the Secretary, has written to Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Union City, Indiana, in the matter of the sickness and funeral expenses of Bro.: J. Cole, deceased, and ratify and adopt the same as though sent under the seal of this Lodge; that our Secretary be authorized to so state to said Lodge, and that he conduct and carry on such further correspondence on the subject as to him shall seem necessary and proper.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the record in the case of Bro.: J. Cole, deceased, as appears on the records of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A.: F.: & A.: M.:

Witness my hand and seal of Western Star Lodge, this 19th day of

June, 1876.

Seal

J. C. WATSON, *Secretary.*

Whereupon the Grand Lodge was called to refreshment until eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

## SECOND DAY — MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST, 5876.

The M.: W.: Alfred G. Hastings, Grand Master, called the Grand Lodge to labor at 8:35.

The Grand Secretary submitted the following communication, which was referred to the committee on Foreign Correspondence:—

Nr. 2037. OR.: OF BUDAPEST, *the 9th day, Xth month, 000875.*  
 Address: (*9th December, 1875, v.: ae.:.*)  
 THE GR.: ORIENT OF HUNGARY,  
 BUDAPEST (HUNGARY).

T.: T.: G.: O.: T.: G.: A.: O.: T.: U.:

THE GRAND ORIENT OF HUNGARY

*to the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Nebraska, U.: S.:*

S.: S.: S.:

W.: AND DEAR BRETHREN:—

It is now some years since we regularly send you our bulletin (Hajnal) in exchange of your "Proceedings." Nevertheless, we have not succeeded in obtaining a formal recognition of our Gr.: Orient on your part, or the nomination of representants, although we asked for it repeatedly.

The Gr.: Orient of Hungary has been recognized by almost every European, and by many American, masonic powers, and occupies — we may say it without any self-laudation — a very respectable position in the masonic world. We therefore may justly consider ourselves entitled to an answer to our fraternal demands.

We now beg of you most fraternally to favor us with a final answer to our often-repeated request for recognition and nomination of representants.

We remain, W.: and dear brethren,

Yours fraternally,

The Chief Clerk,  
 ANTONIO PRICHTER.



The Dept.: Gr.: Mst.: Mason,  
 COUNT THEOBRELASKY.

The petition of Harvard Lodge, No. 44, for a new charter, to replace the present damaged one, was referred to the committee on Charters and Dispensations; and, on the recommendation of that committee, it was ordered that a new charter be issued, in accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Master in his annual address.

A communication from Bro.: R. Cook, with reference to his expulsion, some two years since, from Hope Lodge, No. 29, was referred to the committee on Grievances. The following report of that committee was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred the communication of Bro.: R. Cook, complaining of the action of Hope Lodge, No. 29, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and find that Hope Lodge, No. 29, some two years since, expelled Bro.: R. Cook for non-payment of dues; that the action of said Lodge in the expulsion of the brother was illegal and void, and that the standing of said brother is now the same as though no such action had ever been taken by said Hope Lodge.

E. K. VALENTINE,	}	Committee on Grievances.
G. W. LININGER,		
T. M. ABBOTT,		
E. F. THORP,		

The following financial report of the Trustees of the Orphan Educational Fund was referred to the Committee on Accounts:—

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF ORPHAN SCHOOL FUND, JUNE 1ST, 1876.

Amount due from Grand Lodge, as per report of June 1st, 1875.....	\$ 242 96	
Interest on same to June 1st, 1876.....	24 29	
	\$ 267 25	
Amount on loan, as per report of June 1st, 1875.....	\$ 803 00	
Interest on same to June 1st, 1876.....	80 30	
	\$ 883 30	
Amount on loan, as per report of June 1st, 1875, from Oct. 17, 1874.....	\$4,000 00	
Interest on same to Oct. 17, 1875— one year.....	400 00	
Interest on \$4,400 to June 1st, 1876.....	273 76	
	\$4,673 76	
Amount on loan, as per report of June 1st, 1875, from Oct. 17, 1874.....	\$1,506 65	
Interest on same to June 1st, 1876.....	244 82	
	\$1,751 47	
Amount on hand— interest paid on loan of \$1,506.65, one year.....	\$ 150 60	
Less amount overpaid, as per report of June 1st, 1876.....	11 28	
	\$ 139 32	
Total Fund to June 1st, 1876 .....	\$7,715 10	

The interest on all loans compounds when not paid at maturity, which is the case with all except the one of \$1,506.65.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT W. FURNAS,  
*Chairman Board of Trustees.*

The Grand Secretary called the roll of the Lodges, and thereunder the following matters were presented:—

Bro.: Lininger, Master of Capitol Lodge, No. 3, moved to amend Article II. of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska (pages 95 and 96, proceedings of '72), by striking out the word "*and*" in the ninth line of said article, and by adding after the words "*Past Deputy Grand Masters*" the following words, viz: "*and Past Grand Wardens.*" The proposed amendment was seconded by five members and ordered to be submitted to the constituent Lodges for their approval or rejection.

On motion of Bro.: Ward, Master of Tecumseh Lodge, No. 17, it was

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, that the constituent Lodges be, and are hereby, permitted to meet as a body of Masons and appear in full clothing, if they so desire, to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of our national independence, on July 4th, A. D. 1876.

The following query, from Bro.: Robbins, Master of Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:—

In case information is had in a Lodge affecting the masonic conduct of a brother, is it proper for the Lodge to appoint a committee of investigation for the purpose of obtaining the facts from which to govern the action of the Lodge towards the brother?

The special committee (Past Grand Master Hill, chairman), on that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to schools of instruction, made the following report, which was adopted:—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

The committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to schools of instruction, beg leave to recommend that the propriety of holding schools of instruction for the coming year be left to the care and decision of the incoming Grand Master and Grand Lecturer.

W. E. HILL,  
D. H. WHEELER, } *Special*  
G. W. LININGER, } *Committee.*

Bro.: Hayes, chairman of the committee on Ways and Means, submitted the following report, which was adopted :

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Secretary's report relating to appropriations, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and would recommend the adoption of the following resolution :—

*Resolved*, That appropriations be and are hereby made as follows : For compendiums now in the hands of the Grand Secretary, as per his report, \$55.00 : that so much money as is not otherwise appropriated, not to exceed \$150.00, be and is hereby appropriated for electrotyping reprint of the early proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

S. W. HAYES,  
GEO. B. FRANCE,  
W. A. DEUEL,  
MARSHALL SMITH,  
R. A. WHERRY. } *Committee on*  
*Ways and Means.*

Bro.: Wise submitted the following as a standing resolution. A motion to refer the same to the committee on Charters and Dispensations was lost, and the resolution was not agreed to :—

*Resolved*, That any subordinate Lodge of this jurisdiction which shall suffer any of its members to become more than one year in arrears of dues, without administering discipline therefor, in accordance with the regulations of this Grand Lodge, shall have its charter arrested. *Provided, however*, that no Lodge shall discipline any member for non-payment of dues who can show an inability to pay the same.

Past Grand Master Wheeler presented the following report, which was adopted :—

## TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Jurisprudence to which was referred the petition of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, with accompanying documents, have to report that we are surprised that the brethren of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Union City, Indiana, have so far forgotten the truths and principles inculcated by our institution, as to refuse to reimburse the brethren of Western Star Lodge by promptly repaying the moneys expended in caring for and burying one of their own members. It was the Masonic duty of the members of Western Star Lodge to care for the sick brother and to make him feel that he was surrounded by brothers who would cheer his last hours by such attentions that he would not feel that he was deserted by his brother Masons. Your committee are further of the opinion that it is the legal and Masonic duty of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, to refund to the last cent all moneys expended in the care of its own member by said Western Star Lodge. Should said Turpin Lodge, No. 401, aforesaid, fail and refuse to do so, your committee are of the opinion that said Lodge should be reprimanded by the Grand Lodge of Indiana, and should the Grand Lodge refuse to do so, we would recommend that all Masonic intercourse between the Grand Lodge of Indiana and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska should cease until such time as the brethren of that Grand Jurisdiction, through the Grand Lodge, shall signify their willingness to do their whole duty, as Masons, towards members of their own jurisdiction, while such members are temporarily sojourning without that Grand Jurisdiction, and who, in sickness, are compelled to ask for charity.

Your committee would recommend that the petition and accompanying papers be printed with the proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

Your committee are unanimously of the opinion that the Grand Lodge should not pay the account presented by Western Star Lodge, No. 2, for moneys expended in the care and burial of Bro. Jacob Cole.

Your committee are also unanimously of the opinion that the resolution found on page 54, proceedings 1875, providing for the payment of \$83.00 for funeral and burial expenses of Brother J. Greathouse, of Noblesville, Ind., should not pass.

Your committee are of the opinion that the expenditure of money by this Grand Lodge, in the payment of the foregoing claims, is unauthorized by law or Masonic usage.

FRANK WELCH,  
W. E. HILL,  
D. H. WHEELER,

*Of the Committee on Jurisprudence.*

Bro.: Morris submitted, for the committee on Charters and Dispensations, an elaborate and comprehensive report recommending the issuance of charters to Thistle, Keystone, and Riverton Lodges, and the continuance under dispensation of Hamilton Lodge.

Bro.: Davis submitted the following amendment to the By-Laws, which was seconded by five members, and action thereon ordered as in such case made and provided:—

Amend Article II. of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska by adding the following to said article, to-wit: "*Provided, no brother shall be entitled to cast more than one vote, except as a representative from a subordinate Lodge.*"

Bro.: Wise submitted the following report from the committee on Unfinished Business, which, on motion, was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Unfinished Business have carefully examined the proceedings of the session of 1875, and desire to call the attention of the Grand Lodge to the following, which should properly come before this session as unfinished business:—

On page 20 of the printed proceedings will be found a proposed amendment to the By-Laws of this Grand Lodge, offered by Past Grand Master Wheeler, providing for a reduction in fees for initiations and Grand Lodge dues.

Also, on page 54 will be found the subject matter of difference between Noblesville Lodge, No. 57, of Indiana, and Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, of this jurisdiction.

Also, on page 56 will be found a query submitted by Bro.: Wise and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and upon which no report was made.

All of which is respectfully submitted for the consideration of this Grand Lodge.

J. N. WISE,	} Committee on Unfinished Business.
H. P. COOLIDGE,	
WM. WOODHURST,	
T. C. HOYT,	

Bro.: Wise, for the committee on Foreign Correspondence, made report as follows, which was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to whom was referred that portion of the M.: W.: Grand Master's address relating to the newly-organized Grand Lodges of Dakota, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island, have given the matters due consideration, and beg leave to offer the following resolutions for the action of this Grand Lodge:—

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Nebraska hereby extends her most cordial recognition to the said Grand Lodges, as regularly formed and entitled to the fraternal sympathy of all Grand Lodges of Ancient Craft Masonry, and that we welcome them into the sisterhood of Grand Lodges.

*Resolved*, That the M.: W.: the Grand Master be requested to enter into reciprocal interchange of Grand Representatives with said Grand Lodges.

Your committee further report that the evidence before them touching the organization of the Grand Lodge of Ontario is not of such a character as to warrant this Grand Lodge in taking any action thereupon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. N. WISE, *for the Committee.*

Bro.: Griggs, chairman of the committee on By-Laws from Chartered Lodges, made the following report, which was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on By-Laws from Chartered Lodges report that we have had under consideration the By-Laws of Omadi Lodge, No. 5, and amendments to the By-Laws of Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, and that we have made sundry amendments thereto. We recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the By-Laws of Omadi Lodge, No. 5, and Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, as amended, be approved by this Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted.

N. K. GRIGGS,	} <i>Committee.</i>
P. SCHWENK,	
E. BROWN,	
L. C. GOULD,	
A. K. MARSH,	

The following statements were referred to the committee on Accounts:—

ALFRED G. HASTINGS, *Grand Master,*

*In account with the M. W. Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M.:*

	<i>Dr.</i>
To fees received from Riverton Lodge, U. D. ....	\$15 00
“ “ “ “ Keystone “ U. D. ....	15 00
“ “ “ “ Hamilton “ U. D. ....	15 00
“ “ for special dispensation to St. Johns Lodge, No. 25. ....	10 00
“ “ “ “ Lancaster “ No. 54. ....	10 00
	<u>\$65 00</u>
	<i>Cr.</i>
By Grand Secretary's receipt. ....	\$65 00

THE M. W. GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA, A. F. & A. M.,

*To ALFRED G. HASTINGS, Grand Master,*

	<i>Dr.</i>
To stationery, including copy book. ....	\$ 8 80
“ telegraphing and expressage. ....	6 30
“ postage. ....	21 60
“ printing for use of Grand Lecturer. ....	7 20
“ expenses to Seward (two visits). ....	5 70
“ “ “ Falls City. ....	12 40
“ “ “ Omaha. ....	9 80
“ “ of School at Sutton. ....	11 80
“ “ “ “ West Point. ....	24 25
	<u>\$107 85</u>

The following report from the committee on Foreign Correspondence was adopted:—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence to whom was referred the following circular from the Grand Orient of Egypt, viz:

A. G. D. G. A. D. U.

SECRETARIATO GENERALE

DEL GR. OR. D'EGITTO

E DIPENDENZE

No. 4972.

OGGETTO.

VALLE DEL NILO

OR. D'ALESSANDRIA

li 13th May, 1876, A. D.

*Circular.*

1776—IV. OF JULY—1876.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

R. W. WILLIAM R. BOWEN, G. S. *Grand Lodge of Nebraska:*—

*Dear Sir and Brother*—M. Ill. and P. Bro. S. A. Zola, Grand M. of G. Orient of Egypt proposed and the following resolution was enthusiastically adopted to be sent

## TO ALL AMERICAN GRAND LODGES.

“Grand Orient of Egypt and all Lodges hailing therefrom, avail themselves of the happy event of the Centennial Anniversary of American Independence to greet their American Brethren thereupon, as the best part of one of the greatest nations in the world, and to request them to accept, in so glorious a day the hearty salutations and fraternal wishes from this regenerated Egyptian Craft M.: which is working to strengthen more and more the sacred ties binding and uniting all F.: and A.: M.: who are spread throughout the world for the glory of the G.: G.: O.: T.: U.:”

This you will be pleased to convey to your M.: W.: Lodge in due and full form, and believe me truly and fraternally yours,

F. F. ODDI, *Grand Secretary.*

Have given the same due consideration, and take pleasure in acknowledging the very warm and courteous expressions of regard contained therein, for the *American Republic*, and more especially for the great Masonic Brotherhood of the United States. In consideration whereof your committee beg to offer the following resolution for adoption by this Grand Lodge:—

*Resolved*, That the R.: W.: Grand Secretary be instructed to convey to the Grand Orient of Egypt our most kindly appreciation of the sentiments expressed in the circular referred to, and to express our most fervent wishes for the reign of peace and prosperity of Ancient Craft Masonry in that Grand Jurisdiction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. N. WISE,

*For the Committee.*

On motion of Bro.: Davis, it was resolved that the next Annual-Communication of the Grand Lodge be held at Omaha, commencing at four o'clock in the afternoon of the Tuesday preceding St. John's Day (June 24th).

The accounts of the Grand Treasurer, \$7.00, and the committee on Foreign Correspondence, \$5.00, for stationery, &c., were referred to the committee on Accounts.

Bro.: Long, chairman of the committee on Credentials, submitted the following report, which was adopted:—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

The Committee on Returns beg leave to submit the following report of the work of the several Lodges under this jurisdiction for the year ending May 31st, 1876, and the present status of the Craft as shown by the accompanying tabular statement:—

Number initiated during the year.....	196
Passed.....	179
Raised.....	175—175
Admitted.....	302
Reinstated.....	14
Other causes.....	1
	492
Demitted.....	106
Died.....	20
Suspended.....	88
Expelled.....	7
Other causes.....	19—240
	252
Gain Master Masons.....	252
No. Chartered Lodges, 1875.....	51
No. Chartered Lodges, 1876.....	56
Fees on initiation.....	\$ 980.00
Dues on members.....	2,473.00
Debits less credits, 1875.....	117.50
	\$3,570.50
Total amount due.....	\$3,570.50

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. K. LONG,	}	Committee.
F. E. WHITE,		
JESSE T. DAVIS,		
ALFRED KELLEY,		

STATISTICAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31ST, 1876.

LODGE.	NO.	LOCATION.	COUNTY.	ENTERED APPRENTICES.			FELLOW CRAFTS.			MASTER MASONS.							GRAND LODGE DUES, FEES, ETC.				Candidates rejected.				
				No. June 1st, 1875.	Initiated.	Passed.	No. May 31st, 1876.	No. June 1st, 1875.	Passed.	Raised.	No. May 31st, 1876.	Gain this year.				Loss this year.			No. Master Masons June 1st, 1875.	Amount due Sub. Lodges June 1, '75.		Amount due Gr'd Lodge June 1, '75.	Fees on Initiations.	Dues on Members.	Total as found by Committee.
												Raised.	Admitted.	Reinstated.	By other causes.	Total gain.	Demitted.	Died.							
Nebraska.....	1	Bellevue.....	Sarpy.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	42	1	1	1	1	1	1	41			\$10 00	\$ 42 00	\$ 52 00	2		
Western Star....	2	Nebraska City..	Otoe.....	4	3	3	3	3	3	127	3	3	3	3	3	3	126			20 00	127 00	147 00	1		
Capitol.....	3	Omaha.....	Douglas..	28	9	11	26	6	11	9	8	227	9	7	16	11	33	1		45 00	227 00	272 00	5		
Nemaha Valley..	4	Brownville.....	Nemaha..	3	1	3	1	3	3	81	1	81	1	2	4	1	78		\$23 00	5 00	81 00	109 00	1		
Omaha.....	5	Dakota.....	Dakota.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	37	1	1	2	2	2	39		2 00	15 00	37 00	54 00	1			
Plattsmouth....	6	Plattsmouth....	Cass.....	21	2	3	20	2	3	4	1	52	4	1	6	2	5	53		10 00	52 00	62 00	1		
Falls City.....	9	Falls City.....	Richardson.	12	12	9	15	9	5	4	59	5	2	4	1	4	5	61		60 00	59 00	119 00	3		
Solomon.....	10	Fort Calhoun...	Washington	2	3	2	3	3	2	4	1	27	4	2	4	3	28		15 00	27 00	42 00	1			
Covert.....	11	Omaha.....	Douglas..	20	2	1	21	12	1	4	9	160	4	6	10	4	1	164		10 00	160 00	170 00	1		
Nebraska City..	12	Nebraska City..	Otoe.....	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	53	53	1	1	2	2	53		\$4 00	53 00	49 00	1			
Orient.....	13	Rulo.....	Richardson.	11	1	11	3	3	3	30	1	30	1	1	1	1	20				30 00	30 00	1		
Peru.....	14	Peru.....	Nemaha..	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	1	15	1	1	1	16		1 00	5 00	15 00	21 00	1			
Fremont.....	15	Fremont.....	Dodge.....	2	2	3	1	3	2	68	2	68	2	3	6	4	64			10 00	68 00	78 00	1		
Eureka.....	16	Arago.....	Richardson.	3	3	3	3	3	2	14	1	14	1	1	14	14					68 00	78 00	1		
Tecumseh.....	17	Tecumseh.....	Johnson..	3	3	3	3	3	2	4	1	66	4	5	10	5	9	62		15 00	66 00	81 00	3		
Ashland.....	18	Ashland.....	Saunders..	4	1	3	2	4	3	4	3	61	4	2	8	3	6	63		5 00	61 00	66 00	1		
Lincoln.....	19	Lincoln.....	Lancaster..	8	10	9	9	3	9	7	130	3	9	12	2	17	11	135		50 00	130 00	180 00	1		
Rock Bluff....	20	Rock Bluff....	Cass.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	42	1	42	1	1	2	1	43		14 00	42 00	56 00	1			
Washington....	21	Blair.....	Washington	5	7	5	7	3	5	7	70	7	70	3	10	3	6	74		5 00	35 00	70 00	110 00	1	
Macy.....	22	Plattsmouth....	Cass.....	6	2	3	5	3	3	5	1	47	5	1	6	6	52			10 00	46 00	56 00	1		
Pawnee.....	23	Pawnee City....	Pawnee.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	29	1	29	2	3	2	1	28		39 00	5 00	29 00	73 00	1	
Lafayette.....	24	Grant.....	Nemaha..	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	34	1	34	1	1	3	32			5 00	34 00	39 00	1		
St John's.....	25	Omaha.....	Douglas..	11	5	7	9	3	6	5	83	5	4	9	3	1	88		1 00	25 00	83 00	107 00	4		
Beatrice.....	26	Beatrice.....	Gage.....	13	2	3	12	2	3	4	73	4	15	19	3	3	89			10 00	73 00	83 00	2		
Jordan.....	27	West Point....	Cuming....	5	3	2	6	4	2	4	41	2	41	3	3	3	41			15 00	45 00	56 00	1		

Hope.....	29	Hillsdale.....	Nemaha.....	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	35	1	1	1	2	34	\$12 50	\$10 00	\$35 00	\$57 50	1									
Blue River.....	30	Milford.....	Seward.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	25	25	1	3	22	2	22			25 00	25 00	4									
Takamah.....	31	Takamah.....	Burt.....	5	1	3	3	2	3	32	3	7	10	2	40			5 00	32 00	37 00	5									
Platte Valley.....	32	North Platte.....	Lincoln.....	7	5	6	6	4	5	4	85	4	2	1	7	3	1	12	16	76	\$ 1 00	25 00	85 00	109 00	8					
Ashlar.....	33	Grand Island.....	Hall.....	5	7	8	4	1	7	5	51	5	6	1	12	5			5	58		35 00	51 00	86 00	3					
Acacia.....	34	Schnyder.....	Colfax.....	11	3	2	12	2	2	1	47	1	3	4	1	14			15	36		15 00	47 00	62 00	1					
Fairbury.....	35	Fairbury.....	Jefferson.....	8	1	2	7	2	2	2	25								8	25		5 00	25 00	30 00	1					
Lone Tree.....	36	Central City.....	Merrick.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	46	2	7	9	1	17			18	36		63 00	5 00	45 00	113 00	1				
Crete.....	37	Crete.....	Saline.....	2	6	6	2	3	6	5	4	49	5	5	10	1			1	58		30 00	49 00	79 00	2					
Oliver.....	38	Seward.....	Seward.....		2	2			2	2	51	2	3	5	2				2	54		12 00	10 00	51 00	73 00	...				
Papillion.....	39	Papillion.....	Sarpy.....								22								22							...				
Humboldt.....	40	Humboldt.....	Rienardson.....	2	1	3			3	3	24	3	4	7	2	1			3	28		5 00	24 00	29 00	...					
Northern Light.....	41	Stanton.....	Stanton.....	4	4	2	6		2	2	20	2		1	3	2			6	15		20 00	20 00	40 00	1					
Juniata.....	42	Juniata.....	Adams.....	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	27	4	1	1	6	2			2	31		10 00	27 00	37 00	1					
Hebron.....	43	Hebron.....	Thayer.....	1	4	4	1	2	4	4	38	4	2		6				44			20 00	38 00	58 00	1					
Harvard.....	44	Harvard.....	Clay.....	1	7	3	5		3	2	1	20	2	5	7	1			1	26		35 00	20 00	55 00	...					
Palmyra.....	45	Palmyra.....	Otoe.....		2	1	1		1	1	14	1	3	4	1				1	17		10 00	14 00	24 00	...					
Gibson.....	46	Kearney.....	Buffalo.....	2	6	6	2		6	6	18	6	12		18	2			2	34		18 00	30 00	18 00	30 00	4				
Salem.....	47	Salem.....	Richardson.....	1	2	1	2		2	2	28	2	5		7				2	33		10 00	28 00	38 00	...					
Fairmont.....	48	Fairmont.....	Fillmore.....	3	10	4	9	3	4	7	27	7	11		18	2	1		3	42		50 00	27 00	77 00	1					
Evening Star.....	49	Sutton.....	Clay.....		2	2		2	2	3	1	32	2	5	7	2			2	37		15 00	10 00	32 00	27 00	5				
Hastings.....	50	Hastings.....	Adams.....	2	2	1	3		1	1	35	1	2		3	2			3	5		10 00	35 00	45 00	1					
Fidelity.....	51	David City.....	Butler.....	5	1	1	5	1	1	2	25	4	4		4				29			5 00	35 00	30 00	1					
Hiram.....	52	Bell Creek.....	Washington.....	1	2	1	2	4	1	4	1	14	4	1		5			19			10 00	24 00	24 00	...					
Charity.....	53	Red Cloud.....	Webster.....	3		2	1	3	2	3	18	3	2		5				23				18 00	18 00	...					
Lancaster.....	54	Lincoln.....	Lancaster.....	1	2	3		4	3	7	35	7	2		9	2			2	42		10 00	35 00	45 00	...					
Mosaic.....	55	Norfolk.....	Madison.....	2	6	6	2		6	5	1	5	26		31				31	5 00		30 00	30 00	25 00	...					
York.....	56	York.....	York.....	4	2	3	3	3	3	5	1	5	16		21				21			10 00	10 00	10 00	...					
Mt. Moriah.....	57	Syracuse.....	Otoe.....	2	1	1		1	1	1	1	19		20					20			10 00	10 00	10 00	...					
Lebanon.....	58	Columbus.....	Platte.....	1	7	5	3	3	5	8	8	36		44					44			10 00	35 00	25 00	...					
Wahoo.....	59	Wahoo.....	Saunders.....	2	5	5	2	1	5	6	1	6	14		20				20			25 00		25 00	...					
Melrose.....	60	Melrose.....	Harlan.....		7	4	3	2	4	5		5	16		20				20			35 00		35 00	...					
Thistle.....	U.D.	Plum Creek.....	Dawson.....		8	8			8	8		8	8		8				8			40 00		40 00	...					
Riverton.....	U.D.	Riverton.....	Franklin.....		2	1	1		1	1		1	1		1				1			10 00		10 00	...					
Keystone.....	U.D.	Lincoln Valley.....	Hamilton.....		6	6			6	4		4			4				4			30 00		30 00	...					
				247	196	181	262	101	179	185	95	2509	175	302	14	1	492	106	20	88	7	19	240	2761	\$54 00	\$171 50	\$980 00	\$2473 00	\$3570 50	...

June, 1876.]

GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA.

Bro.: France, for the special committee of which he was chairman, made the following report, which was concurred in by the Grand Lodge:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the address of the M.: W.: Grand Master relating to the erection of a tomb to the memory of Washington, beg leave to report that we have carefully considered the subject matter so referred to us, and are of the opinion that some steps should be taken by the Masonic Craftsmen of the United States in remembrance of their honored patron—the great father of our country.

The members of our Fraternity in this young State should lead, not follow, in this act of honor to our distinguished brother. In this centennial year each of our members can well afford to contribute his mite towards this laudable enterprise.

Your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the subordinate Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction are authorized, and are hereby recommended to collect, in addition to other dues, from each member, the sum of \$1.00 to be remitted to the Grand Lodge with other Grand Lodge dues, which said sum shall be used by the Grand Lodge only for the purpose of erecting a mausoleum to the memory of our distinguished brother.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. FRANCE, } *Special*  
 N. K. GRIGGS, } *Committee.*  
 K. VALENTINE, }

Past Grand Master Welch submitted the following report from the committee on Jurisprudence, which was adopted. The report of the committee on Grievances therein referred to, was also adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the report of the Committee on Grievances, in regard to the suspension of sundry brethren of Blue River Lodge, No. 30, for non-payment of dues, without

trial, now on appeal to this Grand Lodge, respectfully recommend that the report of your Committee on Grievances be adopted.\*

FRANK WELCH,

W. E. HILL,

*Of the Committee on Jurisprudence.*

The following report of the committee on Jurisprudence was concurred in:—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address which refers to the appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters for each Custodian District, having had the same under consideration, and believing the necessities of this Grand Jurisdiction do not require, at present, the continuance of such officers, and that the action of the Grand Lodge at its last session was premature, we respectfully recommend that the resolution adopted at the last session, referring thereto, be repealed.

FRANK WELCH,	} Committee on Jurisprudence.
W. E. HILL,	
D. H. WHEELER,	

Bro.: Kelley offered the following resolution, which was adopted, and Bros.: Kelley, Wheeler, and Lininger were named as the special committee:—

*Resolved*, That the M. W. Grand Master appoint a committee, consisting of not less than three members of this Grand Lodge, to devise a criminal code for the government of the Lodges of this jurisdiction; and that the committee thus appointed shall report the result of their labors at the next session of the Grand Lodge.

The following resolution, offered by Bro.: Ward, was referred to the committee on By-laws of Chartered Lodges:

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to draft a code of by-laws for the government of constituent Lodges in this jurisdiction, to be furnished to the Lodges at the cost of printing the same.

On motion of Bro.: Davis, the vote adopting the report of the committee on Credentials was reconsidered; and

the report was amended so as not to give votes to the District Deputy Grand Masters.

The following report of the committee on Jurisprudence was adopted, as also was the report of the Committee on Grievances, therein referred to:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred the resolution as to whether Rule 18 of the standing rules for the government of subordinate Lodges was in accordance with Masonic law and usage, beg leave to report that as this question has already been disposed of by this Grand Lodge, further action in this direction by your committee is unnecessary, and that the report of your Committee on Grievances, in regard to the suspension of the brethren of Acacia Lodge, No. 34, without trial, be adopted.

FRANK WELCH, } *Committee on*  
W. E. HILL, } *Jurisprudence.*

Bro.: William S. White, Master of Palmyra Lodge, No. 45, was excused from further attendance.

The amendments to the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, proposed by Past Grand Master Wheeler at the last annual communication (page 20, printed proceedings), were taken up. The amendment reducing the fee on each initiation was lost. The amendment reducing the annual dues on each member of a constituent Lodge from one dollar to seventy-five cents was agreed to. The by-law, as amended, is as follows:—

#### SECTION X.

Every subordinate Lodge shall pay, annually, to the Grand Lodge, at the stated communications thereof, the following Grand Lodge dues, viz:—

For each initiation, the sum of	-	-	-	\$5.00
For each member, the sum of	-	-	-	75

All Master Masons who are members on the *first* day of the Masonic year, June 1st, and none others, shall be considered members liable for dues.

The following report, from the committee on Charters and Dispensations, submitted by Bro.: Morris, was adopted:

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Charters and Dispensations, to whom was referred that portion of the M.: W.: the Grand Master's address relative to the surrender of the charter of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, and the disposition of the furniture and jewels belonging to said Lodge, have had the same under careful consideration and would recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the furniture and jewels of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, be given to Falls City Lodge, No. 9, as recommended by the M.: W.: the Grand Master, and that the R.: W.: the Grand Secretary be instructed to issue demits to such brethren, members of Eureka Lodge, as may appear from the records to be entitled thereto.

WM. H. MORRIS,	} <i>Committee on Charters and Dispensations.</i>
I. S. GIBSON,	
N. R. PERSINGER,	
JAS. R. CAIN,	
R. H. OAKLEY,	

The following resolution, introduced by Bro.: Gibson, was referred to the committee on By-Laws:—

*Resolved*, That the By-laws, Rules, and Grand Master's decisions, as amended and approved, and remaining in force at the close of this session of the Grand Lodge, be published in full with the reports of this Grand Lodge proceedings.

Bro.: Griggs was excused from further attendance.

And at 11:30 A. M. the Grand Lodge was called to refreshment until 2 P. M.

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## SECOND DAY — AFTERNOON SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST, 5876.

At two o'clock the M.: W.: Alfred G. Hastings, Grand Master, called the Craft to labor.

Past Grand Master Wheeler submitted the following, which was adopted:—

•TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

The undersigned, the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan near this Grand Body, has listened to remarks made by the representatives of sundry subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction, who have been seriously troubled in attempting to comply with the resolution presented by the undersigned, and adopted by this Grand Body in 1872, complaining that certificates cannot be had from the Grand Secretary of Michigan except upon the payment of \$1.00 for each certificate so as aforesaid issued. I cannot lead myself to believe that the Grand Lodge of Michigan sanction any charges of this kind to be made by their Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary of that Grand Jurisdiction is paid an annual salary for his services, and in my opinion would not be justified in making any such charge. This requirement, as required by said resolution, is made by the request of the Grand Master of Michigan, not to add to the income of its Grand Secretary, but to protect the Craft from imposition by unworthy persons residing in that Grand Jurisdiction and claiming to be Masons. If such charges are continued to be made I should recommend the rescinding of the resolution, yet urging upon the Craft in this jurisdiction to use the utmost vigilance and caution in examining and requiring vouchers from persons hailing from that Grand Jurisdiction, and if not *entirely* satisfied, to unhesitatingly refuse them Masonic recognition. I would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution :—

*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary and Grand Master be and they are hereby appointed a committee to correspond with the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Michigan, and if it should prove that the charge of \$1.00 is made for the certificate referred to in the resolution of 1872, then, and in that case, that the Grand Master shall officially suspend said resolution until the next session of the Grand Lodge, and the Lodges in this jurisdiction shall act as if such resolution had never been adopted by this Grand Lodge.

D. H. WHEELER.

The following report was adopted :—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, with reference to the query referred to them, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit :—

That it is within the province of the Master of a Lodge, should he hear the good name of a brother traduced, to appoint a committee (or act as such committee himself) to investigate said rumors, to the end

that the Lodge, on the report of said committee, should they find the rumors against the brother well founded, may prefer charges and try him.

FRANK WELCH, W. E. HILL, M. DUNHAM, D. H. WHEELER,	}	<i>Committee on Jurisprudence.</i>
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The following report, submitted by Bro.: Griggs, was agreed to:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred the resolution relative to the appointment of a committee to prepare a code of By-Laws for the government of subordinate Lodges, report that we have considered said resolution, and are of the opinion that it is inexpedient to adopt the same, for the reasons: 1st, the subordinate Lodges have the right to make their own By-Laws, provided the same are not in conflict with masonic law and usage; 2d, the greater portion of the Lodges in this jurisdiction have already adopted and printed By-Laws; and, 3d, the printing of By-Laws will involve considerable expense to the Grand Lodge, without any corresponding benefit.

Respectfully submitted.

N. K. GRIGGS, P. SCHWENK, L. C. GOULD, EZRA BROWN, A. K. MARSH,	}	<i>Committee on By-Laws.</i>
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The following report from the committee on Charters and Dispensations, submitted by its chairman, Bro.: Morris, was adopted as the sense of the Grand Lodge:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Charters and Dispensations, to whom was referred that portion of the M.: W.: the Grand Master's address referring to special dispensations, would respectfully report that they have had the same under consideration, and your committee unanimously concur in the action taken by the M.: W.: the Grand Master in that regard. Your committee would especially commend the action of the M.: W.: the Grand Master in refusing special dispensations to permit the conferring of degrees in Masonry in less time than is required by masonic

law, believing, as they do, that, except in very special instances, the granting of such special dispensations are detrimental to the welfare of our order.

WM. H. MORRIS, N. R. PERSINGER, J. R. CAIN, I. S. GIBSON,	}	<i>Committee on Charters          and Dispensations.</i>
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Past Grand Master Dunham moved "that the committee on Pay-Roll be instructed to make up the pay-roll for two days attendance, except in the case of the committees convened prior to the session." On motion of Bro.: Davis, the resolution was laid upon the table.

The following resolution, presented by Bro.: France, was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to copyright our Compendiums and Diplomas at the expense of the Grand Lodge, provided the cost of the same shall not exceed twenty-five dollars.

The following reports were submitted; and so much thereof as refers to expenditures was referred to the committee on Accounts:—

TO THE M.: W.: GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

BRETHREN:—Your Grand Lecturer herewith submits his annual report, together with the reports of Bro.: H. C. Rider, Custodian of the Fifth District, and Bro.: N. R. Persinger, Custodian of the Third District.

The Grand Master called two Schools of Instruction—one at Sutton, and the other at West Point. I regret very much that my business engagements were such that it was impossible for me to attend those Schools, believing, as I do, that much good can be accomplished in Schools of Instruction, if properly attended. I have visited six or eight Lodges during the past year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM E. HILL,  
*Grand Lecturer.*

CRETE, JUNE 17th, 1876.

W.: WM. E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge A.: F.: & A.: M.: Nebraska* :—

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—In accordance with Article 2, Chapter VIII. of the By-Laws of this Grand Lodge, I herewith submit a report of my proceedings as Custodian of the Fifth District.

I have visited as many of the Lodges in my district as it was possible for me to visit, and I have learned of the condition and workings of the other Lodges, and am gratified to be enabled to say that they are in a good and satisfactory condition.

In December, 1875, in company with District Deputy Grand Master W. H. Morris, I visited Fairmount Lodge, No. 48, for the purpose of installing the officers for the present year.

January 11th, 1876, I visited Fairmount Lodge for the purpose of giving instruction, and remained there two days; Fairmount Lodge bearing my expenses while at Fairmount.

January 17th, 1876, by order of the M.: W.: Grand Master, I attended at the school for instruction called at Sutton, and remained there four days. A very pleasant and instructive school was held. I cannot too strongly recommend the great benefits to be derived from schools for instruction.

January 1st, 1876, by order of M.: W.: Grand Master, I examined the proposed officers for a Lodge U.: D.: at Lincoln Valley, Hamilton county, and granted a certificate to Bro.: Martin Ennis, Worshipful Master; J. T. Price, Senior Warden; Wm. J. Ball, Junior Warden.

January 24th, 1876, by order of the M.: W.: Grand Master, I visited Hamilton, Hamilton county, and examined the proposed officers for a Lodge U.: D.:, and after a thorough and satisfactory examination, granted a certificate to Bros.: H. Streeter, Worshipful Master; T. F. Tracy, Senior Warden; J. S. Miller, Junior Warden. Expenses paid by Lodge.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

HIRAM C. RIDER,  
*Custodian of the Fifth District.*

Herewith find account of expenses.

GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA A.: F.: & A.: M.:,

To HIRAM C. RIDER, *Custodian,*

*Dr.*

Four days at Sutton School of Instruction, at \$2.00.....	\$ 8.00
Forty-eight miles.....	4.80
To Fairmount, thirty-three miles.....	3.30

—————  
\$16.10

HIRAM C. RIDER,  
*Custodian Fifth District.*

CENTRAL CITY, NEB., JUNE 1st, A. D. 1876.

W.: WILLIAM E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge A.: F.: & A.: M.: Nebraska* :—

DEAR BROTHER :—In accordance with Article 2, Chapter VII., of the By-Laws of this Grand Lodge, I herewith submit a report of my official action for the past year.

On December 17th, 1875, in accordance with a previous request, I, with the assistance of Bro.: James A. Tulleys, Worshipful Master of Charity Lodge, No. 53, of Red Cloud, Nebraska, met for the purpose of examining the officers of a contemplated new Lodge to be located at Riverton, in Franklin county, Nebraska, and after a full and satisfactory examination, and also an examination of the Lodge room, I granted a recommendation for Dispensation to the following named brethren :— James R. McDonald, Worshipful Master; William E. Hatch, Senior Warden; William Jones, Junior Warden.

Being so far distant I have not visited them since, but confided them to the care of Bro.: James A. Tulleys, in whose ability I have implicit confidence.

In January, 1876, I attended the School of Instruction at Sutton, Nebraska.

In February, 1876, at the request of the brethren, I visited Thistle Lodge, U.: D.: , at Plum Creek, Nebraska, and exemplified the work. I found the members of this Lodge energetic and earnest, and doing good work.

The expenses of my visits to both Riverton and Plum Creek were paid by the brethren of the respective Lodges. Their kindness to me has left a lasting impression on my heart.

Trusting the above may prove satisfactory, I am,

Respectfully and fraternally,

N. R. PERSINGER,

*Custodian Third District.*

The Grand Lodge now proceeded to elect its office-bearers for the incoming year. Bros.: Lininger, Oakley, and Morris acted as tellers, and the following were chosen :—

Bro.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL, Grand Master ;  
 Bro.: HIRAM C. RIDER, Deputy Grand Master ;  
 Bro.: CHARLES F. GOODMAN, Grand Senior Warden ;  
 Bro.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE, Grand Junior Warden ;  
 Bro.: JAMES W. MOORE, Grand Treasurer ;  
 Bro.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Secretary.

Bro.: France presented the following report, which was adopted :—

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND LODGE:—

Your Committee on Ways and Means desire to offer the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the sum of three hundred (\$300) dollars is hereby appropriated to defray the incidental expenses of the Grand Secretary's office for the ensuing year.

GEORGE B. FRANCE,	} Committee on Ways and Means.
S. W. HAYES,	
W. A. DEUEL,	
R. A. WHERRY,	

The following report, from the committee on Jurisprudence, was adopted:—

TO THE M. W. THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Jurisprudence to which was referred the query by Bro.: Wise, propounded in 1875, having considered the same, are of the opinion that a certificate simply of good standing among the fraternity in the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, or any other Grand Jurisdiction, cannot, we think, under any circumstances, be taken or considered in this Grand Jurisdiction as a demit, and a Lodge would not be justified in so considering it in receiving a petition for affiliation.

FRANK WELCH,	} Committee on Jurisprudence.
W. E. HILL,	
M. DUNHAM,	
D. H. WHEELER,	

On the motion of Bro.: Coolidge, it was

*Resolved*, That the sum of ten dollars, in addition to per diem, be and the same is hereby appropriated to pay for services of the Grand Tiler at this session of the Grand Lodge.

Bro.: Knapp, Master of York Lodge, submitted the following query:—

For what is the ballot taken on the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees?

The query was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence, who reported that "the ballot is taken both for the degree and proficiency." The report was concurred in by the Grand Lodge.

On motion of Bro.: Griggs, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby extended, to the following railroads, for their courtesy in allowing reduced fare to the delegates to this Grand Body, viz: The Burlington and Missouri River railroad in Nebraska; the Union Pacific railroad; the Sioux City and Pacific railroad; the Omaha and Northwestern railroad; the St. Joseph and Denver City railroad; the Midland Pacific railroad; and the Atchison and Nebraska railroad.

Bro.: Bowen introduced the following resolutions, which were referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:—

*Resolved*, That wherever the word "reinstate" or the word "reinstatement," as applied to expelled Masons, occurs in the Grand Lodge laws or regulations, it be changed to "resuscitate" or "resuscitation."

*Resolved*, That no constituent Lodge has the right to reinstate an expelled Mason; that right rests in the Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Jurisprudence be and are hereby instructed to prepare and submit the enactments necessary to carry the above regulations into effect.

Bro.: Bowen offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a special committee of five be appointed to examine, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, the By-Laws of the constituent Lodges, and to report to the Grand Lodge any desirable modifications. To this end each Lodge shall forward to the Grand Secretary a copy of its By-Laws.

The Grand Secretary suggested that—

It is desirable that the masonic year should end earlier than May 31st; at present there is little time for the Committee on Returns to compile its report (which is no small labor), and no time whatever in which to send the returns back to the Lodges for correction. If the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge may be considered as permanently fixed in June, it is thought that the year should end on April 30th, thus giving four or five weeks for correcting the returns and preparing the reports.

The matter was referred to the committee on Returns, which in due time made the following report; and the resolution therein contained was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

The Committee on Subordinate Returns, to whom was referred the suggestions of the R.: W.: Grand Secretary in regard to the change of date of the masonic year, would respectfully report that they are of the opinion that it would be advisable to make such change, and therefore would offer the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That Rule 30 be changed so as to read that the masonic fiscal year shall end on April 30th in each year, and that the returns of subordinate Lodges shall be mailed to the Grand Secretary within ten days thereafter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. K. LONG,  
JESSE T. DAVIS,  
F. E. WHITE,  
ALFRED KELLEY,

*Of the Committee on Subordinate Returns.*

The following report from the committee on Foreign Correspondence was adopted:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to whom was referred the correspondence from the Grand Orient of Hungary, beg leave to report that the subject to which the letter refers was reported upon by this committee at the last session of this Grand Lodge, which report will be found on page 32 of the proceedings of said session. Your committee have no evidence sufficient to change their opinions as then expressed. Your committee recommend that the R.: W.: Grand Secretary be instructed to communicate to said Grand Orient the views of this Grand Lodge as expressed in said report of last year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. N. WISE, *for the Committee.*

Bro.: Wise, for the committee on Foreign Correspondence, made the following report, which was concurred in:

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to whom was referred that portion of the R.: W.: Grand Secretary's report in reference to representatives of sister Grand Lodges near this Grand East, have had the same under consideration, and recommend that the suggestion of the R.: W.: Grand Secretary be concurred in by this Grand Lodge.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. N. WISE, *for the Committee.*

The financial statement of the Grand Treasurer was presented by that officer, and was referred to the committee on Accounts.

Bro.: Gibson submitted the following query, which was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence, with permission to delay report thereon until the next Annual Communication :—

“How many Master Masons, members of the Lodge, constitute a Lodge for the transaction of the business affairs thereof?”

Bro.: Wise, for the committee on Foreign Correspondence, made report as follows :—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence beg leave to report that their Annual Review of the proceedings of sister Grand Lodges is well under way, and will be reported to the Grand Secretary for publication with the proceedings of this session.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. N. WISE,  
*For the Committee.*

Bro.: Williams submitted the following report from the committee on Accounts, which was adopted :—

IN GRAND LODGE, JUNE 21st, 1876.

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

We have examined the statement of the Most Worshipful Brother Alfred G. Hastings, amounting to \$65.00, fees received during the year,

find the same correct, and that the same has been paid to the Grand Secretary.

We recommend that an order for the sum of \$7 00 be drawn in favor of Brother J. W. Moore, being the amount of his expenditures for postage and stationery during the year.

We recommend that an order be drawn in favor of Most Worshipful Brother Alfred G. Hastings, for the sum of \$107.85, being the amount of his expenditures during the year.

We recommend that an order be drawn in favor of Bro.: J. N. Wise, for \$5.00, for postage, express, and stationery, in connection with the Foreign Correspondence.

We have examined the report of the Trustees of the Orphan School Fund, and find that the same agrees with the report made at the last Annual Communication, except the accrued interest, less \$11.28, the amount overpaid, 1875.

Respectfully submitted,

S. K. JACKSON,  
C. C. COOK,  
C. P. R. WILLIAMS,  
LEWIS LEY,

*Of the Committee on Accounts.*

The following report, from the committee on Jurisprudence, was received, and at the suggestion of the Grand Secretary, its consideration was postponed until the next Annual Communication:—

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your committee to whom was referred the following resolution,

*Resolved*, That wherever the word "reinstate," or the word "reinstatement," as applied to expelled Masons, occurs in the Grand Lodge laws or regulations, be changed to resuscitate or resuscitation,

Beg leave to report that they have considered the same and respectfully recommend the adoption of said resolution.

All of which is respectfully submitted and signed by the committee.

FRANK WELCH, } *Committee on*  
D. H. WHEELER, } *Jurisprudence.*  
W. E. HILL, }

The following resolution, offered by Past Grand Master Wheeler, was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That an order be drawn on the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge for the sum of \$267.25, amount due the Widows' and Orphans' fund from this Grand Lodge, as per report of the Trustees of said fund.

On the motion of Bro.: France, it was

*Resolved*, That all orders upon the Treasurer of this Grand Lodge be signed by the M. W. Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary, with the seal of the Grand Lodge.

Whereupon the Grand Lodge was called to refreshment until seven o'clock this evening.

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## SECOND DAY — EVENING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST, 5876.

The Grand Lodge was called to labor at 7:45, Grand Master Hastings in the East.

Sundry resolutions, having been considered and recommended by the committee on Returns, were adopted, directing that funds overpaid by the Lodges at this Communication be refunded, as follows:—

Plattsmouth Lodge, No. 6.....	\$ 2.00
Nebraska City Lodge, No. 12.....	4.00
St. John's Lodge, No. 25.....	1.00
Platte Valley Lodge, No. 32.....	1.00
Evening Star Lodge, No. 49.....	15.00
Charity Lodge, No. 53.....	9.00
York Lodge, No. 56.....	24.00
	<hr/>
	\$56.00

Bro.: Valentine offered the following amendment to the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, as printed on pages 103 and 104, proceedings of '72:—

“ Amend the last paragraph of Section VI., after the word *Masons*, in the third line from the close of the section, so it shall read as follows:—  
 “ *And for his services he shall receive a salary of \$800 per annum. He shall be ex-officio Librarian of the Grand Lodge.*

By unanimous consent the amendment was considered, and was adopted.

The Grand Master announced as the special committee on the subject of Colored Lodges, as referred to in his Annual Address, Bros.: Furnas, Wheeler, Bowen, Griggs, and Stevenson.

On motion of Bro.: Griggs, it was

*Resolved*, That an order be drawn in favor of Bro.: J. N. Wise for the sum of fifty dollars, in payment for services on the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

On motion of Bro.: Lininger, it was

*Resolved*, That hereafter the address of the Grand Master and the reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary be printed previously to the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master-elect announced the following appointments, which were, on motion, confirmed by the Grand Lodge:—

Bro.: RICHARD BURGE, Grand Chaplain;  
 Bro.: MARK W. WILCOX, Grand Orator;  
 Bro.: WILLIAM E. HILL, Grand Lecturer;  
 Bro.: SIDNEY L. F. WARD, Grand Marshal;  
 Bro.: JAMES A. TULLEYS, Grand Senior Deacon;  
 Bro.: WILLIAM H. MORRIS, Grand Junior Deacon;  
 Bro.: JACOB KING, Grand Tiler;  
 Bro.: ROBERT W. FURNAS,  
 Bro.: ALFRED G. HASTINGS, } Trustees Orphan School Fund.  
 Bro.: HARRY P. DEUEL,

Whereupon the elected and appointed office-bearers were obligated and installed by Past Grand Master Wheeler, assisted by Bro.: Leonard as Grand Marshal.

The bond of the Grand Treasurer, with William E. Hill and E. F. Thorp as sureties, was approved.

The Grand Orator, W.: Bro.: James Laird, then delivered the following

ORATION:

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER, WARDENS, AND BRETHREN OF THE GRAND LODGE:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:— In the hour allotted to us for general considerations concerning this vast Order, whose greatness is attested by the retiring and to be *tested* by the advancing centuries, between which, as a link in the chain of cause and effect, modern Masonry now stands, can we, as Masons, call the world to witness, that as Masons, we have shrunk from no labor; that we have been guilty of no prevarication; that we have feared no odium whatsoever, in the long warfare which Masonry has carried on with the crimes and vices, the destructive effeminacy, the enormous and overpowering influences of ancient and modern, eastern barbarian, and European violence and corruption? If so it be that in answer to this challenge, which meets us at the threshold of our undertaking, we can in behalf of Masonry render an answer— not smoothly spoken and full of lying prophesies, but which squarely responsive to the vast interrogatory as to how we have kept the faith, most honorable from its age alone, and more honorable from its inherent qualities of moral grandeur— say that, though born so far remote in time, that the light from which its primitive lodge fires were kindled, seems taken from the universal torch which the Great God spoke into being against the chaos of creation, and declared to be good— say, that, though its infancy was cradled in the savage arms of fierce revolutions, that rent with giant and brutish hand the traditionary chain of man's memory, and had power to change the very face of nature itself— say, that, as it now stands in fact of power by principle, it has ever stood a grand edifice among men— unshaken amid the ruins of empires and peoples, firm against convulsions that may be said to have staggered the great globe itself— if I say, abstracted from our individual unworthiness, this institution, as a moral force, can trace its course by right, luminous through time and the enshrouding ages of darkness— then, surely, we can say the meanest among us are ennobled by our connection with it, and sternly demand for it not only the high consideration of those present, but of posterity itself.

In this discussion, I take it Masonry is to be judged—

1. By its antiquity;
2. By its persistency;
3. By its work.

The Masonry which is practiced to-day, dates from A. D. 1717, at which time, in London, England, it was first reduced from a moral and religious operative or working society, or corporation, to what it at present is—an exclusively moral and speculative, or philosophical institution. The Freemasonry of to-day is founded upon that of 1717, which is founded upon the principles of the Masonry of A. D. 52, introduced into Britain by the societies of Roman builders, attached to the armies of Cæsar, who, at that time, made the conquest of that country, and the charter of York, dated A. D. 926. These corporations, in turn, derived their origin from the colleges of Roman constructors, founded in Rome seven hundred and fifteen years before the birth of Christ, under the patronage of the emperor, Numa Pompilius. These colleges were independent, civil, and religious institutions, to whom was granted the exclusive privilege of erecting the public temples and monuments of Rome. These colleges, in their turn, were based upon the Dionesian mysteries, about that time introduced into Rome by the learned priests and architects of Greece. The Dionesian mysteries, or Grecian Masonry, as it may be called, would seem to have been derived from three general sources: the Egyptian initiations and learning as taught by the hierophants or sages of that country, schooled in the hieroglyphic erudition of the Egyptians; the teachings of the gymnosophists, or priest philosophers of India, and the Hebrew seers and kings and prophets. This would give to ancient Masonry an age of from ten centuries before the birth of Christ—that being the time when the temple of Solomon is said to have been erected—to thirty-one and thirty-two centuries before Christ, that being the time of the first Buddha (*Bouda*), to some one hundred and thirty centuries before the Christian era, counting from the earliest known Egyptian chronology.

The name "Freemasonry," as distinguished from "Masonry," dates from A. D. 287, at which time one Carausius, a Roman, set himself up as emperor of Britain, and who, to conciliate the masonic societies, restored them to all their rights as independent bodies, anciently guaranteed to them by Pompilius. The term "Accepted Masons," seems to have come from the habit of the old societies to induct into the mysteries of the order, such men of consequence as were desirous of patronizing its learning, and advancing its material welfare.

The cold recital of the facts constituting the claims of this institution to great age, I see, moves no one. However, it shows you that the movements of Masonry have not been restricted to narrow bounds; it has not been anxious to deduce to-day the consequence of the premises it laid down on yesterday; some of its work may yet be deferred for ages, until the fullness of time shall come; its logic will not be less conclusive for reasoning slowly; so great a thing as providence moves through time as the gods of Homer through space—it takes a step, and centuries have rolled away. Age is not unlovely when crowned with wisdom; time is an attribute of excellence no less than labor. Yet, if you like not the skeleton at your feast, add the flesh and blood that thousands of years ago gave it beauty, and spread upon it the mantle of charity, which fifty centuries have not been able to rend, and which nineteen hundred years ago made Masonry the companion of your Christ, and then the skeleton of facts is lost in the outlines of a sweetly breathing majesty.

We present you with an Order professing high things, and which is being daily crowned with the homage of millions of men and women. History asserts its age to be greater than that of any living organization—born in the infancy of the earth, it has looked upon the unrevealed splendors of the evolving worlds of mind and matter. It has projected itself through hundreds of centuries, sowing from its almost immortal hands, as it advanced up the dim isles of time, the germs of exalted deeds. From the garnered truths by it let fall upon the fallow grounds of the ages gone, have grown the mighty facts of religion, and humanity, and freedom, that are to live through all the ages yet to be. From the dim æons of its early time there comes up a voice clearer, and stronger, and sweeter, than that of him who plead in the wilderness against the advancing feet of that one who never dies—a voice that utters words so high that they might seem echos from Sinai's transfigured mountain; words whose breathings bless the gathered brotherhood when the gracious master breaks the seals, and in the hushed and deadly silence of our midnight watch, speaks the never-dying word.

What means it, do you ask, that we claim our beautiful rites as ancient? It means that as men and Masons, we love holy and heroic things. Your churches break and eat of the body of our blessed Lord, and pour and drink his blood; we break from the body of his work, and our bread, so broken, we cast upon the bitter waters; we drink of the blood of his inspiration, and henceforth strive to bear our cross, if

not as Christians, then as *men*. That was the era of the gods; Christ lived and died in those times; miracles were abroad; the heavens were not closed against the earth, but opened to admit the ascending truth and to loose the holy dove. That impulse which we should have received, could we have stood in that age, and from the deified man, drank direct the draught of life, Masonry, there, standing, may have drunk, and we here drink our vast resolves from it.

Ancient Masonry stood among its many monuments and heard the great Apostle proclaiming the one God to the so-called superstitious Romans; it was at Athens when Homer sang his hero songs; it is embodied in the sublime teachings of Plato, and upon its eternal truths the immortal Socrates composed himself to death; its untiring feet followed with healing civilization the bloody track of empire Cæsar's legions cleft across the Virgin waters of Gaul and Britain, and ever upon its uplifted front was written the salutations of perfect peace. And yet, Masonry is not to stand idly in our midst, as an altar upon which to devote with rhetorical incense offerings to those great epochs that have gone down to inhabit the sombre yet sublime sepulchers of antiquity, mid the clamor and *eclat* of the ages past; nor yet, as a cross upon which to crucify the deficiencies of the present. The sun that lit the passage of the Roman's blade, and warmed the olive and flushed the vine of Greece, still dawns and does his wonted work; and yet, it is not the light that melted down the Attic skies that fills the land with life to-day — to-day shall man do his miracles — to-day is the hero, and the deity, and the endless succession of to-morrow's, gives added value to his sway. Not to exalt the past, but the present do we live; not to revive history, but to create it; not to muse in mournful contemplation amid the solitudes of time, weeping over the grave of heroic ages, but to be about creating an age of our own, remembering that man's struggle with self is ever in progress, and that to render any age or Order one of greatness, nothing is wanting but great souls — and first of all, by the aid of Masonry, to institute an heroic self-reform, which is the only lever that shall lift the social world.

(2.) THE PERSISTENCY OF MASONRY.

To the grand army, halted before the glittering minarets of famed Cairo, and speaking from the shadow of the gigantic pyramids of ancient Egypt, Napoleon, pointing to those lofty antiquities, exclaimed:—  
“Soldiers, from those summits forty centuries contemplate your ac-

tions." So we, as Masons, may exclaim, standing within this temple dedicated to the living arts, not forty, but fifty and eight centuries look down upon us. Thus standing in this unseen audience of the ages, do we come to the discussion of the element of persistency in Masonry, which makes possible the grandiloquent assertion of its antiquity, and gives thereto the firmness of truth. According to accepted chronology we are in the five thousand eight hundred and seventy-sixth year of Masonic light.

To me, as a Mason, this length of life is full of great meaning. Remember, we are not speaking of the endurance of a name, of a style of architecture, of a school of art, of a system of mythologies; but of an idea; of a moral substance; so perpetual in its nature, and so uplifted in its living, breathing life, that it casts a shadow which continents and ages can neither obstruct nor efface. It is "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land"; the influence of a great force, which, while it may have given birth to heroes and martyrs, to reformations and civilizations, has never been too high to stoop to the unfortunate; but year on year, and age on age, in the name of Brotherhood, has bowed itself to uplift those trodden under foot of men.

The fact of years in stones and monuments, excites an idle curiosity — but what shall express the awe and reverence with which we *feel*, not hear, but *feel*, the presence in our minds and lives of a series of principles, whose embodiment amounts to the realization of the universal idea of moral grandeur, and which were originally formed in the rugged battles of fate where strength was born, and which, by virtue of their own sovereign power, called to their council men whose adherence to the grand and simple faith of brotherhood, has given to the awakened mind of all ages universal formulas of right, and founded in every Lodge at once a temple and an empire. It is not strange to the thinking man or Mason that the principles of Masonry should have arisen almost with the dawn of time and intellect. But, to those who have read its history, and the history of the world, it is matter of wonderment that it, or any other institution dedicated exclusively to humanity, should have survived the buffetings of the dark ages the preceding superstitious and idolatrous ones, and the succeeding persecutions of priests and kings, that pursued it for centuries with a brutal and deadly hate. Truly, no bantling order, cast upon the rocks of antiquity, and mothered like those fabled Roman kings, by the she-wolf's care, and often fostered, if at all, by men wild as the hawk and

fox, could have power to run the race of centuries and hold as its own eternal patrimony, principles so soft and gentle, so grand and true, that they may have served to lead by the hand, mailed and embruted man, out from the clamorous age of iron into the calm one of peace.

Time, that destroys the vouchers of most systems, by the indomitable persistency of our ancient brethren, has been forced to spare those of ours. The belief of to-day becomes the tradition of to-morrow, and in another day that tradition, once so sacred to man, has drifted clear of earth and hangs a mist of clouds in the far heavens of antiquity, where crowned mythology guards her million gods, whose once substantial realms of faith and belief have vanished into fable. Again and again the tempest of restless mind has swept the fields of opinion, and blown away doctrine and creed, and church, and state, and law, like chaff. But, from this chaos, Masonry has always arisen, holding in its lion's grip the guarantees of a better life for all, to come from the adoption of, and adherence to, its immortal principles, full of aspiration, trust, hope, and the relentless purposes of good. These it has forever persistently maintained, sanctioned, and made venerable to all men. And these it renews and recreates perpetually, and by these its principles, impartial as the sunshine and the sweetly falling rain, and its untiring devotees, is, and has been, itself, always maintained, high above ignominious fall, eternal amid its true arts and worshippers, without other change than that of exalted progress.

The spirit of tragedy, strong in men, delights in the flow of blood. The mind tires of the invisible combats between time and principle, between permanence and the powers of change, between persistency and the demons of decay, and clamors for the sounding strife and the crimson blood, with which the old faiths are all baptized. Be it so! From Masonry's riven breast has flowed the rich, red tides that bear her ancient peaceful glories on, unto the many-voiced, unfathomed time. So long as this Order was content to toil, smoothing with incessant labor the rugged brow of primeval time, its history runs on in calm and ever strengthening tides; but no sooner does it lift its bowed head, than at once against it are aimed the bulls of popes and the edicts of kings. For nearly a hundred years the mad skies of Europe shook with the thundering maledictions of the Romish church, launched against our Order; and the inquisition, and the rack, fattened the soil of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, and the other nations of Europe, with Masonic blood; and throughout the old world, save only modern England,

grandest of all the sceptered States, on every side, rose against this knightly order of the square and cross, the dark walls of superstition. But from that epic age of this society, as from that of all others, the spirit of a sublime resistance sprang from out the horrors of persecutions as might a bright and purple flower from the midst of a pool of blood. The cumulative and persistent force of principles embodied in this Order, gave it, even in those times of violence, a force that broke upon the hollow edicts of kings and priests with resistless power. In the ebb and flow of the vast forces of civilization then at work, the narrowness of those times was broken up and destroyed, even as pleasure boats upon a summer sea, overtaken by the tempests, are rent in pieces and their painted fragments given to clothe the nakedness of the rocks. The blow that was to have struck Freemasonry dead, and left it a lifeless relic upon the shores of history, but served to start the great Order from its inertia, and open for it an era equal to that of the whole earth, where to-day it walks amid the desolations of its enemies, and from their ancient thrones proclaims no more ignorant judgments of madness, but the high and mighty council affirmed by our ancient brethren and re-affirmed by the immortal God: "As you would that men should do unto you, do you even so unto them."

The triumphant endurance and extension of Freemasonry demonstrates that intelligence is not opposed to bigotry as bodies to bodies; ten little bigotries are not stronger than one great intelligence; intelligence and bigotry is a thing of the mind, and minds are opposed to minds in a highly different manner; one man that has a higher wisdom, a hitherto unknown truth, is stronger, not than ten men that have it not, or ten thousand, but than all men that have it not, and such an one, or such an institution, stands among men and nations armed with an ethereal power, as with a sword out of Heaven's own armory, sky-tempered, and which no buckler and no tower of brass can withstand.

We are talking of persistency as a quality. All truth is Masonic. Let history speak: The Barons persisted, and the great charter was proclaimed; Luther persisted, and the Reformation arose; Washington persisted, and America was free; our Masonic brethren of old persisted, and we stand to-night in the conscious train of their great days and victories behind. The majesty of unnamed martyrs fills the imagination with glory; the past sheds its light on our advancing order, and we are henceforth attended by an invisible escort of heroes.

## (3.) ITS WORK.

In discussing the work of Freemasonry, we stand upon the solid earth. Before our path has lain among abstractions and memories and ideals — not unlovely, but high and sometimes distant and difficult of analysis. Principles of morality, qualities of brotherly love, powers of endurance, appeal to our imagination and awaken the slumbering poetic sense, as might the first sight of stars and planets, that, in the great nights, go sailing down the soft blue seas of Heaven, like celestial ships upon its bosom, bearing their freight of burning beauty on to the unnamed ports of an unknown eternity. But we are no longer workers in dreams, but stern and angular realities. The path of our ancient renown runs backwards, and our faces are fixed towards the rising sun. The bed of our past glory affords no repose for the aggressive spirit of to-day. We, of the Nineteenth Century, have fallen heir to an immense estate — wide as the millenium. The legacy of *HARD WORK* is ours; and this that might be counted the adversity of the weak, is in truth the triumph of the strong.

And now, what is modern Freemasonry? A statement of its objects will be the best argument of its work. Masonry is a moral principle working through an organization of Lodges for the realization of the God-thought of peace on earth and good will to men. It is the combination in one order of three sovereignties — that of right over force of intelligence over prejudice; of brotherhood over selfhood. It is the gospel of social rights; a charter of manhood; a religion of to-day; a charter of humanity. "It aims to efface from among men the prejudice of caste; the conventional distinctions of color, origin, opinion, and nationality; to extirpate private and public discord; to mitigate the rigors of life, and to arrive by free and pacific progress at one formula of eternal and universal right, according to which every human being shall be free to develop every faculty with which he may be endowed, and to concur, with all the fullness of his strength, in the bestowment of happiness upon all, and thus to make of the whole human race one family of brothers united by affection, wisdom, and labor."

This definition truly presents to the mind no dwarfed and stunted creed; no fragmentary faith; no contemptible hope; no feminine ambition, born of romantic dreams and longings; but the stern reverse of this — a something titanic in its masculinity, having the stature of a God, and a strength that takes hold upon the stars and thrones. It presents objects heroic in the highest degree, and of a magnitude that

might appal mean men and mean minds, but which can only serve to inspire true Masons, true builders of the eternal truth, with a resolution as omnipotent as are the obstacles to the upbuilding of all things mightier than men. Viewed in this light, what matters the vainglory of antiquity? Whether comes this vast order of the square, and the level, and the plumb, and the cross, and the star, and the sun — from Syria, or Chaldea, or the Egyptian priests chanting their sad and solemn rites beside the famed Euphrates, whose waters, fable tells us, flow from Heaven; or yet, from the Hebrew land of kings and prophets, whose temples outshone the sun; or from the Grecian academies, or the Roman colleges, or the German guilds, or British schools of architecture? I care not whether the mysterious pyramids still testify of its eternity, or whether the Roman Sybils still launch the eternal word— For you know, and I know, that this, our faith, is a sublime and practical moral force, and we know that this moral force is the parent of all the earthly forces.

It is idle for Masonry to vaunt its virtues as wares upon the markets of to-day. From the doing of this we are forbidden, but I cannot repress the exultation with which I find in tracing the rise and progress of this principle of Masonry, that ever has it kept burning within the bosom of its Lodges the three great lights of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, and ever has the heart of the true Mason opened in response to those magic names. Hundreds of men in the world's history, kindled with the immortal fire of these eternal principles, have caused rugged, steel-clad Europe to tremble before their words, calling millions up from out the darkness of mental and physical slavery, into the glory of that great day which has ever shed its benign light over us. Hundreds of States, once known to history, seeking to gag the infinitudes of man's soul with the formulas of the divine right of oppressors, and with the little superstitions of tyranny to fill the embrace of eternal progress, have been rolled up as a scroll and sunk from off the earth into forgotten graves. I say I cannot forbear to ask myself to whom do these glories belong, that shine so like stars in the heavens of history—to the imitators, or the inventors? For I am forever convinced that one of the grandest works of Masonry, fraught with all consequences of good, and that can never be known to men, is, that arising in the ages anterior almost to history, and organized for the propagation of art, morality, equality and freedom, that, notwithstanding the fall of Rome and the succeeding ages of darkness, in which well nigh all in-

telligence was blotted out, this society has kept alive within itself, for the benefit of mankind, that spirit of exalted freedom which we see has since diffused itself, like a celestial warmth, among many nations, and is forever radiating its unconquerable light upon the dark horizons of oppression.

My brothers, two facts, like hands of God, uphold the world—two truths: the one is faith; the other, labor. In view of these two omnipotent things, the world lives, and we upon it. Faith and labor. The power to believe and the power to work, make the genius and assure the destiny of men and that of Masonry. Masonry can only continue great by reason of our possession of these powers. It has armed us with weapons such as never the knights of old could boast, the weapons of eternal truth, and we are to possess ourselves with the inspirations of its heroic faith; and then, with Sir Galihad, can we exclaim:—

“My good sword carves the casques of men,  
My tough lance thrusteth sure,  
My strength is as the strength of ten,  
Because my heart is pure.”

Nothing is greater in Masonry than that it contains the springs of faith; the springs of faith, but not of any peculiar form of faith, not orthodox or heretodox; not devotion, or what is called piety; but faith in the validity of virtue; faith in the dignity of mind; faith in the supremacy of laws; faith in the essential worth of goodness; faith in the honor of labor and the abiding ties of brotherhood—a faith that takes hold upon the earth by the grasp of love, and the heavens by the hands of an unconquerable hope. This is the faith that abides in the profound depths of Masonry; and let no man say that he is a Mason until he has found it.

The faith of Masonry is the religion of *to-day*—not of the eternal days to come—but of the present and awful now. Our friends, the churchmen, teach a faith in the resurrection of the Son of Man. This we also believe, not as a thing to come to pass when the dead earth sleeps in the infinite tomb of worlds—but as we see it in the history of societies and men; and as the world has seen it in all the heroes and martyrs that live in the heavens of memory; not the resurrection of the Son of Man as a being, but as a quality, as a principle illustrating the spirit of love, as incarnated in us all, and made manifest through the beautiful consistency of a more holy life, as seen in sweeter laws, milder punishments, a more comprehensive justice, a more absorbing

aspiration after generous qualities. The resurrection, not of the body, but of the spirit and will of the Son of Man, and, through this, of that of all men. This, then, makes the faith of Masons:—

1. "As other men have creeds, so have we ours:  
We keep the holy faith in God in man,  
And in the angels ministrant between:  
We hold to one true church of all true souls,  
Whose churchly seal is neither bread nor wine,  
Nor laying on of hands, nor holy oil,  
But only the anointing of God's grace.
2. "We hate all kings and caste and rank of birth,  
For all the sons of men are sons of God;  
Nor limps a beggar but is nobly born,  
Nor wears a slave a yoke, nor czar a crown,  
That makes him more or less than just a man.
3. "We love our country and her righteous cause.  
So dare we not keep silent of her sin;  
And after freedom, may her bells ring peace.
4. "We keep a faithful friendship with a friend,  
Whom loyally we serve before ourselves.
5. "We lock our lips too close to speak a lie;  
We wash our hands too clean to touch a bribe;  
We owe no man a debt we cannot pay,  
Save only of the love men ought to owe.
6. "Withal, each day before the blessed heaven  
We open wide the chambers of our soul,  
And pray the Holy Ghost to enter in.
7. "Thus reads the fair confession of our faith,  
So crossed with contradictions by our life,  
That now may God forgive the written lie;  
And still, by help of Him who helpeth men,  
We face two worlds and fear not life nor death—  
O, Master, lead us by Thy hand."

From these deeply laid foundations of a pure and generous faith in God, in man, arise the leaping pillars and gleaming walls of that Lodge which ascends to the spiritual roof of the *eternal all*, whose crowning dome vanishes from our finite eyes in one great gleam and cloud of light.

The grandest idea of all this lesson in Masonry which I have been learning, is that this vast order sprang not from ancient kings, but from

the working corporations. Antiquity had temples to Hope, to Fortune, to Faith, and to many beautiful deities; but none, in shame be it said, to Labor. I know not if the modern idolators of wealth and idleness keep a better faith than they of old; but to-night let us be wise enough to put Masonry forth as the champion of labor: for, was it not by the labor of masonic hands that the dead scriptures of the stones of Joppa took on the templed shape of a divine ideal? If the effete idea, held by some, of the indignity of this institution, by reason of its laboring antecedents, be not dead, then, in God's name, let us crucify it. If we read aright, God's command is: "Thou shalt eat thy bread by the sweat of thy brow." We have a society, while Masonry wears these glistening drops, whose majesty none will dispute, and the earth is too poor to match, out of all her crown jewels, this, our most ancient tiara.

Standing upon the Aventine Hills in ancient Rome, you could count hundreds of temples, monuments, and obelisks erected by our ancient brethren and dedicated to the many gods of that imperial city and its all-conquering people—temples to Faith, to Hope, to Charity; temples to Courage, to Strength, to Fertility; temples to Love, to Prudence, to Beauty—until the mind, weary of the gleaming marble grandeur, turned upon itself to know the meaning of this manifold idolatry, and found, in answer, that IDEAS were gods among the ancients. Now her temples are razed, her columns broken, and only desolation broods among the ruins where once the speaking marble did honor to a hundred gods. This, then, be our work: not to awaken their deities as deities, for they sleep sweetly now in the arms of fable, but to revive and rebuild them as powers and principles and motives in our life; for the truth which they, with uplifted eyes, saw but in its bud, has bloomed for us, filling every grateful heart with fragrance and every thankful hand with fruit.

The curse of all is untruth and its accompanying weakness. From thousands of hearts throughout the wide world, the constant cry goes up for truth, not adulation, or the dry nothings of flattery, but for the great, full-orbed truth, to shine above our hearts and homes and lodges, when the hand fails and the soul sinks, and the darkness comes despite the day, and the gaudy sun, blazing in the heavens of the universe, so far removed from us and our needs, that the solace of its eternity to be, reaches us for no purposes of consolation, and whose inspirations find us only through the dim and unsubstantial adumbrations of fancy, whose nebulous and starry nothings come down from the thrones and

kingdoms of a grand and pictured hereafter, over electric lines of imagination that snap in twain in the vain effort to span the immensity that divides the real and awful now, from the mysterious dream beyond. The heart and soul of some, perhaps, within the sound of my voice, can bear witness to the truth of this: that days widen into years, and yet there comes no angel to the tomb where the hero-thought, where the god-genius of their lives, whose hands should be freed from the fetters of a base inaction, lies buried, with power to roll from thence the stone that blocks the coming forth of the celestial spirit. In vain the cry goes up to the universal all; in the mocking words of the old prophet, our gods do sleep — aye, and they sleep the sleep that knows no waking at the bid of mortal words, either of prayer or praise; and, savage as the thought may be, ever may that sublime slumber be unbroken, save by something more stern than the touch of aspiring dreams or the fall of idle tears. But Masonry has learned the secret; the enchanted heavens open to a knock, and the loyal gods respond when summoned by a blow; out of the opened skies strength descends, and truth speaks to those who labor. Work — work is the divine word and power that bows the haughty heavens and subdues the defiant gods — not faith, nor works with faith; but works, and faith in works, will either open or destroy the heavens.

What Masons want, what the world wants, is not sympathy, not co-operation, not reform, not redemption, but strength. Power is what is lacking; not the power born of lust and gold and blood, but pure-hearted power, and clean-handed strength, given a healthy body and a healthy mind, and the working moral harmonies will gather around the character as bees about the flowers of summer.

A few words and I am done: This institution and order then, is no artificial idol of a departed age, no ineffectual bauble born in superstitious darkness and religious dismay, no portentous relic of despair, born in the captivity or the wilderness, and dragged forth from the ruins of the dark ages; it is no deformed caricature of a once mighty image. No! it is the happy reverse of all this. Erected to God and dedicated to the holy Saints John, runs the legend written upon its very front! "It is the embodiment of all that would be perfect in the spirits and aspirings of men; and this its temple should be a place where the mind rises; where the heart expands, and the countenance is ever placid and benign. This is an institution whose favorite attitude is to stoop to the unfortunate, to hear their cry, and to help them; to

rescue and relieve ; to succor and to save ; majestic from its mercy ; venerable from its antiquity ; uplifted without pride ; firm without obduracy ; beneficent in each preference ; lovely even though in its frown."

Thus, those who rightly look, behold this institution, standing stately as a temple in one great grandeur by the act of God and man ; one splendid fact, as though the whole of its vast completeness had been cast at one heat ; one entire statue struck at a single blow. Thus, Freemasonry stands to those who rightly look, a kingly figure, compact and grand, and fronts with face of welcome a weary world ; and in answer to the universal cry for help that comes up from the toiling world, it extends its lion's grip that shall prevail.

Finally : Now, that we have beheld this mighty institution, what is gained ? Two impressions are upon us : one of how great it is possible for Masonry to be ; another, of what an illimitable distance divides us as Masons from such greatness. As when you stand upon the deal level of the plain and look upon the mountains wrapped in their mantle of heaven blue, your mind is filled with proud reverence ; but when you come nearer and behold from their mighty bosom borne, marvelous minerals, and resources vast that utilize and grace the arts, your pride of country and of nature bursts forth in resistless exultation. So when in history or in present time, you behold some revolution or institution towering high in just elevation above the old conditions of man or State, and when from it you see issuing truths that lift men from under the feet of empire or sin, and place them upon the divine footing of truth and justice, and when you find that the light from which this mighty moral, political, or religious conflagration, which consumes injustice as with celestial fire, and from its flames brings men and nations forth, ransomed, regenerated, and redeemed, was kindled first in the mind of some man or institution, whose great idea, so fraught with human weal, has been its crucifix, you are filled with high and immortal resolves ; and as from some lofty eminence, view life no more as the battlefield of contending selfishness ; and thus, filled with the holy calm that comes alone to the truly just, depart to seek the splendors of a better life — not alone in devotion to clashing States or glittering courts or sounding camps — but in a life to be henceforth highly dedicated to truth, unadorned, eternal, and omnipotent.

The following resolution, offered by Bro.: Griggs, was adopted :—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to W.: Brother James Laird, Grand Orator, for his very able, instructive, and eloquent address; and

*Resolved*, That he be requested to furnish a copy to the R.: W.: Grand Secretary, for publication with the proceedings of this Grand Body.

The following report of the committee on Accounts was submitted, and was adopted :—

IN GRAND LODGE, JUNE 22, 1876.

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

Your committee has examined the Grand Treasurer's report for 1875, and find—

The amount on hand at last report.....	\$3,234.59
Received from the Grand Secretary.....	3,664.75
Total .....	\$6,899.34
Amount paid out as shown by vouchers.....	\$9,757.14
Balance on hand.....	\$1,142.20

On examination of the Grand Treasurer's report for 1876, we find—

Balance on hand at last report.....	\$1,142.20
Received from Grand Secretary.....	3,507.15
Total.....	\$4,649.35
Paid out, as shown by vouchers.....	\$ 669.28
Balance on hand.....	\$3,980.07

Respectfully submitted.

C. P. R. WILLIAMS,  
S. K. JACKSON,  
C. C. COOK,

*Of the Committee on Accounts.*

On motion of Past Grand Master Wheeler, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the officers, members and representatives of the Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby extended to the Masonic Fraternity of the City of Lincoln for the courtesy extended to us during this session of the Grand Lodge.

The following report of the committee on Accounts was adopted :—

IN GRAND LODGE, JUNE 22, 1876.

TO THE M.: W.: THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :—

On examination of the Grand Secretary's report of incidental ex-

penses, we find that, out of \$300 appropriated, \$200 has been expended, leaving a balance on hand of \$100.

Respectfully submitted.

C. P. R. WILLIAMS,  
S. K. JACKSON,  
C. C. COOK,

*Of the Committee on Accounts.*

On the motion of Bro.: Bowen, it was

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Orphan Educational Fund shall hereafter each hold the office for the term of three years; and the present Trustees shall draw lots to determine who shall serve for one year from this date, who for two years, and who for three years. The incoming Grand Master shall each year appoint one Trustee for the term of three years, as above stated.

The following resolution, offered by Past Grand Master Wheeler, was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the representatives of the several subordinate Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, and of the Master Masons of the same, are due, and are hereby extended, to the M.: W.: Grand Master, Alfred G. Hastings, and all the Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge, for the faithful and impartial manner in which they have discharged their several duties during the past year.

The following resolution, offered by Bro.: France, was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the sum of ten dollars is hereby appropriated to Bro.: James W. Moore, for his services as Grand Treasurer during the past masonic year.

The Grand Master was, on motion, authorized to approve the bonds of the Trustees of the Orphan Educational Fund.

Whereupon, in peace and harmony, the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

ALFRED G. HASTINGS,  
*Grand Master.*

  
*Grand Secretary.*

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA  
NEAR OTHER GRAND LODGES.

GRAND LODGE.	REPRESENTATIVE.	ADDRESS.	Date of Appointment.
Alabama.....	Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.....	May 31, 1870.....
British Columbia.....	Robert P. Rithet.....	.....	April 20, 1874.....
California.....	William A. Davies.....	Stockton.....	June 2, 1873.....
Canada.....	Robert Ramsay.....	Orilla, Ontario.....	.....
Colorado.....	Henry M. Teller.....	Central City.....	April 20, 1874.....
Delaware.....	Daniel McClintock.....	Wilmington.....	December 11, 1869...
District of Columbia.....	John H. Russell.....	Washington.....	September 22, 1869..
Georgia.....	Joseph E. Wells.....	Macon.....	September 22, 1869..
Illinois.....	John M. Palmer.....	.....	.....
Indiana.....	Martin H. Rice.....	Indianapolis.....	.....
Iowa.....	William E. Woodward.....	Burlington.....	March 20, 1872.....
Ireland.....	George Chatterton.....	.....	.....
Kansas.....	Edward D. Hillyer.....	Grasshopper Falls..	September 22, 1869..
Kentucky.....	L. D. Croninger.....	Covington.....	June 1, 1871.....
Louisiana.....	Augustin B. Seger.....	New Orleans.....	....., 1869.....
Maine.....	Edward P. Burnham.....	Saco.....	.....
Maryland.....	William J. Wroth.....	Baltimore.....	.....
Michigan.....	Abraham T. Metcalfe.....	Kalamazoo.....	January 17, 1874....
Minnesota.....	J. E. Finch.....	Hastings.....	.....
Missouri.....	George Frank Gouley.....	St. Louis.....	August 27, 1869.....
New Brunswick.....	William Wedderburn.....	St. John.....	January 1, 1873.....
New Jersey.....	Charles Bechtel.....	Trenton.....	September 22, 1869..
New York.....	George W. Harris.....	New York City.....	.....
Nova Scotia.....	George Frazier.....	.....	.....
North Carolina.....	James B. Batchelor.....	Raleigh.....	.....
Ohio.....	Robert Gwynn.....	.....	.....
South Carolina.....	R. S. Bruns.....	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	James O'Connor.....	.....	.....
Utah.....	Thomas E. Clobey.....	Salt Lake City.....	November 3, 1875....
Washington Territ'y.....	James Biles.....	Turnwater.....	June 3, 1873.....
West Virginia.....	B. F. Martin.....	Pruntytown.....	.....
Wisconsin.....	A. G. Chamberlain.....	.....	.....

NOTE.—Information is desired wherewith to fill the blanks in the foregoing statement.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND LODGES NEAR THE  
GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA.

GRAND LODGE.	REPRESENTATIVE.	ADDRESS.	<i>Date of Appointment.</i>
Alabama.....	James W. Chaddock.....	Nebraska City.....	September 22, 1869..
British Columbia.....	William Adair.....	Dakota City.....	May 12, 1873.....
California.....	Orsamus H. Irish.....	Nebraska City.....	May 20, 1874.....
Canada.....	Robert C. Jordan.....	Grand Island.....	.....
Colorado.....	Josiah B. Redfield.....	Omaha.....	May 11, 1874.....
Delaware.....	Edwin A. Allen.....	Omaha.....	December 1, 1869..
District of Columbia.	Charles F. Catlin.....	Omaha.....	September 18, 1869..
Georgia.....	H. O. Hanna.....	Falls City.....	September 15, 1869..
Illinois.....	George H. Thummel.....	Grand Island.....	September 2, 1872..
Indiana.....	Harry P. Deuel.....	Omaha.....	September 8, 1869..
Iowa.....	Robert W. Furnas.....	Brownville.....	March 15, 1872.....
Kentucky.....	J. N. Wise.....	Plattsmouth.....	September 14, 1870..
Louisiana.....	J. N. Wise.....	Plattsmouth.....	October 25, 1869..
Maine.....	N. S. Harding.....	Nebraska City.....	December 1, 1869..
Michigan.....	Daniel H. Wheeler.....	Plattsmouth.....	January 3, 1870.....
Minnesota.....	Robert C. Jordan.....	Grand Island.....	.....
Missouri.....	J. N. Wise.....	Plattsmouth.....	August 17, 1869.....
Mississippi.....	J. M. Burks.....	Nebraska City.....	December 31, 1869..
Nevada.....	James R. Reed.....	Tekamah.....	February 14, 1870..
New Brunswick.....	Edwin A. Allen.....	Omaha.....	September 22, 1869..
New Jersey.....	William R. Cain.....	Arago.....	September 15, 1869..
New York.....	Robert R. Livingston.....	Plattsmouth.....	.....
North Carolina.....	Robert W. Furnas.....	Brownville.....	September 20, 1869..
Nova Scotia.....	Charles F. Catlin.....	Omaha.....	June 10, 1871.....
Ohio.....	Robert W. Furnas.....	Brownville.....	September 10, 1869..
Oregon.....	Henry Brown.....	Nebraska City.....	.....
South Carolina.....	George C. Betts.....	Omaha.....	October 22, 1869..
Tennessee.....	J. N. Wise.....	Plattsmouth.....	June 24, 1869.....
Utah.....	George B. Graff.....	Omaha.....	December 5, 1872..
Vermont.....	Phineas D. Ballou.....	Omaha.....	.....
West Virginia.....	H. T. Davis.....	Lincoln.....	October 12, 1869.....

LIST OF GRAND LODGES, AND THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES  
OF THE GRAND SECRETARIES.

GRAND LODGE.	GRAND SECRETARY.	ADDRESS.
Alabama.....	Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.....
Arkansas.....	Luke E. Barber.....	Little Rock.....
British Columbia.....	Coote M. Chambers.....	Victoria.....
California.....	Alex. G. Abell.....	San Francisco.....
Canada.....	J. J. Mason.....	Hamilton, Ontario.....
Colorado.....	Ed. C. Parmlee.....	Georgetown.....
Connecticut.....	Joseph K. Wheeler.....	Hartford.....
Dakota.....	Mark W. Bailey.....	Canton.....
Delaware.....	William S. Hayes.....	Wilmington.....
District of Columbia.....	William R. Singleton.....	Washington.....
Florida.....	De Witt C. Dawkins.....	Jacksonville.....
Georgia.....	J. E. Blackshear.....	Macon.....
Idaho.....	Charles Himrod.....	Boise City.....
Illinois.....	John F. Burrill.....	Springfield.....
Indiana.....	John M. Bramwell.....	Indianapolis.....
Indian Territory.....	Granville McPherson.....	Caddo, Choctaw Nation.....
Iowa.....	Theodore S. Parvin.....	Iowa City.....
Kansas.....	John H. Brown.....	Wyandotte.....
Kentucky.....	John M. Todd.....	Louisville.....
Louisiana.....	James C. Batchelor, M. D.....	New Orleans.....
Maine.....	Ira Berrv.....	Portland.....
Manitoba.....	John H. Bell.....	Winnipeg.....
Maryland.....	Jacob H. Medairy.....	Baltimore.....
Massachusetts.....	Charles H. Titus.....	Boston.....
Michigan.....	E. I. Garfield.....	Detroit.....
Minnesota.....	A. T. C. Pierson.....	St. Paul.....
Mississippi.....	J. L. Power.....	Jackson.....
Missouri.....	George Frank Gouley.....	St. Louis.....
Montana.....	Cornelius Hedges.....	Helena.....
Nebraska.....	William R. Bowen.....	Omaha.....
Nevada.....	Samuel W. Chubbuck.....	Gold Hill.....
New Brunswick.....	W. F. Bunting.....	St. Johns.....
New Hampshire.....	Abel Hutchins.....	Concord.....
New Jersey.....	Joseph Hough.....	Trenton.....
New York.....	James M. Austin.....	New York.....
North Carolina.....	Donald W. Bain.....	Raleigh.....
Nova Scotia.....	Benjamin Curren.....	Halifax.....
Ohio.....	John D. Caldwell.....	Cincinnati.....
Oregon.....	R. P. Earhart.....	Salem.....
Pennsylvania.....	John Thompson.....	Philadelphia.....
Prince Edward's Island.....	B. Wilson Higgs.....	Charlottetown.....
Quebec.....	John H. Isaacson.....	Montreal.....
Rhode Island.....	Edwin Baker.....	Providence.....
South Carolina.....	Charles Inglesby.....	Charleston.....
Tennessee.....	John Frizzell.....	Nashville.....
Texas.....	George H. Bringhurst.....	Houston.....
Utah.....	Christopher Diehl.....	Salt Lake City.....
Vermont.....	Henry Clark.....	Rutland.....
Virginia.....	.....	Richmond.....
Washington Territory.....	Thomas M. Reed.....	Olympia.....
West Virginia.....	Odell S. Long.....	Wheeling.....
Wisconsin.....	John W. Woodbull.....	Milwaukee.....
Wyoming.....	John K. Jeffrey.....	Cheyenne.....

# RETURNS OF LODGES

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, A. L. 5876.

*Showing the times of Regular Meetings ; the Lodge Seals that  
have been APPROVED ; and the Officers.*

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## NEBRASKA LODGE, NO. 1, BELLEVUE, SARPY COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Tuesday evenings on or preceding the full moon.

SEAL.—A Mason's apron, bearing the square and compasses.

### OFFICERS.

William F. Martin, Master.  
F. E. Caldwell, Senior Warden.  
S. D. Bangs, Junior Warden.  
J. Slothower, Treasurer.

W. S. Robertson, Secretary.  
M. B. Thompson, Senior Deacon.  
N. R. Wilcox, Junior Deacon.  
L. H. Case, Tiler.

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## WESTERN STAR LODGE, NO. 2, NEBRASKA CITY, OTOE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Friday on or before the full moon.

SEAL.—A star (rayed) above the Book of Constitutions guarded by the Tyler's sword;  
motto, "*Lux esto.*"

### OFFICERS.

E. F. Thorpe, Master.  
E. F. Warren, Senior Warden.  
Frank Colpetzer, Junior Warden.  
W. E. Hill, Treasurer.

J. C. Watson, Secretary.  
M. E. Pinney, Senior Deacon.  
A. Z. Thorpe, Junior Deacon.  
James Reed, Tiler.

## CAPITOL LODGE, NO. 3, OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—The first Monday evening in each calendar month.

SEAL.—The square and compasses radiant, enclosing the letter "G," and surmounted by a small six-pointed star.

## OFFICERS.

George W. Lininger, Master.	John J. Monell, Senior Deacon.
Stephen K. Jackson, Senior Warden.	Parley M. Hartson, Junior Deacon.
Richard J. Sharp, Junior Warden.	Wm. S. Askwith, Senior Steward.
Byron Reed, Treasurer.	Thomas A. Creigh, Junior Steward.
William R. Bowen, Secretary.	Wm. N. Nason, Tiler.

## NEMAHA VALLEY LODGE, NO. 4, BROWNVILLE, NEMAHA COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Third Thursday of each month.

## OFFICERS.

William T. Rogers, Master.	Andrew R. Davidson, Sen. Deacon.
J. C. McNaughton, Senior Warden.	B. F. Souder, Junior Deacon.
Mathew A. Handley, Jun. Warden.	Robert Traer, Senior Steward.
Joseph L. Roy, Treasurer.	Charles Nirdhart, Junior Steward.
Henry D. Snyder, Secretary.	David Campbell, Tiler.

## OMADI LODGE, NO. 5, DAKOTA CITY, DAKOTA COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before full moon.

William Adair, Master.	John P. Bayha, Secretary.
George T. Woods, Senior Warden.	Thomas L. Griffey, Senior Deacon.
Wm. C. McBeath, Junior Warden.	James J. Lapsley, Junior Deacon.
John P. Eckhart, Treasurer.	Sylvanus Harden, Tiler.

## PLATTSMOUTH LODGE, NO. 6, PLATTSMOUTH, CASS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Monday evenings of each month.

## OFFICERS.

Francis E. White, Master.	Sam. S. Hinkle, Senior Deacon.
J. Findlay Johnson, Senior Warden.	Albert D. Despain, Junior Deacon.
Julius Pepperberg, Junior Warden.	John Beverage, Senior Steward.
John W. Marshall, Treasurer.	P. H. Williams, Junior Steward.
George W. Foster, Secretary.	James Pailing, Tiler.

FALLS CIT LODGE, NO. 9, FALLS CITY, RICHARDSON COUNTY

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday evening on or after each full moon.

OFFICERS.

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| James R. Cain, Master.           | Isham Reavis, Senior Deacon.      |
| Robert A. Wherry, Senior Warden. | M. W. Musselman, Junior Deacon.   |
| James Cameron, Junior Warden.    | C. H. Rickards, Senior Steward.   |
| George Faulkner, Treasurer.      | D. V. Stephenson, Junior Steward. |
| Robert L. Henderson, Secretary.  | Frederick Giese, Tiler.           |

SOLOMON LODGE, NO. 10, FORT CALHOUN, WASHINGTON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEENINGS.—First and third Tuesdays of each month.

OFFICERS.

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Charles Lawrence, Master.        | Newton Clark, Secretary.    |
| John B. Kuony, Senior Warden.    | Allan Craig, Senior Deacon. |
| James S. Riddler, Junior Warden. | Carl Benson, Junior Deacon. |
| Jesse Murphy, Treasurer.         | Henry Schutt, Tiler.        |

COVERT LODGE, NO. 11, OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Wednesday evening of each month.

SEAL.—The Mosaic pavement.

OFFICERS.

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| James S. Gibson, Master.          | George Paterson, Senior Deacon. |
| Washington I. Baker, Sen. Warden. | John Shill, Junior Deacon.      |
| John Steffen, Junior Warden.      | John Leonard, Senior Steward.   |
| Christian Hartman, Treasurer.     | Peter M. Lee, Junior Steward.   |
| James S. France, Secretary.       | John G. Willis, Tiler.          |

NEBRASKA CITY LODGE, NO. 12, NEBRASKA CITY, OTOE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Tuesday evening on or before the full moon of each month.

OFFICERS.

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| James W. Chaddock, Master.         | Geo. L. Woolsey, Secretary.     |
| James B. Northcutt, Senior Warden. | Ed. P. Sabin, Senior Deacon.    |
| David Everest, Junior Warden.      | Nathan L. Simpson, Jun. Deacon. |
| Andrew Woolsey, Treasurer.         | Wm. C. Willman, Tiler.          |

## ORIENT LODGE, NO. 13, RULO, RICHARDSON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Monday on or before the full moon.

## OFFICERS.

Tyler C. Hoyt, Master.	David Randolph, Secretary.
Z. J. Parsons, Senior Warden.	George Bowker, Senior Deacon.
Isaac H. Jones, Junior Warden.	Henry W. Walker, Junior Deacon.
Jacob Shaff, Treasurer.	C. M. Roberts, Tiler.

## PERU LODGE, NO. 14, PERU, NEMAHA COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Wednesday evening on or before the full moon in each month.

## OFFICERS.

B. W. Knott, Master.	D. C. Cole, Secretary.
T. S. Horn, Senior Warden.	J. H. Miller, Senior Deacon.
O. P. Root, Junior Warden.	S. P. Majors, Junior Deacon.
J. W. Swan, Treasurer.	Jacob Zaring, Tiler.

## FREMONT LODGE, NO. 15, FREMONT, DODGE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First Tuesday in each calendar month.

SEAL.—The three principal columns, with square, plumb, and level leaning against the bases.

## OFFICERS.

J. H. Crabbs, Master.	Leander Smith, Senior Deacon.
A. C. Hull, Senior Warden.	H. P. Bellows, Junior Deacon.
Cornelius Driscoll, Junior Warden.	John Twamley, Senior Steward.
J. V. N. Biles, Treasurer.	Judson Hughes, Junior Steward.
C. A. Fried, Secretary.	Frank W. Hayes, Tiler.

## EUREKA LODGE, NO. 16, ARAGO, RICHARDSON COUNTY.

Charter surrendered.

## TECUMSEH LODGE, NO. 17, TECUMSEH, JOHNSON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First Saturday evening in each month.

## OFFICERS.

Sidney L. F. Ward, Master.	Samuel P. Davidson, Sen. Deacon.
William R. Spicknall, Sen. Warden.	Nicholas Zink, Junior Deacon.
Cornelius T. Haskins, Jun. Warden.	Virgil D. Metcalfe, Senior Steward.
Joseph W. Buffum, Treasurer.	M. V. Easterday, Junior Steward.
Cornelius Woodley, Secretary.	William Beatty, Tiler.

## ASHLAND LODGE, NO. 18, ASHLAND, SAUNDERS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Friday of each month.

## OFFICERS.

Thos. Johnson, Master.	Hurburt A. Alden, Senior Deacon.
Henry W. Curtis, Senior Warden.	J. Wm. Merrill, Junior Deacon.
Jno. Simington, Junior Warden.	A. B. Chamberlain, Sen. Steward.
Silas H. Nichols, Treasurer.	E. M. Park, Junior Steward.
Jacob A. Jury, Secretary.	Geo. H. Clark, Tiler.

## LINCOLN LODGE, NO. 19, LINCOLN, LANCASTER COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First Tuesday in each month.

SEAL.—The square and compasses between two columns; beneath them two right hands

## OFFICERS.

R. H. Oakley, Master.	B. D. Slaughter, Senior Deacon.
Amassa Cobb, Senior Warden.	Jerry C. Ford, Junior Deacon.
Jas. McConnell, Junior Warden.	A. M. Davis, Senior Steward.
C. M. Leighton, Treasurer.	E. A. Church, Junior Steward.
W. H. Wallace, Secretary.	John McClellan, Tiler.

## ROCK BLUFF LODGE, NO. 20, ROCK BLUFFS, CASS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First and third Wednesdays of each month.

SEAL.—The Book of Constitutions bearing the square and compasses.

## OFFICERS.

W. H. Smith, Master.	A. M. Story, Senior Deacon.
R. H. Fitch, Senior Warden.	George Berger, Junior Deacon.
S. C. Patterson, Junior Warden.	Joshua Stroud, Senior Steward.
G. W. Shrader, Treasurer.	J. A. Walker, Junior Steward.
Michael Archer, Secretary.	Howard Allen, Tiler.

## WASHINGTON LODGE, NO. 21, BLAIR, WASHINGTON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

## OFFICERS.

Jesse T. Davis, Master.	Wm. H. Palmer, Senior Deacon.
Henry Newell, Senior Warden.	Wm. L. Handy, Junior Deacon.
Chas. H. Willard, Junior Warden.	Felix R. Davis, Senior Steward.
William D. Haller, Treasurer.	F. M. Stanfield, Junior Steward.
Frederick W. Kenny, Secretary.	Richard Allbery, Tiler.

## MACOY LODGE, NO. 22, PLATTSMOUTH, CASS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First and third Fridays of each month.

SEAL.—On a shield *argent*, two bars *sable* between six martlets of the last, three, two, and one; crest, a talbot's head *or*; motto, "*Fortis in Arduis*."

## OFFICERS.

Velosco V. Leonard, Master.	E. A. Kirkpatrick, Senior Deacon.
Eugene B. Lewis, Senior Warden.	Wm. B. Shryock, Junior Deacon.
Robert Ballance, Junior Warden.	Wm. R. Darrah, Senior Steward.
Wm. Wintersteen, Treasurer.	Rasmus Pedersen, Junior Steward.
J. Newton Wise, Secretary.	Andrew Johnson, Tiler.

## PAWNEE LODGE, NO. 23, PAWNEE CITY, PAWNEE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Tuesday preceding each full moon.

## OFFICERS.

Samuel H. Cummins, Master.	John L. Edwards, Secretary.
Jeremiah McCasland, Sen. Warden.	Jacob Fulton, Senior Deacon.
Thomas Andas, Junior Warden.	John S. Davenport, Junior Deacon.
John W. Manning, Treasurer.	Wilsey C. Lane, Tiler.

## LAFAYETTE LODGE, NO. 24, GRANT, NEMAHA COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before the full moon.

## OFFICERS.

James S. Robbins, Master.	W. R. York, Secretary.
Charles Mangon, Senior Warden.	Washington Robb, Senior Deacon.
M. Reyman, Junior Warden,	George W. Smith, Junior Deacon.
Wilburn Morton, Treasurer.	William T. Saum, Tiler.

## ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 25, OMAHA, DOUGLAS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First Thursday of each month.

SEAL.—A quatre-fol, bearing, 1st, an eagle; 2d, location of Lodge, with star; 3d, date of charter; 4th, a certain point within a circle, and a star, embordered with two parallel lines, with the Book of Constitutions resting thereon; within all the square and compasses.

## OFFICERS.

Alfred Kelley, Master.	Henry Van Deusen, Sen. Deacon.
John G. Taylor, Senior Warden.	Thomas Nolan, Junior Deacon.
James B. Bruner, Junior Warden.	Isaac Tompsett, Senior Steward.
John G. Jacobs, Treasurer.	J. A. C. Smith, Junior Steward.
Egbert E. French, Secretary.	Joshua E. Webster, Tiler.

## BEATRICE LODGE, NO. 26, BEATRICE, GAGE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Saturday evenings of every month.

SEAL.—The letter "G;" motto, "Faith, Hope, Charity."

## OFFICERS.

Hiram P. Webb, Master.	Jesse Richards, Senior Deacon.
Chas. B. Palmer, Senior Warden.	Joseph Yohe, Junior Deacon.
Geo. V. Ayres, Junior Warden.	Wm. H. Lamb, Senior Steward.
Samuel C. Smith, Treasurer.	Eugene C. Mack, Junior Steward.
Nathan K. Griggs, Secretary.	David Gudtner, Tiler.

## JORDAN LODGE, NO. 27, WEST POINT, CUMING COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

## OFFICERS.

Peter Schwenk, Master.	John H. Mockett, Senior Deacon.
H A. Willoghs, Senior Warden.	A. D. Beemer, Junior Deacon.
Edgar N. Sweet, Junior Warden.	F. W. Ragoz, Senior Steward.
Carl Pulcifer, Treasurer.	Jerome Vostrovsky, Jun'r Steward.
Zadoc A. Crowl, Secretary.	Irwin B. Doolittle, Tiler.

## HOPE LODGE, NO. 29, HILLSDALE, NEMAHA COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before the full moon in each month.

## OFFICERS.

John P. King, Master.	Van S. Griffin, Senior Deacon.
L. E. Palmer, Senior Warden.	Jas. Bolejack, Junior Deacon.
Peter Fraker, Junior Warden.	A. L. P. Thompson, Senior Steward.
John H. Shook, Treasurer.	G. W. Fouch, Junior Steward.
A. L. Stiers, Secretary.	James Wolf, Tiler.

## BLUE RIVER LODGE, NO. 30, MILFORD, SEWARD COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Thursday on or before the full moon in each month.

## OFFICERS.

George B. France, Master.	C. D. Hooker, Senior Deacon.
Elisha Courtwright, Senior Warden.	H. A. Brisbin, Junior Deacon.
A. B. Stephens, Junior Warden.	Samuel H. Biggs, Senior Steward.
Dan. H. Harris, Treasurer.	James H. Carter, Junior Steward.
John B. Ira, Secretary.	Abram Courtwright, Tiler.

## TEKAMAH LODGE, NO. 31, TEKAMAH, BURT COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First Wednesday evening of each month.

## OFFICERS.

M. R. Hopewell, Master.	M. H. Morehouse, Senior Deacon.
John Driscoll, Senior Warden.	Geo. W. Green, Junior Deacon.
Wm. C. Marshall, Junior Warden.	W. L. Pierce, Senior Steward.
Isaac Gibson, Treasurer.	J. L. Wilson, Junior Steward.
Wm. B. White, Secretary.	A. E. Morehouse, Tiler.

## PLATTE VALLEY LODGE, NO. 32, NORTH PLATTE, LINCOLN COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Tuesday of each month.

## OFFICERS.

Fred. N. Dick, Master.	Alex. Struthers, Senior Deacon.
Anthony Ries, Senior Warden.	Edward N. Searle, Junior Deacon.
Jas. M. McLucas, Junior Warden.	Geo. H. B. Heale, Senior Steward.
Wm. G. Rhoades, Treasurer.	Geo. W. Babbitt, Junior Steward.
Wm. H. Mead, Secretary.	Chas. F. Ormsby, Tiler.

## ASHLAR LODGE, NO. 33, GRAND ISLAND, HALL COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Thursday of each month.

SEAL.—The letter "G."

## OFFICERS.

William A. Denel, Master.	Bishop B. Kelley, Senior Deacon.
William H. Platt, Senior Warden.	Claus Obermiller, Junior Deacon.
M. L. Magnuson, Junior Warden.	Blake C. Howard, Senior Steward.
Ludwig Engel, Treasurer.	David Ackerman, Junior Steward.
Charles L. Howell, Secretary.	Henry P. Makely, Tiler.

## ACACIA LODGE, NO. 34, SCHUYLER, COLFAX COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Thursdays in each month.

SEAL.—A sprig of acacia.

## OFFICERS.

Homer Holcomb, Master.	James Hughes, Senior Deacon.
Jas. C. McKenzie, Senior Warden.	Chas. J. Phelps, Junior Deacon.
John J. Riley, Junior Warden.	Geo. H. Wells, Senior Steward.
Frank Faulkner, Treasurer.	Wm. H. Sumner, Junior Steward.
Chas. E. Sumner, Secretary.	James W. Munroe, Tiler.

## FAIRBURY LODGE, NO. 35, FAIRBURY, JEFFERSON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Mondays of each month.

SEAL.—A virgin weeping over a broken column; on left a tree.

## OFFICERS.

George Cross, Master.	J. C. Houghton, Senior Deacon.
F. A. Morey, Senior Warden.	J. H. Smith, Junior Deacon.
Robt. Christian, Junior Warden.	Alex. Benedick, Senior Steward.
A. W. Showalter, Treasurer.	C. F. Litsinger, Junior Steward.
S. G. Thomas, Secretary.	E. A. Littlefield, Tiler.

## LONE TREE LODGE, NO. 36, CENTRAL CITY, MERRICK COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Saturdays in each month.

SEAL.—The square and compasses, over a tree growing.

## OFFICERS.

N. R. Persinger, Master.	Joseph B. White, Senior Deacon.
Thos. J. Sparks, Senior Warden.	James Dunnivan, Junior Deacon.
C. D. Chapman, Junior Warden.	Wm. H. Criles, Senior Steward.
James Verrigg, Treasurer.	Frank Sweet, Junior Steward.
Bell E. Berryman, Secretary.	Charles Trover, Tiler.

## CRETE LODGE, NO. 37, CRETE, SALINE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—The first Friday in each month.

SEAL.—The All-seeing Eye, radiant, above a lamb.

## OFFICERS.

William H. Morris, Master.	L. R. Grimes, Senior Deacon.
R. L. Cornwell, Senior Warden.	J. S. Holland, Junior Deacon.
I. M. Wolf, Junior Warden.	Jacob Bigler, Senior Steward.
W. T. Buchanan, Treasurer.	G. K. Mooney, Junior Steward.
H. M. Wells, Secretary.	E. B. Quigley, Tiler.

## OLIVER LODGE, NO. 38, SEWARD, SEWARD COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday evening on or before full moon in each month.

SEAL.—The All-seeing Eye, radiant, above a slipper surrounded by cable-tow.

## OFFICERS.

Elijah K. Dunbaugh, Master.	Joseph W. Dupin, Secretary.
Horace A. Scott, Senior Warden.	Thos. E. Sanders, Senior Deacon.
F. W. Redford, Junior Warden.	Wm. Clemmons, Junior Deacon.
Lloyd G. Johns, Treasurer.	Stephen D. Paddock, Tiler.

## PAPILLION LODGE, NO. 39, PAPILLION, SARPY COUNTY.

No returns.

HUMBOLDT LODGE, NO. 40, HUMBOLDT, RICHARDSON  
COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Thursday on or before the full moon in each month.

OFFICERS.

Henry A. Scott, Master	Wm. T. Wilhite, Senior Deacon.
S. M. Hillebert, Senior Warden.	Chas. E. Nims, Junior Deacon.
Wm. W. Turk, Junior Warden.	Thos. J. Frazier, Senior Steward.
Ulrich Lionberger, Treasurer.	Barney Mullen, Junior Steward.
Edgar S. Norton, Secretary.	Albert M. Gentry, Tiler.

NORTHERN LIGHT LODGE, NO. 41, STANTON, STANTON  
COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Wednesday evening on or before the full of the moon.

SEAL.—The All-seeing Eye, radiant, above the Book of Constitutions guarded by the Tiler's sword.

OFFICERS.

A. C. Tomer, Master.	J. H. Darling, Secretary.
S. B. Muchmore, Senior Warden.	A. R. Pray, Senior Deacon.
J. J. Hopper, Junior Warden.	Lewis Ley, Junior Deacon.
Julius Poessnecker, Treasurer.	P. L. Starlipper, Tiler.

JUNIATA LODGE, NO. 42, JUNIATA, ADAMS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Monday evening on or before the full moon.

OFFICERS.

Ira G. Dillon, Master.	Barnabas E. Swift, Senior Deacon.
Nathan Platt, Senior Warden.	Jas. B. McCleery, Junior Deacon.
Geo. W. Wolcott, Junior Warden.	James Laird, Senior Steward.
Henry R. Savery, Treasurer.	Charles R. Jones, Junior Steward.
Edwin M. Allen, Secretary.	Andrew Clute, Tiler.

HEBRON LODGE, NO. 43, HEBRON, THAYER COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Saturdays of each month.

OFFICERS.

John W. Hughes, Master.	Edward S. Past, Secretary.
Charles B. Coon, Senior Warden.	Wm. B. Hughes, Senior Deacon.
Wm. J. Hanna, Junior Warden.	W. W. Fitchpatrick, Junior Deacon.
Eugene B. Appelget, Treasurer.	P. Burton Gentry, Senior Steward.
	Walter J. Thompson, Tiler.

## HARVARD LODGE, NO. 44, HARVARD, CLAY COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Tuesdays of each month.

## OFFICERS.

Ezra Brown, Master.	Levi B. Munger, Senior Deacon.
Wm. J. Turner, Senior Warden.	Wm. A. Farmer, Junior Deacon.
Saml. W. Harney, Junior Warden.	Chas. D. Moore, Senior Steward.
Louis Stine, Treasurer.	Robt. S. Clements, Junior Steward
George W. Howard, Secretary.	Lester Webster, Tiler.

## PALMYRA LODGE, NO. 45, PALMYRA, OTOE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Wednesday on or before the full moon in each month.

SEAL.—A shield quarterly of four, bearing in first quarter a royal crown, in second quarter the cross and crescent, in third quarter a palm tree, and in fourth quarter the jewel of the Grand Master. For crest, an All-seeing Eye, radiant.

## OFFICERS.

William S. White, Master.	W. Durrant Page, Secretary.
Samuel S. Seely, Senior Warden.	David H. Moore, Senior Deacon.
J. Oscar Moore, Junior Warden.	Ozias E. Fox, Junior Deacon.
Isaac N. Foster, Treasurer.	Joseph Rudge, Tiler.

## GIBBON LODGE, NO. 46, KEARNY, BUFFALO COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Wednesdays of each month.

SEAL.—A shield, bearing an hour-glass partly surrounded on right by a scythe; for crest, a winged globe.

## OFFICERS.

Christopher Putnam, Master.	Chas. P. Edwards, Senior Deacon.
Enoch B. Carter, Senior Warden.	Daniel A. Dorsey, Junior Deacon.
Sylvester S. St. John, Junior Warden.	Frederick J. Switz, Senior Steward.
Simon C. Ayer, Treasurer.	Simon W. Switzer, Junior Steward.
Douglas Westervelt, Secretary.	John J. Marrs, Tiler.

## SALEM LODGE, NO. 47, SALEM, RICHARDSON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before the full moon in each month.

## OFFICERS.

John W. Holt, Master.	Cassius C. Kenny, Secretary.
Geo. W. Pampell, Senior Warden.	John E. Ashley, Senior Deacon.
Hezekiah B. Gist, Junior Warden.	Joshua VanDervort, Junior Deacon.
Geo. W. Baker, Treasurer.	Oliver W. Dunning, Tiler.

## FAIRMONT LODGE, NO. 48, FAIRMONT, FILLMORE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Tuesdays in each month.

SEAL.—A certain point within a circle embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines supporting the Book of Constitutions.

## OFFICERS.

Calvin B. Webber, Master.	L. F. Whitehead, Senior Deacon.
Geo. C. Maxfield Senior Warden.	James F. Long, Junior Deacon.
C. C. Chapin, Junior Warden.	Joseph J. Bock, Senior Steward.
Virgil A. Stuart, Treasurer.	Julius O. Chase, Junior Steward.
Philetus P. Dawson, Secretary.	Daniel Spade, Tiler.

## EVENING STAR LODGE, NO. 49, SUTTON, CLAY COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—Second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

SEAL.—A five-pointed star, bearing in center a letter "G," radiant.

## OFFICERS.

John C. Merrill, Master.	Robt. G. Brown, Senior Deacon.
Albert K. Marsh, Senior Warden.	Geo. F. Dickson, Junior Deacon.
John E. Bagley, Junior Warden.	Chas. M. Turner, Senior Steward.
Isaac N. Clark, Treasurer.	Jas. J. Melvin, Junior Steward.
John B. Dinsmore, Secretary.	Allen C. Clyde, Tiler.

## HASTINGS LODGE, NO. 50, HASTINGS, ADAMS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETINGS.—Every Saturday evening on or before each full moon, and the second Saturday evening thereafter.

SEAL.—A shield *azure*, bearing a chevron (for the square). In chief, a sun; in centre base, a crescent. *argent*. For a crest, the symbol of a M. M. □. *argent*.

## OFFICERS.

Thomas M. Abbott, Master.	Clement E. Forgey, Senior Deacon.
Emanuel Steinau, Senior Warden.	Fred. J. Benedict, Junior Deacon.
Geo. W. Mowery, Junior Warden.	Geo. H. Pratt, Senior Steward.
Lucius C. Gould, Treasurer.	James Carmichael, Junior Steward.
Thomas J. Pardoe, Secretary.	Jehial P. Farr, Tiler.

## FIDELITY LODGE, NO. 51, DAVID CITY, BUTLER COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before the full moon in each month.

SEAL.—The All-seeing Eye, radiant, above the square and compasses.

## OFFICERS.

Christopher C. Cook, Master.	Seth Raymond, Senior Deacon.
Jas. K. Darnell, Senior Warden.	Chas. B. Churchill, Junior Deacon.
Jos. L. Cyphers, Junior Warden.	Ambrose H. Jones, Senior Steward.
William Duncan, Treasurer.	Sumner Darnell, Junior Steward.
Benjamin F. Rolph, Secretary.	Jacob K. Kleinhenn, Tiler.

## HIRAM LODGE, NO. 52, BELL BREEK, WASHINGTON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Wednesday evening on or before the full moon in each month.

SEAL.—The plumb.

## OFFICERS.

Sam. G. Gibson, Master.	Jno. J. Thompson, Secretary.
Peter Hammang, Senior Warden.	W. V. Miller, Senior Deacon.
Jos. C. Blackburn, Junior Warden.	Jno. Hammang, Junior Deacon.
L. P. Jenks, Treasurer.	Jno. W. Hamilton, Tiler.

## CHARITY LODGE, NO. 53, RED CLOUD, WEBSTER COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First Friday on or before the full moon.

SEAL.—An open hand.

## OFFICERS.

James A. Tulleys, Master.	Ezra H. Jones, Secretary.
George W. Knight, Senior Warden.	Henry S. Kaley, Senior Deacon.
Isaiah B. Hampton, Junior Warden.	James Calvert, Junior Deacon.
George W. Ball, Treasurer.	John Slusser, Tiler.

## LANCASTER LODGE, NO. 54, LINCOLN, LANCASTER COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—The first Friday in each month.

SEAL.—A shield *azure*, bearing a trowel crossed with a gavel *argent*. For a crest, three lengths of a cable-tow and three points *argent*.

## OFFICERS.

J. M. Creamer, Master.	John McManigal, Senior Deacon.
E. E. Brown, Senior Warden.	H. O. Griggs, Junior Deacon.
D. H. Andrews, Junior Warden.	C. H. Millard, Senior Steward.
C. C. White Treasurer.	Chas. M. Carter, Junior Steward.
Isaac Oppenheimer, Secretary.	J. C. Shurts, Tiler.

## MOSAIC LODGE, NO. 55, NORFOLK, MADISON COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Tuesday evening on or before full moon in each month.

SEAL.—A heraldic shield, checkee, *argent* and *azure*, bordure *argent*, bearing a sheaf of wheat *or*; crest, figures 5875, alluding to year of charter.

## OFFICERS.

Lewis F. Taylor, Master.	C. P. Mathewson, Senior Deacon.
Alexander Bear, Senior Warden.	Wm. H. Wideman, Junior Deacon.
William S. Lowe, Junior Warden.	Joseph E. Ritchey, Senior Steward.
John S. McClary, Treasurer.	Charles Eble, Junior Steward.
Fredk. Hardy, Secretary.	James McManus, Tiler.

## YORK LODGE, NO. 56, YORK, YORK COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—First and third Fridays of each month.

SEAL.—A heraldic shield, *azure*, bearing *argent*, a tan cross, beneath a pair of compasses extended over three points in pyramid, and between a dagger and one point, and a square between two points. For crest, letter "G" between 58 and 75.

## OFFICERS.

Wm. M. Knapp, Master.	Joshua D. P. Small, Senior Deacon.
Lee Love, Senior Warden.	James A. McKillip, Junior Deacon.
Malcono G. Barney, Junior Warden.	S. McConnaughey, Senior Steward.
Charles LeCount, Treasurer.	John H. Parker, Junior Steward.
John A. Eatherly, Secretary.	Andrew Rowley, Tiler.

## MOUNT MORIAH LODGE, NO. 57, SYRACUSE, OTOE COUNUY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Thursday on or before full moon of each month.

## OFFICERS.

John M. Parry, Master.	Isaac LeDiogt, Secretary.
Josiah H. Young, Senior Warden	L. E. Sinsabaugh, Senior Deacon.
Wm. S. Whitten, Junior Warden.	William Y. Heither, Jun. Deacon.
Josiah Rogers, Treasurer.	Hiram F. Price, Tiler.

## LEBANON LODGE, NO. 58, COLUMBUS, PLATTE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—The second Wednesday of each month.

SEAL.—A heraldic shield *argent*, quarterly of four bearing *vert*, 1st and 4th, three mountains; 2d and 3d, a cedar of Lebanon. For crest, Grand Master's jewel between figures 58 and 75.

## OFFICERS.

Marshall Smith, Master.	Joseph A. Baker, Senior Deacon.
Henry P. Coolidge, Senior Warden.	John W. Earley, Junior Deacon.
Robert H. Henry, Junior Warden.	S. A. Bonesteel, Senior Steward.
John M. Kelley, Treasurer.	N. G. Bonesteel, Junior Steward
Geo. E. Drake, Secretary	John N. Lawson, Tiler.

## WAHOO LODGE, NO. 59, WAHOO, SAUNDERS COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before the full moon in each month and on second Saturday thereafter.

## OFFICERS.

Jacob C. Polsley, Master.	Ebenezer Pickett, Senior Deacon.
Manoah B. Rees, Senior Warden.	Joel D. Cook, Junior Deacon.
M. L. Ellsworth, Junior Warden.	Thos. W. Reeder, Senior Steward.
Joseph N. Davis, Treasurer.	Joseph Scrivner, Junior Steward.
Nelson H. Bell, Secretary.	James Reeder, Tiler.

MELROSE LODGE, NO. 60, MELROSE, HARLAN COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before full moon in each month.

OFFICERS.

Albert C. Robbins, Master.	Nathaniel M. Ayres, Secretary.
Byron F. Whitney, Senior Warden.	Arch. K. Fowler, Senior Deacon.
John Casey, Junior Warden.	Judson A. Palmer, Junior Deacon.
Lucius Kinsman, Treasurer.	—————, Tiler.

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THISTLE LODGE, U.: D.:, PLUM CREEK, DAWSON COUNTY.

Robert S. Hogue, Master.	Samuel Gooze, Senior Warden.
Thomas S. Wimsey, Junior Warden.	

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KEYSTONE LODGE U.: D.:, LINCOLN VALLEY, HAMILTON COUNTY.

Martin Ennis, Master.	J. F. Price, Senior Warden.
William J. Ball, Junior Warden.	

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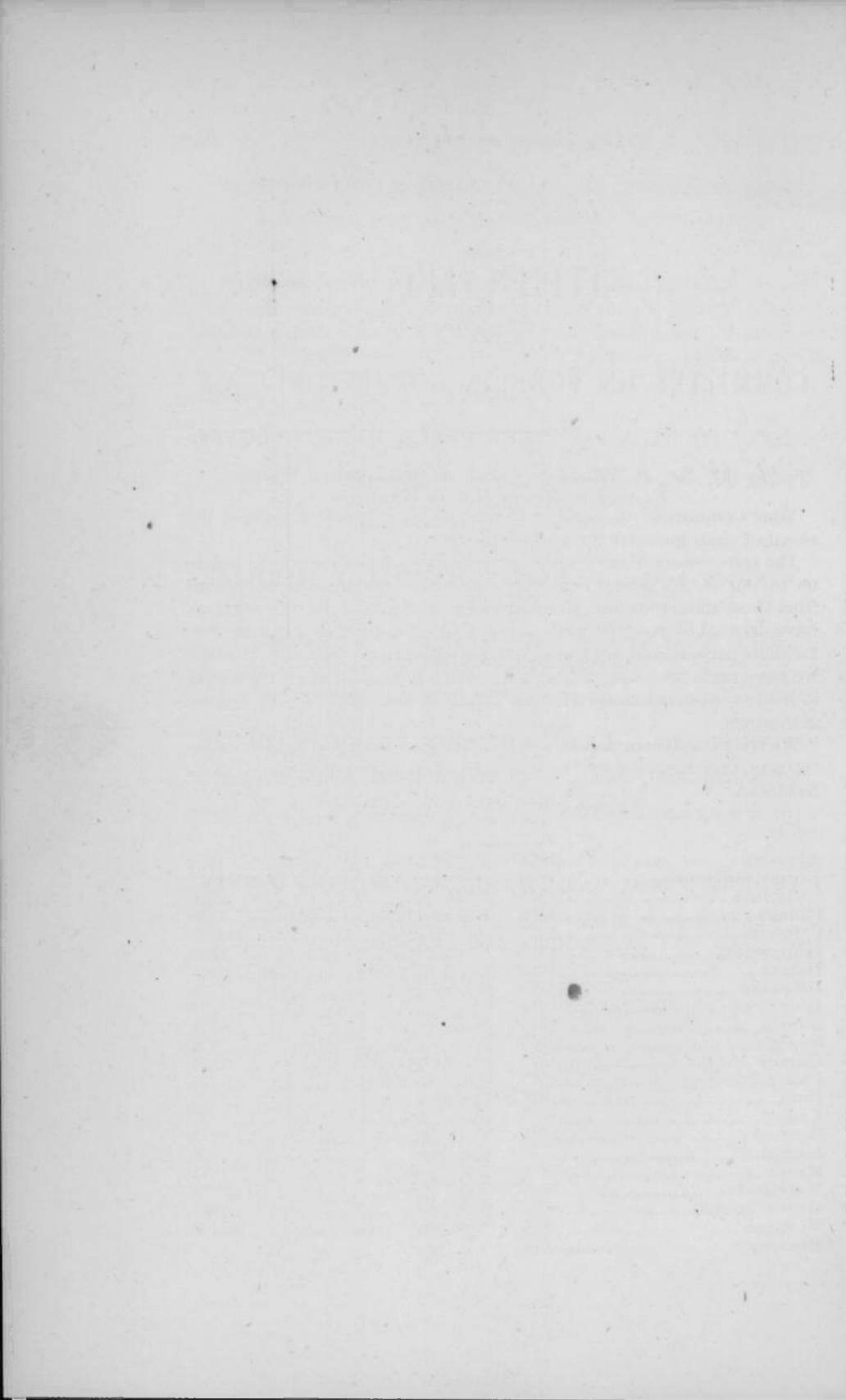
RIVERTON LODGE, U.: D.:, RIVERTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY

J. R. McDonald, Master.	Wm. E. Hatch, Senior Warden.
William Jones, Junior Warden.	

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HAMILTON LODGE, U.: D.:, HAMILTON, HAMILTON COUNTY.

Wm. H. Streeter, Master.	T. F. Tracy, Senior Warden.
Jesse S. Miller, Junior Warden.	



# REPORT

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the M. W., the Grand Lodge of Nebraska:*

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence herewith submit the result of their labor for the year 1876.

The transactions of the following Grand Lodges have been laid before us by our R. W. Grand Secretary; and we have endeavored to cull from these numerous and, in many cases, voluminous reports, what we have deemed of greatest interest, and present the same to our readers for their perusal, and, we trust, for their edification. As usual, the task we have performed has been a pleasant one to us, as it is ever pleasant to hold sweet communion with our brethren elsewhere, in the annual gatherings.

We trust our labors, as well as the thoughts we have thrown in by the way, may meet the approval of the Grand Lodge and the Craft in Nebraska.

If our work shall stand the test of the overseer's square, we shall be content:

Alabama .....	1875	Mississippi.....	1876
British Columbia.....	1876	Missouri .....	1875
California .....	1875	Montana .....	1875
Canada .....	1875	New Brunswick .....	1875
Colorado .....	1875	New Hampshire.....	1875
Connecticut .....	1876	New Jersey .....	1876
Dakota .....	1875	North Carolina.....	1875
Delaware .....	1875	Nova Scotia.....	1875
District of Columbia.....	1875	Ohio .....	1875
Florida .....	1876	Pennsylvania .....	1875
Georgia .....	1875	Prince Edward's Island .....	1875
Illinois .....	1875	Rhode Island .....	1875
Indian Territory.....	1875	South Carolina.....	1875
Iowa.....	1875	Tennessee.....	1875
Kansas.....	1875	Utah.....	1875
Kentucky .....	1875	Vermont .....	1875
Louisiana .....	1876	Virginia .....	1875
Maine .....	1876	Washington.....	1875
Maryland .....	1875	West Virginia.....	1875
Massachusetts .....	1875	Wisconsin .....	1875
Michigan .....	1876	Wyoming .....	1847-5
Minnesota .....	1876		

## ALABAMA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Montgomery, on the 6th day of December, M. W. Isaiah A. Wilson, in the Grand East, and R. W. Daniel Sayre, Grand Secretary. An excellent address was delivered by the Grand Master.

He says the cause of Masonry has prospered in peace and unity, in his jurisdiction. Nothing relating to the domestic interest has occurred during the past year, of sufficient importance to be presented prominently to the consideration of the Grand Lodge. He says no subject has been brought to his knowledge requiring special legislation, and he congratulates the Grand Lodge upon the fact that no harrassing or vexing question will probably disturb their deliberations. All of which reflects a happy state of affairs.

Among his decisions we find the following :

Restoration of a Brother who has been indefinitely *suspended* may be had on petition, and by a two-thirds vote of the Lodge. This restores to all the rights and privileges of Masonry, except Lodge membership; but Lodge membership can only be had upon petition, and by a unanimous vote, which petition must take the usual course of applications for affiliation.

The italics are ours. This is a strange doctrine to us. How the removal of *suspension* could get a brother out of the Lodge, is a mystery we have not yet found ourselves able to solve. A suspended Mason does not lose his membership in the Lodge that suspends him. He is only debarred or suspended from the enjoyment or exercise of the rights and privileges appertaining to membership, for a time definite or indefinite. Definite suspension is removed by the expiration of the time for which a Brother has been suspended, and the Brother is thus reinstated to all the privileges he enjoyed before suspension. Indefinite suspension is removed by the Lodge at its pleasure, and when removed, the brother is likewise reinstated to all his previously enjoyed privileges and rights.

We also find the following :

No petition for initiation can be withdrawn, or otherwise disposed of but by ballot, after it has been received by the Lodge. An unfavorable report does not supersede the necessity of a ballot.

A candidate rejected in a Lodge in one jurisdiction, and subsequently made a Mason in another jurisdiction without the consent of the Lodge wherein rejected, is an illegally made Mason.

The action of the Grand Lodge in reversing a sentence of a subordinate Lodge, suspending or expelling a brother, and restoring him to the rights and privileges of Masonry, does not restore him to membership in the Lodge. His status is that of an unaffiliated Mason, and to become a member of the Lodge he must make application like any other unaffiliated Mason.

This latter decision we hold to be erroneous. We will not discuss the question here, but refer our readers to our criticism under Mississippi. in our review for 1875.

The Grand Lodge of Utah was recognized.

A committee was raised to procure a Jewel for Past Grand Master Isaiah A. Wilson.

Bro. Oliver S. Beers presented the Report on Foreign Correspondence, in which forty corresponding Grand Bodies share his criticisms, which are judiciously and pleasantly made. Nebraska for 1874 is fraternally and courteously noticed. He says :

The proceedings are interesting—especially the report and circulars of the R. W. Grand Secretary—and much important business was transacted with considerable celerity and completeness.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The report under this head is a meritorious production quite diffidently presented by Bro. J. N. Wise, "for the Committee." The charity you crave, Brother W., is reserved for some more needy suppliant (the writer, for instance) as this report will pass inspection on its merits.

Under Nevada he says :

The report of Bro. R. H. Taylor for committee is a creditable review of the proceedings of thirty-eight Grand Bodies, to each of which he gives due consideration. Those of Alabama for 1873 are reviewed with fraternal courtesy and due consideration. We regret our inability to dwell longer in the *jurisdiction* of Nevada, and must away! But "before we go" Brother Taylor, allow us to repeat a scandal, current here, in reference to the Grand Lodge of Nevada. It is whispered that the wife and daughters of your M. W. Grand Master are *Masons*.

We do not know how it is about the daughters, but the Grand Master's wife is a Mason, of course, for if "they twain be one flesh," how can the Grand Master be a Mason and his wife not?

M. W. Palmer J. Pillians is Grand Master, and R. W. Danie Sayre Grand Secretary.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held at Victoria, on the 19th day of February, M. W. Simeon Duck, Grand Master, and R. W. Coote M. Chambers, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address is brief and of local interest.

From the proceedings, we learn that the Craft are prosperous; and that, although small, numerically, our brethren of the province are laying their foundations well.

One thing we protest against, however, and that is permitting women to occupy the Grand East. How is this, Bro. Chambers? We have learned that no woman could be made a Mason; but perhaps things have changed. We refer to the Grand Lodge Seal, wherein a lady appears, sitting in the East, with a gavel or scepter in her hand. Very interesting reports are found, in the proceedings, of a fraternal visit of the Grand Lodges of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, to the Grand

Lodge of British Columbia, at Victoria, on the 19th day of August, 1875. A number of very interesting speeches were made on the occasion, and the brethren were all happy.

No report on Foreign Correspondence appears in the proceedings.

M. W. Frederick Williams is Grand Master, and R. W. Coote M. Chambers Grand Secretary.

## CALIFORNIA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in San Francisco on the 12th day of October—M. W. George Clement Perkins, Grand Master, and R. W. Alex. G. Abell, Grand Secretary.

As usual, the Grand Master's address is marked with ability and thoroughness. Relative to "demits," we find the following among his decisions:—

A member of a Lodge, whose dues were paid in full, made application for a "demit." The Lodge granted only a certificate of withdrawal. The brother refused to accept such certificate, saying that it was not what he wanted, as the paper which had heretofore been known as a "demit" in this jurisdiction contained a recommendatory certificate. The Lodge, however, said that a "demit," according to Mackey, was a certificate of withdrawal, and that if the brother had wanted a recommendatory certificate, he should have so stated in his letter making the application for a demit, and it declined to give the recommendatory certificate or recognize him longer as a member of the Lodge. I decided that when the brother asked for a demit he wanted a recommendatory certificate of withdrawal, which alone would enable him to affiliate with another Lodge in this jurisdiction, and if the Lodge refused to give this recommendatory demit, the brother would remain a member thereof; for, "if he ask for bread will ye give him a stone?" Had he desired to simply withdraw, he could have done so by paying his dues in full and giving notice of that fact to the Lodge, without any action being necessary on its part.

A large amount of business is transacted by this Grand Lodge, and it is all done in a most thorough, business manner.

As touching the "Inspector" system adopted some years ago, we excerpt the following from the Committee on Jurisprudence:—

In regard to the suggestion of the Grand Master to add to the title of Inspector that of "District Deputy Grand Master," we do not think the change demanded by reason of any important benefit to be derived therefrom, and are inclined to believe that, by making frequent changes in our regulations concerning these matters, we are burdening our system with amendments which may endanger its perpetuity. We would avoid any act tending to such a result, for while we yield our tribute of praise to the unrewarded labors of our brethren, the inspectors of the several masonic districts, we would not imperil the system so productive of good results even to accomplish the pleasing duty of rewarding those laborers with a more sonorous title. From those members of the Grand Lodge whose experience dates back beyond 1865—the year in which our work was adopted and made obligatory on our Lodges—we know that we shall meet with an affirmative and ready response to the declaration that the Grand Lodge of California has accomplished a great work—more than it hoped to accomplish when its committee was appointed, and more than even that committee, in "enthusiastic devotion to the business in hand, believed could be accomplished.

It was the desire of the early movers in the proposal to attain uniformity in this jurisdiction, that, in certain requirements, the law should be absolute, and should admit of but one interpretation. We were Masons from all parts of the world. In the same Lodge would be found a Master from Mississippi, a Senior Warden from Maine, a Junior Warden from Ohio, and a Senior Deacon from New York. With no standard for a guide, we were left at the mercy of their divers imaginings. Our Lodges were "opened on the centre" in one locality: in another, "on the square;" and in a third they were "declared" open. Our forms and ceremonies were represented and elaborated in as many different methods. The committee aimed to present the simple plan which they believed would accomplish the result desired, by first resolving that our Lodges should be opened and closed alike, and that perfect uniformity should exist in our obligations and modes of recognition. This and much more we have attained, and our present perfect system is the result. We have done well—much better than we hoped for ten years ago—and we would not endanger the success already reached by engrafting upon it any unnecessary requirement.

The value of the Reports on Foreign Correspondence may be judged from the following extract of a report of a special committee appointed to suggest reforms or changes in the matter of the expenses of the Grand Lodge:—

The Reports on Correspondence might be abridged or omitted, but this would scarcely comport with the dignity of the Grand Lodge, for in these reports the masonic intelligence from every quarter of the globe is collated and distributed, not only to the members of the order, but to all who choose to read them.

The Grand Lodges of Wyoming, Indian Territory, and Dakota were recognized. The Grand Orient of Hungary was also recognized. In reference to the doctrine of "exclusive jurisdiction," the committee say:—

We are pleased to see that the Grand Orient of Hungary so far recognized the American doctrine of Grand Lodge jurisdiction and sovereignty as to declare, in one of the articles of its Constitution, that it would not establish any Lodge in any foreign country in which a Grand Masonic Power had been organized, and that it would not recognize any Lodge in Hungary established by any foreign country.

The Grand Lodges of Manitoba and Prince Edward Island were not recognized, for the reasons assigned by the committee, as follows:—

In the United States it is universally recognized as the law of Masonry, that whenever there are three chartered Lodges in any state or territory in which no Grand Lodge has been established, those Lodges have the absolute right to meet in convention and organize a Grand Lodge for such state or territory; that when a Grand Lodge is once regularly established in any state or territory, it has exclusive jurisdiction over all Masonic Lodges and Masons within such state or territory; and that no other Grand Lodge or Grand Body can establish a new Lodge within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge so organized, or can maintain jurisdiction over a Lodge therein to which it may have granted a charter. From the moment of the organization of the new Grand Lodge its jurisdiction becomes absolute over the entire territory, and all Lodges and all Masons there must acknowledge it and yield obedience to it, and their allegiance elsewhere ceases. *That* we recognize as the law here, but it is not recognized everywhere, and, as we understand it, the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland claim and exercise the right of establishing new Lodges in any part of the United Kingdom and its dependencies, and the right to maintain such Lodges under their obedience at their pleasure.

We expect that foreign Grand Lodges and Grand Bodies will respect our rights, and will not in any way interfere with the exclusive territorial jurisdiction of our Grand Lodges, and we are quite willing to respect their rights in return. With regard to juris-

diction, they must make the law for themselves, as we have made it for ourselves. If they are satisfied with a concurrent jurisdiction we cannot complain, and we will not knowingly trespass thereupon. When Lodges owing allegiance to one or more foreign Grand Lodges unite in the formation of a Grand Lodge, as in Prince Edward Island or the province of Manitoba, we recognize the right of the mother Grand Lodges to maintain jurisdiction over their subordinates, and the duty of the subordinates to obtain consent before severing their allegiance.

This Grand Lodge would urge upon the mother Grand Lodges the propriety of giving consent that their subordinates might, in all proper cases, join in the establishment of new Grand Lodges, and, whenever such consent is given, will be most happy to recognize and enter into friendly relations with the newly-established bodies. In the judgment of your committee, the best interests of Masonry will be subserved by the establishment of Grand Lodges in the provinces of Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, but they think that this Grand Lodge should not recognize the Grand Lodges established in those provinces until they have been recognized by the Grand Lodges from which the constituent Lodges hold their charters. They therefore recommend that no action be taken in the matter of recognition at this communication.

A fine oration was delivered on the occasion by W. Henry Huntley Haight, late Governor of California.

Bro. Wm. A. January presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, in which the proceedings of forty-eight corresponding Grand Bodies are reviewed briefly—the whole review covering only fifty pages—for which the Grand Lodge paid him \$250. Nebraska for 1874 receives liberal notice.

We extract the following, under Nebraska, for the purpose of a correction:—

The Grand Secretary makes a lengthy and elaborate report of the doings of his office, accompanied by many valuable recommendations, several of which were adopted by the Grand Lodge. One of these was the amendment of the Constitution by the adoption of the following article:—

ARTICLE XIV. One-fifth of the annual gross receipts of the Grand Lodge shall be set apart as a Revenue Fund, to meet the expenses of the Grand Lodge; which fund may be loaned on real estate security, but no part thereof shall be expended until it shall have reached the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

The above article was *not* adopted.

We give Bro. Bowen the benefit of the following, merely remarking that we think Bowen will take care of himself:—

We are of the opinion that Bro. Bowen is an able, industrious, and painstaking Secretary, yet we venture to suggest to him that in lumbering the published proceedings with all the letters, circulars, etc., issued from his office during the year, he makes a grave mistake, which only serves to perplex and tire the reader. All such, it seems to us, should be buried in the depths of the "letter book" until required for the use of future generations.

The proceedings of California have an attraction which would lead to further notice, but our space forbids.

M. W. John Mills Browne is Grand Master, and R. W. Alex. G. Abell, Grand Secretary.

## CANADA, 1875.

A number of Special Communications were held for the purpose of laying corner-stones.

A Special was held August 21st, 1874, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the mortal remains of their long honored Grand Secretary, Thomas Bird Harris.

Also, another Special was held on the 20th day of June, 1875, to perform the funeral ceremonies of their beloved Grand Master, William Mercer Wilson. Thus have passed away two of Canada's best and noblest Masons. Green be the turf above them.

The Annual Communication was held at the city of London on the 14th day of July—R.: W.: James K. Kerr, Deputy Grand Master, in the Grand East, and R.: W.: J. J. Mason, acting Grand Secretary.

The acting Grand Master delivered an excellent address, devoted largely to the subject of their great affliction—the death of their Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

Two dispensations were renewed, and fourteen new ones granted, for the organization of new Lodges.

From the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters we learn that the craft are prosperous and harmonious.

From the report of the Board of General Purposes we quote:—

The District Deputy Grand Masters have in general very faithfully performed the duties of their very laborious offices—some having visited all the Lodges in their respective districts, and the others nearly all. The immense benefit derived from their services during late years will be easily seen by those who have read the reports, or who, some years since, knew the loose manner in which the affairs of many of the Lodges were conducted.

From the Benevolent Fund there had been granted, upon applications, the sum of \$3,405.

The financial condition of the Grand Lodge is excellent, as appears from the following statement:—

General Fund.....	\$28,445 55
Benevolent Fund—investment account.....	16,486 21
“ “ current “ .....	1,056 09
Masonic Asylum Fund.....	6,828 99
	<hr/>
	\$52,816 84

We judge from the following that the Grand Treasurer of Canada does not speculate in Grand Lodge funds— but why should he?

*1st.* That all moneys received by Grand Lodge for fees, dues, and interest, and from all other sources, be paid over to the Grand Secretary, and by him entered in the cash book of Grand Lodge.

*2d.* That all sums so received by the Grand Secretary shall be deposited by him in the bank with which Grand Lodge keeps its accounts, receiving therefor a deposit voucher in duplicate, one of which to be forwarded to the Grand Treasurer, and the other to be retained by him.

This is the way they remember the widow and the orphan in Canada— we copy particularly for the encouragement of Bro.: Bowen:—

The Board having considered the cases of the widows and families of our deceased Grand Master and Grand Secretary, in view of the services rendered to our Grand Lodge by the deceased brethren, do recommend, until otherwise ordered by Grand Lodge, that an annuity of \$300 be paid to the widow of our late Grand Master, and a similar annuity to his eldest daughter; and the like annuity to the widow and daughters of our late Grand Secretary. Such annuities to cease in case of the death or marriage of the parties respectively; and, in case of the death or marriage of the widow or any of the daughters of our late Grand Secretary, a proportionate reduction should be made in such annuity. The whole of the sum to be taken out of the General Funds of Grand Lodge.

In behalf of a masonic asylum, the Grand Secretary addressed the following questions to the subordinate Lodges, and obtained the answers appended beneath:—

"1. What annual aid your Lodge will give towards the support of a masonic asylum.

"2. The number and nature of the requirements of those in your jurisdiction who may have claims on our benevolence.

"3. The number of non-affiliated Masons in your jurisdiction likely to aid the project."

\* \* \* \* Replies have been received from thirty-five Lodges, leaving about two hundred and fifty Lodges unheard from. Of these, seven report that they will give no support; nine that they are unable at present; two that they deem it inexpedient; four that they await the action of Grand Lodge; three a want of information; two that they will give \$20 annually; one that it will give \$15 annually; one that it will give \$10 annually; one that it will give twenty cents per member annually; one that it has already pledged support; two that they have already contributed, and are prepared to do so again on action of Grand Lodge; two that they have not yet taken action.

In reply to the second query, nine Lodges report none; four do not know of any; one reports three; one that assistance would only be received in cash; twenty give no answer.

To the third query, seven Lodges report none; four not likely to give; twenty-two give no answer.

A very creditable report on Foreign Correspondence is presented by Bro.: Henry Robertson. Nebraska for 1874 receives due notice. He takes exceptions to our non-intercourse resolutions, and says:—

This is the first unqualified admission we have seen of the existence of an "American Masonic Monroe doctrine," and we must protest against any "American Monroe doctrine" being Masonic at all. Masonry being universal, there can be no distinctively American Masonic doctrine; for any doctrine, to be *Masonic*, must be equally applicable to all countries and nations. The last resolution, if it is attempted to be carried out, will probably get the Grand Lodge of Nebraska into hot water. We do not, however, wish to be understood as in any way approving of the actions of Hamburg or France in invading the jurisdictions of other independent Grand Lodges; on the contrary, we strongly condemn them. We simply wish to point out that a great mistake is being made in attempting to coerce, by a threat of non-intercourse, all foreign Grand Lodges into the recognition of *American* doctrines. This would tend to destroy the universality of our fraternity, and no Grand Lodge of any dignity could permit such an unwarrantable interference with its sovereign rights.

We do not care for the name; it is the doctrine of *exclusive jurisdiction* we advocate—a doctrine as dear to the interests of France or Hamburg as it is to Canada or Nebraska—the doctrine that another Grand Lodge has no right to come upon our premises and set up or establish rival interests.

M.: W.: James K. Kerr is Grand Master, and E.: W.: J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary.

## COLORADO, 1875.

An Emergent Communication was held at Boulder, on the 20th day of September, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Territorial University. The corner stone was laid during a "driving storm of sleet and rain"—no lives lost.

We congratulate our western neighbors on their progress in educational matters.

A very interesting and instructive address was delivered by Hon. James B. Belford.

The Annual Communication was held at Denver, September 21st, M.: W.: Webster D. Anthony, Grand Master, and R.: W.: Ed. C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary.

The address is brief, but business like.

Only *one* dispensation was granted for the organization of a new Lodge.

The Grand Master recommends the printing and distribution of the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, at least thirty days before the convening of the Grand Lodge. We heartily agree with the Grand Master as to the advantage that such a course would be to the Craft; but if we were to undertake to do so, we should expect to pay our respects to but one-half of our sister Grand Lodges, as only about that number would reach us by the time our Grand Lodge convenes.

A Special Committee, appointed at the previous Communication to report upon a place for the erection of a Masonic Temple, submitted quite an elaborate report, laying the *corner stone* as follows:

*First.* That the sum of \$3 be assessed against every Subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction, for every initiate hereafter made by said Lodge.

*Second.* That the sum of \$2 be assessed against every Subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction, for every Fellowcraft hereafter made by said Lodge.

*Third.* That the sum of \$3 be assessed against every Subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction, for every Master Mason hereafter made in said Lodge.

*Fourth.* That this Grand Lodge appropriate and set apart, for a Temple Fund, one-fourth part of the annual dues now received from Subordinate Lodges, of twenty-five cents per year from each Master Mason.

The adoption of the above recommendations will produce in one year a revenue, based upon the returns of 1874, as follows: From initiations, \$291; from passings, \$204; from raisings, \$321; from membership dues, at twenty-five cents per capita, \$329. Total, \$1,142. To this sum will be annually added a like amount, and an increase for work and membership, which we estimate at ten per cent; all of which being invested so that it shall return ten per cent. interest per annum, would net this Grand Lodge the following named amounts:

At the end of	1 year	. . . . .	\$ 1,142 00
" " " "	2 years	. . . . .	2,512 40
" " " "	3 "	. . . . .	4,145 46
" " " "	5 "	. . . . .	8,360 00
" " " "	8 "	. . . . .	17,803 45
" " " "	10 "	. . . . .	26,927 69
" " " "	15 "	. . . . .	65,050 77
" " " "	20 "	. . . . .	139,681 20

The Grand Lodge decided to adopt the recommendations.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming was recognized. A new Constitution and By-Laws were adopted.

The Constitution provides that "where the report of the committee to whom the petition is referred is unfavorable, the report shall not be considered a rejection, but the ballot shall be spread."

The 93d By-Law says:

"It is the sense of this Grand Lodge that the making of a Master Mason constitutes the Brother a member of the Lodge in which he is made."

We endorse.

No report on Foreign Correspondence. M. W. Oren H. Henry is Grand Master, and R. W. Ed. C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary.

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## CONNECTICUT, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held in the city of Hartford, on the 19th day of January, M. W. Wm. Wallace Lee, Grand Master, and R. W. Joseph K. Wheeler, Grand Secretary.

A lengthy and able address was delivered by the Grand Master.

He argues energetically against what is termed "perpetual jurisdiction" over applicants for the mysteries of Freemasonry. He says he has been unable to find any ancient regulation in defense of the law or custom, and recommends that "every person should stand for what he is worth morally and mentally in the community where he resides."

He is ardently opposed, also, to what he terms "Compulsory Dues." We can hardly do him justice by quoting a portion of his arguments. Nevertheless, we venture the following excerpt:

All writers admit that it is a very modern idea in Masonry, including Mackey, who can prove anything to be ancient that any one can. In other associations, the principle of insurance is prominent, and the question of physical health enters largely into the qualifications of the candidates; with us it is of less importance. Do not understand me as opposed to such associations. I am friendly to them, and believe they do a great amount of good; but there is a great difference between them and Masonry. The law of compensation prevails everywhere, and if we exact dues we must render an equivalent. Masonry nowhere pledges the charities of its Lodge or its treasury, but each Brother pledges his own, nor can it be demanded of him except of his "own free will and accord." I do not say dues may not be expedient, and even necessary, under some circumstances (the Lodges know their own condition the best); but we should, as much as possible, divest the system of its obnoxious features, and especially that clause which puts him out of his Lodge, and requires him to run the gauntlet of a unanimous ballot to get back. What would be thought of the church that should turn out its members from the fold because they refused, from poverty or any other cause, to hire seats or pay dues? This question of compulsory dues has been a prominent one in Masonry for the past few years. Force has been tried, but in vain. Thousands of Masons in this country are becoming non-affiliated every year, and the tendency of all legislation has been to place them in a position of quasi antagonism toward the institution. Should another such crisis come as came forty years since, with what propriety, think you, could we call upon them to protect and defend the institution after turning them out of their

Lodges? Had such a system been enforced in the dark days, probably not one of the Lodges would have survived. The Grand Lodge of New York in those days found it necessary to place their gavel in the hands of a non-affiliated Mason, and right nobly did he wield it; and, though more than four score years of age, he stood by the flag with a chivalric devotion. Were he now living, he would be told he could only visit a Lodge three times, and could not claim Masonic charity or burial.

Here follows the report of the Committee on By-Laws upon the foregoing subject, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge :

Your Committee on By-Laws, to whom was referred the recommendations of the M. W. Grand Master, relating to dues, would respectfully beg leave to report, that after due deliberation, we are unanimously of the opinion that the system in vogue in this jurisdiction, for the collection of dues and assessments is subject to grave objections.

Since the present system was inaugurated, the returns from the Subordinate Lodges reveal the alarming fact that nearly twelve hundred members have been dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues.

Your Committee would therefore respectfully submit to the favorable consideration of the Grand Lodge the following resolutions :

*Resolved*, That the several Lodges in this jurisdiction be, and they are, hereby authorized and empowered, at any stated communication, upon good cause shown, and upon such terms as may be just, by a majority vote, rescind the resolution striking a member from the roll for non-payment of dues, upon application of such member in writing, at any time within two years thereafter; provided such member shall not, in the meanwhile, have become a member of another Lodge.

This resolution shall apply to all members heretofore stricken from the roll, whether the period above limited, in which such application can be made, has expired or not.

*Resolved*, That any brother who shall hereafter, or may have been heretofore, stricken from the roll of any Subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction, shall not be permitted to visit any Lodge in this State while under such disability.

*Resolved*, That no Master Mason, in this jurisdiction, of twenty-one years' good and regular standing, shall be subject to discipline for non-payment of dues.

*Resolved*, That the several Lodges in this jurisdiction be, and they are, hereby recommended to restore to full membership, without payment of arrearages, any member who at the time of being so stricken from the roll, was of twenty-one years' good and regular standing.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing resolutions be published among the permanent resolutions of the Grand Lodge.

The Craft are in a healthy and flourishing condition.

Under *Utah*, Bro.: Wheeler says :

It seems that the Grand Secretary has been often asked whether there are any clandestine Lodges in Utah; and he answers for the whole fraternity as follows, but does not give any light on the subject of Brigham Young's Lodges. Perhaps some one has got mixed :

The question, "Are there any clandestine Lodges in Utah?" we have been often asked by letter and otherwise, and for the information of all concerned we will here state, that within the dominion of Brigham Young, or better, in the Territory of Utah, no Lodges claiming to be Masonic are at work, except such as have been duly chartered and regularly constituted by this, the M. W. Grand Lodge of Utah. Our *confreres* will please take notice.

For the further enlightenment of Bro.: Wheeler, we venture to remark that Brigham Young's registry numbers about forty Lodges—two or three of which have become extinct, and one has surrendered her charter, leaving about thirty-five or thirty-six active Lodges under his watchful and attentive supervision. And it is said he visits these with a commendable regularity—averaging about two visits to each one during the year.

We waive further notice of these interesting proceedings, remarking that M. W. Edward B. Rowe was elected Grand Master, and R. W. Joseph K. Wheeler re-elected Grand Secretary.

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### DAKOTA, 1875.

We have before us a pamphlet from which we gather the particulars of a convention held at Elk Point on the 22d day of June, for the purpose of establishing a Grand Lodge for the territory. Five Lodges participated in the convention. The proceedings were regular and harmonious, and resulted in the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws, together with such other measures as are usually incident to such organizations.

On the 24th the convention adjourned, after the election of Grand Officers, to meet at the call of the committee appointed to designate a time and place for the installation of the Grand Officers elect. In pursuance thereof, the convention met on the 21st day of July, at Vermillion, when and where Bro. T. S. Parvin, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, installed the officers in proper form.

The Grand Lodge of Dakota was then duly constituted, Past Grand Master Parvin in the Grand East, who, with the assistance of sundry brethren, completed the organization of the Grand Lodge.

Thus another link is added to the long chain of Grand Lodges. May that link never tarnish or rust, but, under wise counsels and in skillful hands, may it be preserved as bright as at her natal day

M. W. Thomas Henderson Brown is Grand Master and R. W. Mark W. Bailey, Grand Secretary.

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### DELAWARE, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Wilmington on the 6th day of October—M. W. John P. Allmond, Grand Master, and R. W. William S. Hayes, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address is creditable. Under the head of "Intemperance," he says:—

I have had my attention called to the fearful strides intemperance is making upon members of the craft in this jurisdiction, and have been asked time and again to call your attention to the fact. Brethren, my reply has always been, Masonry is not a temperance society, though temperance is one of our cardinal virtues. Temperance lectures will do a drunkard no good; he must be brought to his senses by something more powerful than a mere lecture. He must be taught that if he claims the right to go to ruin himself, he shall not drag his Lodge down with him, and cast reflection on the whole fabric of Freemasonry. You will ask, how shall we prevent this? I answer that the remedy lays with yourselves. In making the selection of officers for your Lodges,

select the best men you have, and be particularly careful in your selection of Junior Warden, whose duty it is to superintend the craft whilst at refreshments; it is he who has charge of the craft from the moment the Lodge is closed until it is opened again. The duties of the Junior Warden are such that it requires more than ordinary vigilance and great strength of character to perform them. It is his duty to see that temperance, fortitude, charity, and a tongue of good report shall prevail among the fraternity, and when these and other cardinal principles, well known among you, are perverted or set aside, it is his duty, his obligation, to bring the offending brother to a speedy trial before his Lodge. \* \* \* \* \*

We heartily endorse all he says in regard to the selection of officers; and yet we know that many Lodges choose officers without any regard to fitness—moral, governmental, or disciplinary. Never will Masonry arise to that moral, perfect standard which she boasts to be her aim, so long as her offices are filled by, *simply*, “good fellows.”

Upon “mixed funerals,” the committee on the Grand Master’s address offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

1st. That to bury the dead is not an ancient masonic prerogative, and only when a *proper* request is made does it become an *obligation* on the craft.

2d. The performance of the solemn services required by Masonry over the remains of a brother is masonic labor, and the Lodge, while so engaged, is performing masonic labor, and *must* have, therefore, *absolute and complete control*, and cannot permit any but *Masons* to take any part therein.

3d. That when any non-masonic association declares its determination to participate in said labor, such as having a portion of pall-bearers, or the placing of emblems on the coffin, or the performance of *their* burial service, it shall be the duty of the Master of the Lodge to peaceably retire to his hall and close the Lodge, thus avoiding all strife and discord and unpleasant discussions.

Bro.: George W. Chaytor presented the report on Foreign Correspondence. It covers fifty-five pages, and reviews the proceedings of thirty-four corresponding Grand Bodies. Nebraska for 1874 receives courteous notice—in *ten lines*. We desire to tender our acknowledgments to Bro.: Chaytor, and return our compliments—begging pardon, however, for extending our notice beyond ten lines. Delaware is *small*, but we could not possibly do justice to her in so small a space. The merits of the two jurisdictions, we presume, accounts for the difference.

We must insist, Bro.: Chaytor, that, although our then Grand Master is of the best blood, he does not belong to the “Durham” stock.

Bro.: George W. Chaytor is Grand Master, and R.: W.: William S. Hayes, Grand Secretary.

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1875.

The Semi-Annual Communication was held at Washington, on the 12th day of May, but no business of foreign interest was transacted.

Several Special Communications were held, for the purpose of paying the last sad tributes of respect to the memory of sundry deceased brethren.

The Annual Communication was held on the 10th day of November, M.: W.: Isaac L. Johnson, Grand Master, and R.: W.: W. A. Yates, Grand Secretary.

An excellent address was delivered by the Grand Master. From it we learn that he had visited all the Lodges in the jurisdiction, and that peace and harmony characterize their labors. His decisions are consistent with usage and custom.

A new Constitution is in the hands of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Nothing of special interest was transacted at this Communication.

The Installation Communication was held December 27th.

The Grand Treasurer submitted a statement of the financial condition of the *Subordinate Lodges*. The Lodges, financially, are in a healthy condition. They expended, in charity, the aggregate sum of \$3,375.32.

A Stated Communication was held January 12, 1876.

The following resolutions were presented by the Committee on Grand Master's Address, but the Grand Lodge did not adopt them, we are sorry to say :

*Resolved*, That the present abandoned condition of the National Monument to Washington is an insult to the name it was designed to honor, and is discredit to the American people.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge earnestly recommends to such of her constituent Lodges as have not yet subscribed to the fund for the completion of the monument, to pledge their liberal aid to the work as promptly as possible.

*Resolved*, That the early completion of the National Monument to Washington is an object which should appeal powerfully to the pride and patriotism of the American people, and enlist the support of every true Mason.

The chief feature of the proceedings before us is the Report on Foreign Correspondence, by Bro.: W. R. Singleton. He reviews the proceedings of fifty-one Grand Bodies. The review is "less in length than those of 1873 and 1875," covering only two hundred and sixty-two pages. As usual, it is an able, exhaustive, and interesting document. Nebraska, 1874, receives favorable and cordial notice.

He gives a left-handed lick at our Masonic Insurance Company. We take it for granted that he is not a "stockholder." He characterizes our Report on Correspondence as *admirable*.

Under Virginia, quoting Bro.: Wellford's criticism of the doctrine held by Grand Master McCurdy, of Michigan, in 1874, on the question of requiring a belief in the Holy Scriptures as a condition precedent to admission to Masonic rites, Bro.: Singleton says :

We expressed our own views in a few words in our last report, in reply to this same question, under Michigan. We, however, did not think it proper to enter into a lengthy argument. Bro.: Wellford has done well, but has not exhausted the reasons, unanswerable ones, too, which might be adduced. To our mind, the man who can sit in the Lodge as an unbeliever in the inspiration of Scripture, and assist in imposing upon a candidate, as our lectures and explanatory phrases do, if the Bible be not divinely inspired, is acting the hypocrite and deceiver. We are earnest in our Masonry, and honest, too; and when we say that the "Great Light is the INESTIMABLE" gift from God to man, we mean it, most emphatically; otherwise, we would be telling a falsehood to

deceive the initiate. And if it be not inspired, a pine board, Webster's Unabridged, or Tom Paine's Age of Reason will do just as well, and Seneca's Morals better than either of the others.

As Bro. Wellford says, all along in Masonry, every allusion to the Great Light, and extracts from it, to illustrate our ritual, are predicated upon its divine inspiration, or they are a fraud, and nothing short of it.

Now, as to the Masonry of the foreign countries, there is the greatest amount of error in regard to this very question. A belief in Deity is requisite; that book which gives them the knowledge of Deity is, with them, an *inspired* book. As such, it is used for a special purpose, to bind them; and unless acknowledged as such by them, no obligation *would be binding*. Another thing is also requisite in each case, as, for instance, no obligation is morally binding to a Jew if his head be *uncovered*, and every son of Israel who has not had his head so covered is not bound *legally*. We may hold him bound; he does not; so we learned at a very early day, when a young Mason, from intelligent Israelites, the best in our fraternity.

From whence do we derive our knowledge of a God? Let any intelligent brother Mason answer the question; such a God as an intelligent man would be willing to bow down to and worship, as he should do, as a Mason good and true. Where do you, as a F. C., find any authority for observing the Sabbath, except from divine authority in the G. L.? Where do you obtain the fundamental dogmas of the third degree, if not from the inspiration of Scripture? For, mark ye, if not by inspiration that these three principles are taught in the E. A., F. C., and M. M., then they are not worth a tuppence, and it is the most sublime tomfoolery for intelligent men to be frittering away their time in such child's play! Drop the inspiration of Scripture, and you knock the soul out of Masonry. Take, in the place of Scripture, a volume of Shakespeare, and open at any play, and let it remain on the altar as a better emblem than the Bible without its inspiration.

But it is not for us to make this a test question. We consider the test all-sufficient as it now is; and we also consider any man in this country as very simple, or very *bad*, who, upon examination of our ritual, and especially when he becomes a *teacher* or a Master of a Lodge, and inculcates the spiritualities of our ritual, and yet denies inspiration. It is inconceivable to us. We would as soon deny the sun as being the source of all light as to deny God as being the source of the Bible. Then, again, every one of those who have opposed this have fallen into the egregious error of charging our side of the question with sectarian views. Now, where under the *moon* do they find any sectarianism in the question? Is the Bible not the source of every shade of opinion of the innumerable sects? Does not the Old Testament alone give several sects among the Jews? Do not the several books of the New Testament form the ground-work of every Christian sect? Are there not Unitarians, who deny Christ's divinity, who believe in inspiration? Where are the various shades among them? The Universalists of every branch all claim the inspiration of Scripture, and can any of them be offended by our views? And now we answer as to the Jews, and we speak by the book, having brought this subject directly home to them personally; did not the Prophets all predict that a Saviour was to come? Yes, they universally declare. Well, we only differ as to time. Christians say He has come; they say He will come, and are daily looking for Him. Therefore, as they certainly claim the Hebrew Scriptures to be divine, they cannot object that we believe them to be also. We simply add the New Testament, and claim for it the same place. We are not offended at you for your *unbelief* in the New Testament; do not be offended at us for our belief in both the Old and New. Let us all be liberal to one another, when we can stand upon the broad ground of a belief in one God, Lord over us all, blessed for evermore.

M. W. Isaac L. Johnson was re-elected Grand Master, and R. W. W. R. Singleton was chosen Grand Secretary.

## FLORIDA, 1876.

We are in receipt of no tidings from this jurisdiction, save an "Extract from the Proceedings," being extracts from the Grand Master's address and the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence touching the subject of the proposed recognition of the colored Grand Lodge of Ohio by the Grand Lodge of A.: F.: and A.: M.: of that state. The Grand Master earnestly protests against said proposed recognition, and urges the Grand Lodge of Ohio to consider well the inevitable results of such a course, which will be, in his opinion, the severing of fraternal ties that now so happily unite and cement the Grand Lodges of this country into one harmonious system of fraternal union. Bro.: Dawkins, in his review, treats the subject from the same standpoint.

Upon this proposition of our Ohio brethren, Grand Master Albert J. Russell draws this parallel:—

There is but one parallel in all the world's history to the uprooting of the very foundations of society and its established conventionalities in the South in the emancipation of the slaves, and that is the liberating and carrying out of the ancient Israelites from Egyptian bondage; and now, for a moment, let us consider these two great parallels, and see if we cannot draw some wholesome lessons for our own safe guidance in the great question before us. The one is largely the result of man's caprice and fanaticism. True, we cannot believe that so great a moral result could have come to pass without permission and endorsement, so to speak, from Almighty God; yet, I say it was very largely the result of man's caprice, and has so far been conducted by him. The other was directly the work of the Almighty. It was He who sent Moses directly to the king with the demand that His people should be freed, and permitted to go and establish themselves as a nation amid the nations of the earth. It was He who, when the king refused, organized their march, and built up their pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. It was He who conducted them between the steadfast walls of an obedient sea, and in turn made these walls melt, as it were, again into their native element and destroy their proud masters. And yet, in the midst of all this display of Omnipotent power in their behalf, did He think that generation fit to go up and occupy the promised land, and build themselves into a nation? No! for if He had He would not have taken them through the long, circuitous, unknown route through a dry and barren wilderness, requiring a term of forty years, during which almost every Israelite who had left Egypt was buried beneath the dry sands, and a new generation had grown up, educated under God's own government and training, and these only entered the promised inheritance. Now, are the masses of the colored men of the late slave states fitted and prepared to take, at once, position side by side with the former citizen or Mason? I am fully of opinion that if our good brother, as many of the brethren of his own jurisdiction have done, would sojourn a while with us, he would certainly be of the opinion that the fullness of time had not yet come; and that while this measure might possibly work good with him, it would work destruction to others of the great fraternity of Masons.

We regret the absence of the other portion of the proceedings of the session.

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 GEORGIA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at the city of Macon on the 26th day of October—M.: W.: David E. Butler, Grand Master, and R.: W.: J. Emmett Blackshear, Grand Secretary.

The address of the Grand Master is brief, and confined to a recital of his official transactions during the year.

The Southern Masonic Female College receives a large share of the attention of the Grand Lodge, and it affords us pleasure to note its prosperity.

A brother asked that the Committee on Jurisprudence be instructed to define the term "excluded," but the Grand Lodge tabled his request; so that we, as well as he, are left in the dark as to its meaning.

Bro. Samuel D. Irvin, Past Grand Master, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presents a report covering eleven pages. He acknowledges the receipt of the proceedings of forty-two Grand Lodges, including Nebraska for 1874. The gist of his report is to show that such reports as are commonly made by reviewers are unauthorized by his Grand Lodge—that they are not productive of much good. We excerpt the following:—

Speaking for myself, I have always believed that the discussions on questions of masonic law by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was out of place. It tends to produce confusion, and sometimes to mislead young or uninformed brethren. The power to expound the law in each jurisdiction is lodged with the Grand Master, and during the recess of the Grand Lodge there is no appeal from his decision. He is responsible to his own Grand Lodge, *and to no one else*; if he errs, the correction must be applied by his own Grand Lodge. The Grand Master in each state is controlled, to a greater or less extent, by local constitutions or local legislation peculiar to such state. Our own constitution and regulations differ in some unimportant particulars from other states. We have no right to ask our brethren in other states to conform in all their legislation to our model, nor have they the right to request or demand us to conform to theirs. Matters of masonic law should be left to the Grand Masters, the Committee on Jurisprudence, and the Grand Lodges in Annual Communication in each jurisdiction. Comment and criticism of such questions by a simple reviewer in another jurisdiction would never correct a fundamental error or a masonic heresy. Such criticism might tend to exasperate, or, at least, to wound, instead of applying a corrective.

If it were not for laying ourselves liable to the charge of being "a simple reviewer," and, hence, of *knowing nothing*, we would venture to suggest that the criticisms made and exchanged through the Foreign Correspondence department have done and are doing as much towards the direction of Grand Masters' decisions as anything else. Sometimes *but men* are elected to the high office of Grand Master—sometimes those who have not given Masonry much study—and, hence, when at a loss for a "decision," they naturally apply to the best authorities—the "simple reviewer," for instance.

The Grand Lodge of Wyoming was fraternally recognized; and the *Committee on Foreign Correspondence was abolished.*

The Committee on General Welfare present the following thought on a—

DRUNKEN MAN.

One other thought we would like to impress upon the minds of our brethren of the Grand Lodge: that is, that a drunken man is of but little use anywhere, and that a brother Mason, drunk, is not only of no use to his Lodge, but a disgrace to it; and we trust that every member of this Grand Body will exert his influence in his Lodge and

community to put down the use of intoxicating liquors. We have not alluded to this subject because we thought that intemperance was on the increase among Masons in Georgia; we think the reverse is true, but still we fear that Masonry, to a considerable extent, is suffering from this cause. It gives us much pleasure to bear testimony to the fact that profanity is but seldom heard among Masons, and we sincerely hope that the day is not far distant when, if a man is seen drunk or heard to use profane language, it will be regarded as *prima facie* evidence that he is not a Mason.

There is splendid metal in the above.

The proceedings were harmonious, and a great deal of business was transacted during the session.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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### ILLINOIS, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in Chicago on the 5th day of October — M. W. George E. Lounsbury, Grand Master, and R. W. John F. Burrill, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address is thoroughly systematic, and indicates a busy administration. He says "the past masonic year has been, to us, comparatively an uneventful one." The craft is prosperous, peaceful, and harmonious.

Twenty-one cases of appeal were disposed of in proper shape.

The following amendment to the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge was adopted:—

The vote to elect to the degrees, or to membership, must be unanimous; but the test of the masonic proficiency of a candidate for advancement may be decided by the Master, or by a majority vote of the members present.

From which it will be seen that Illinois has adopted the "single ballot" rule. This has our personal indorsement.

In order the more fully to define the status of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts under the foregoing amendment, the following was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That, under the amended By-Laws of this Grand Lodge, by which one clear ballot entitles the applicant to the three degrees, those already elected to one or more degrees are entitled to proceed without further ballot, all other conditions of the law being complied with.

The above defined the status *only* of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts who had not been rejected upon application for advancement. The Committee on Jurisprudence were requested to define the status of such as *had* been rejected, which they did as follows:—

Your committee have also had under consideration the question referred to them as to the present status of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts whose petition for advancement has been rejected by ballot, and are of the opinion that such brethren stand rejected under the By-Law in force at the time, and this disability can only be removed by a favorable ballot.

Several distinguished Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of other Grand Lodges paid their respects during the session, and were received with Grand Honors. Among the number was M. W. Charles F. Stansbury, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia, who appeared in behalf of the Washington Monument Association, asking aid towards the completion of the monument. The following resolutions were adopted :—

*Resolved*, That the sum of one thousand dollars be and is hereby appropriated for the use of the National Monument Society, on the conditions by which said society voluntarily restricts itself in receiving subscriptions, which sum shall include the cost of a memorial stone to be selected by this Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge recommends to its constituent Lodges that they contribute as liberally as their means will permit, to the fund proposed to be raised for the purpose herein indicated, both as an attestation of the patriotism which burns in the hearts of all true Masons, and as a tribute of affectionate regard for the memory of the man whom freedom and history have forever enshrined among the heroes of humanity.

At the next session of the Grand Lodge they will organize an "Orphans' Home" upon a liberal basis, and we predict that Illinois will endow it on a magnificent scale. May the God of the fatherless overshadow the undertaking with His wings and bring it into perfect organization.

Bro. Joseph Robbins again favors the craft with another of his masterly reports on Foreign Correspondence, covering two hundred and twenty-six pages, fine print, in which he carefully reviews the transactions of forty-six corresponding Grand Bodies. Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial notice. He credits Bro. Bowen with an "excellent report, filled with good suggestions for putting the business of his office on a thoroughly systematic footing."

The following we copy that we may be enabled to see ourselves as others see us :—

Nebraska makes amends for her tardiness in severing fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Hamburg by standing up so straight on the doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge jurisdiction as almost to bend backwards, and demands not only "indemnity for the past," but security for the future."

The following was adopted :—

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge does hereby estrange and estop all fraternal intercourse between this Grand Body and the said offending Grand Bodies, and that Masons of this obedience are prohibited from holding any masonic intercourse whatever with the said Grand Bodies, or with Masons of their obedience. And be it further

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge will henceforth require, as a condition precedent to fraternal intercourse between this Grand Lodge and other Grand Bodies, the full and unqualified recognition of the said "doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction."

The second resolution is supposed to be aimed at the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which still maintains a few Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Chili

We had occasion last year, in reviewing Minnesota, to refer to the "sprouting" variety of decisions, as where a Grand Lodge unlawfully legislates away a portion of a Mason's rights, it is thereupon discovered that he cannot exercise certain other rights that depend on good standing, because by the loss of the first the others have become attained, and his standing is impaired. We suggested another sprout which, unless logic were a delusion and a snare, must yet come from the parent stem, *i. e.*, "that as Lodges cannot affiliate any one not in good standing, and as non-affiliates are not in good standing, *ergo*, non-affiliates cannot be admitted to membership." Sooner, even than we expected, it breaks ground in Nebraska, in this shape :—

*Resolved*, That in the matter of demits required, under this jurisdiction, to accompany applications for charters, none shall be admissible if of an older date than one year from the time application is made for a charter.

*Resolved*, That Masons holding demits over one year old shall not be competent petitioners for dispensations granted by this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

Verily, masonic jurisprudence is a marvelous thing.

We regret to record the fact that the Grand Lodge decided to organize a life assurance association, even providing that the Grand Secretary shall be secretary of the association, and that the annual election for directors shall be held on the second day of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. What shall be the future of Masonry when those whose first duty is the conservation of its ancient purity take the initiative in converting it into a mere matter of dollars and cents?

Bro.: Robbins took our Grand Secretary to task, in his 1873 review, for failing to give the address of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary on the back cover of our proceedings. We felt it our "solemn duty" to defend Bro.: Bowen in the premises, upon which Bro.: Robbins apologizes thus:—

It gives us great pleasure to say that not only is there no cause for complaint, but abundant room for commendation; and the work of Bro.: Bowen for the present year but serves to confirm the favorable opinion we had heretofore formed, notwithstanding the evidence that the work was new to him. Our idea of a model Grand Secretary is that he should confine himself to the business of his office (except when other work is referred to him), but of that business should be master, and do it with judgment and with conscientious care and accuracy. Bro.: Bowen already answers all these requirements.

Criticising our review, he comes out as follows:—

Bro.: Wise dissents from the notion that dues can accrue against a Mason under suspension; holds as incorrect the Arkansas decision that an entry should never be made, either on the petition or Lodge books, of how a committee reported, but we think if he will reflect upon the situation when one who has been rejected on an unfavorable report, and is afterwards admitted, and has access to the records, a very good reason will suggest itself to his mind for modifying his views; is puzzled to know whether the granting of a dispensation to hold a ball is one of the ancient prerogatives of the Grand Master; betrays a fondness for rhyming words that has set us to wondering whether, if he had lived under the more tropical skies which smile on Bro.: Blackshear, he, too, might not have been a poet; thinks non-affiliation should be made a masonic offense, but fails to tell us why the simple exercise of one's rights under the law should be held obnoxious to the law; refers to, without expressing an opinion on, the action of the District of Columbia relative to mixed funerals; holds, as we infer, that when the Lodge is closed there is nothing left open that will spoil, whether the closing has been on one degree or three; is evidently surprised, as well he might be, to learn from Georgia that a Lodge has not jurisdiction over non-affiliated Masons residing within its limits; is not disposed to stop to discuss the question of *common usage*, but is very greatly mistaken if the Lodge over which he has had the honor to preside for long years would not *make haste* to reimburse any Lodge who should be to the expense of taking care of one of her children in his last illness and burial; believes, with us, that a Master Mason has an indisputable right to apply for affiliation wherever he may choose; is pleased to learn that the famous Mississippi "Spight case" has finally been settled, but we imagine when he gets the Mississippi proceedings for the two following years he will conclude it was a pretty lively corpse; does not believe it is *one of the prerogatives* of a Grand Lodge to operate an insurance society, which leads us to cherish the hope that *nine more* of his opinion may be found in his jurisdiction, and that Nebraska may yet be saved; objects, we are glad to note, to the use of the word "Order" as applied to Masonry; holds that a candidate, whether rejected or elected and initiated, is the sole property of the Lodge petitioned, until that body relinquishes jurisdiction, which we will not dispute; and

says you might as well hold that parties may *marry*, as that they may be *installed*, by proxy, a view which, if accepted, will put an effectual quietus on irregular installations in Nebraska.

Bro.: Robbins' review was considered by the Grand Lodge of Illinois to be worth at least \$500.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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## INDIAN TERRITORY, 1875.

The First Annual Communication of this new Grand Lodge was held at Eufaula, on the 7th day of September, M.: W.: G. McPherson, Grand Master, and R.: W.: R. P. Jones, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address is brief, but full of good counsel.

We excerpt one paragraph :

The Grand Lodges of the United States, and of the whole world, will take a deeper interest in us than has ever been manifested for any Grand Body within the limits of the Great Republic, from the fact that we are the first Grand Lodge of Affluent, Free, and Accepted Masons ever organized by the aborigines of North America. Many who are ignorant of the situation of affairs in this country will look upon us with grave doubts and misgivings; while others, more familiar with us and our advanced stage of civilization, will watch us closely, though at the same time feel confident of our ability to sustain ourselves in the proud position we have assumed. It but remains for us, brethren, to do our duty, prove ourselves worthy of their confidence, and finally win a high place in the noble sisterhood of Grand Lodges. My brethren, think of it! We are erecting a Temple in this grand and glorious Indian Territory which is to live throughout all time to come. A Subordinate Lodge may surrender its charter and cease to exist, but Grand Lodges never die! From one generation to another they go on, gathering strength with each succeeding year.

The following resolution was defeated, we are sorry to say, as their action is contrary to all Masonic usage and authority. We trust they will see their mistake and make haste to rectify it :

*Resolved*, That no Mason shall be eligible to the office of Worshipful Master in a Subordinate Lodge, in this jurisdiction, until he shall have been elected to, and served as Senior or Junior Warden of a Blue Lodge, in this or some other organized Grand Jurisdiction.

The following resolution, which was adopted, is also contrary to general usage. In our jurisdiction, no Lodge is entitled to representation in Grand Lodge unless it be a regular, chartered Lodge. And no Lodge is regularly chartered until it has received its charter and has been regularly constituted, and its officers legally installed :

*Resolved*, That Bro.: G. W. Franklin be received as proxy for Vinita Lodge, and Brethren E. H. Wolverton and Hood be received as proxies of Valley Lodge, and that these brethren be allowed all the rights and privileges of members of this Grand Body. which was adopted.

The Grand Orator delivered an address full of sound wisdom, upon the occasion of the installation of Grand Officers.

We wish them the fulfillment of their fondest anticipations in the erection of their moral and Masonic edifice.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

### IOWA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Des Moines, on the 1st day of June, M. W. Joseph Chapman in the Grand East, and R. W. Theodore S. Parvin at the Grand Secretary's table.

The Grand Master's address is a brief, systematic review of his labors and doings; and contains such suggestions as occurred to him, of needful legislation for the Craft in Iowa.

Under the head of "Dancing in Lodge Rooms," we find the following in the address:

During the year I have been called upon and have made several decisions — some of them reversing decisions heretofore made, and approved by the Grand Lodge. These decisions have been submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and will be reported to you through that Committee.

I regret to say that one of my decisions, prohibiting *dancing in the lodge room* in connection with a festival, has occasioned more stir in and outside of the Fraternity than I could have wished.

The circumstances out of which this decision grew I will state briefly, as follows: Since the dedication of the Freemasons' Hall, in the city of Dubuque, February 21st, 1871, which was closed with a Festival and Dance, it has been the custom of the Craft to hold one or more Assemblies annually, at which the wives, daughters, and especially invited guests of the brethren, were present and participated in the social pleasures of such occasions, without having the propriety of such proceedings called in question.

During the past winter, the Board of Directors of the Freemasons' Hall Association had in contemplation the holding of the usual Annual Festival, and active preparations were being made for the same, when a protest was entered to me against dancing in the Lodge Room, by a Brother and member of one of the Dubuque Lodges. I ruled that, the protest having been made, the dance in connection with the proposed festival, to be given under the direction of the Board of the Freemasons' Hall Association, could not take place in the Lodge Room. This ruling was not received with favor by the Board, or by the brethren generally in that city, but the dance and festival were finally abandoned.

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The protest and my action thereon were based on the following resolution, passed by the Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1856:

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge is opposed to the practice, which has prevailed, to some extent, of connecting dancing with Masonry, or using the name or symbols of Masonry in connection with a ball.

This resolution I recommend be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, for their opinion as to the question of law involved.

The Committee reported, sustaining the action of the Grand Master, and re-endorsing the resolution above quoted, and in addition say:

It is the opinion of your Committee that it is not a question as to whether dancing is *right or wrong in itself*, but whether a majority of any Lodge has a right to connect dancing, or *anything else* not purely Masonic, with that which is Masonic, so as to debar a minority, or a single individual member, on account of his or their conscientious scruples, from the enjoyment of any of the rights and privileges of Masonry.

Right here, in this connection, we desire to say that our sentiments are perfectly expressed in the above *opinion* of the Committee. We put ourself on record in our review of last year, and although the world, the flesh, and the devil were to rise up and assault our position, we would "hold the fort" still.

The report was re-committed to the Committee, with instructions to "strike out," all that refers to "Dancing in Masonic Halls."

The Committee "*immediately*" reported, declining "to strike out," as they had expressed *their views*, and were not disposed to report the views of *other persons*. After a considerable amount of "*bushwhacking*," the whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

We note the following query and decision, reported by the Grand Master:

QUERY No. 2. We conferred first and second degrees upon Brother A. The Brother has moved into the jurisdiction of Blank Lodge. To accommodate Brother A, we gave permission to Blank Lodge to confer the third degree; they done (?) so. Brother A has signed By-Laws of Blank Lodge. Is this in accordance with the usual practice? [The (?) is ours.]

ANSWER. No, sir. Blank Lodge should certify to your Lodge that they had, in accordance with your request, raised Brother A. This certificate should be made a matter of record in your Lodge, and, as soon as convenient, Brother A will sign your By-Laws, and by so doing become an active co-worker with you.

In this decision we concur. But it depends upon which foot the shoe is on.

Some time about seven years ago, a Brother Fellow Craft of the Lodge to which we then belonged, and of which we were Secretary, resided in Council Bluffs. He came to Nebraska, to his own Lodge, and was examined as to proficiency, and was elected to receive the third degree, but, it being inconvenient to receive the degree in his own Lodge, he asked that his Lodge request or permit Blank Lodge, in Council Bluffs, to confer the third degree upon him.

The Lodge granted his request, and addressed the Lodge at Council Bluffs, requesting them to confer the degree, and, when conferred, to notify the Nebraska Lodge of the fact. Iowa Lodge notified Nebraska Lodge that they had conferred the degree, as requested, and that, at the conclusion of the ceremony, the W. M. informed the candidate that he could sign their By-Laws and become a member of their Lodge. The candidate signed the By-Laws. The Nebraska Lodge immediately sent their written protest to the Iowa Lodge. The latter Lodge sought their Grand Master's opinion, and he informed them that the course pursued by them was right, and that the Brother was properly a member of their Lodge. *Sed hæc hæctenus.*

Grand Secretary Parvin is up to his usual standard with his reports.

The Grand Lodges of the Indian Territory and Wyoming were recognized.

Resolutions were adopted, asking the Governor of Iowa to call the attention of the legislature to the great need of orphan asylums throughout the State, for the proper care of destitute orphans.

A singular case was "discovered and brought to light" in the Grand Lodge, after it had lain buried in darkness for some time.

A Brother was expelled for gross unmasonic conduct by a Lodge of which he was a member, and over which one of Iowa's gifted, grandiloquent P.: G.: M.: 's had the honor of presiding.

In the returns of the Lodge, on May 12th, 1874, he is reported expelled. On the 3rd of June the Grand Lodge affirmed the action of the Subordinate. The returns of the Lodge for 1875 show that he was reinstated by the Lodge on the 21st of May, 1874—between the time the returns for 1874 were sent up and the meeting of the Grand Lodge. All this in the face of a regulation of the Grand Lodge, of which the aforesaid P.: G.: M.: was the author, withal, which provides that a Subordinate Lodge cannot reinstate an expelled Mason.

The matter was reported on by the Committee on jurisprudence, but the consideration of the report goes over till the next Annual Communication—the Grand Master receiving instructions to direct the Worshipful Master to conform to said regulation and declare the unfortunate Brother "*expelled.*"

A committee of nine was appointed to prepare a new Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges; and they are required to meet upon the call of the Grand Master, and to "sit" until the work is accomplished. We shall look with considerable interest for the result, as they have been patching, amending, repealing, and re-enacting until they scarcely know what is law in the jurisdiction. We hope to see a model Constitution as the result of their labors.

Interesting Biographical Sketches of Past Grand Masters A. R. Cotton and John F. Sanford, M. D., Grand Master H. W. Rothert, and Past Junior Grand Warden Wm. E. Miller, are given. We like the practice.

The Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is presented by Bro.: H. J. B. Cummings, and a real treat it is to those who have the privilege of reading it.

His style is very happy and entertaining. He says, "it is barely possible that Chairman Wise, of Nebraska, is poking a little fun at Brother Parvin for writing up his own with the other biographies of our Past Grand Masters."

"Not a bit of it." It was only jealousy on our part, because his life furnishes material for one, and ours does not.

They are delighted with their "Annals" over in Iowa, and laugh and poke fun at the rest of us because we can't get little *picture letters* to pictorialize our proceedings. Never mind, Brother Cummings, we'll show you, when we get big.

A beautiful oration was delivered on the occasion by Bro.: P. Gad Bryan.

The Iowa Proceedings are models of neatness and systematic arrangement.

The Craft are prosperous and harmonious.

M.: W.: Henry W. Rothert is Grand Master, and T. S. Parvin Grand Secretary—for life (?).

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### KANSAS, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Topeka on the 20th day of October—M.: W.: Owen A. Bassett, Grand Master, and R.: W.: John H. Brown, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master delivered a beautiful and instructive oration at the opening of Grand Lodge, and after the report of the Committee on Credentials he delivered his annual report. He reports their foreign relations as harmonious. Referring to the subject of negro Masonry within his jurisdiction, he says:—

Pseudo Masonry exists in this and many other Grand Lodge jurisdictions, and the claims of the so-called colored Lodges are attracting attention, not only on this but on the other side of the Atlantic. Neither the interests of Masonry nor of true humanity required the organization of those societies, for the American Grand Lodges wage no war of race, or sect, or condition—all are alike welcome, subject to the restrictions common to all men; hence affiliation in a colored Lodge may be considered merely a matter of choice on the part of him who of his own free will and accord enters its portals. No reference would be made at this time to this subject but for the fact that strenuous efforts are being made for their recognition as Masons, with a fair prospect of success in some of the European Grand Lodges; nor would this fact alone give cause for alarm—the danger lies in the subversion of the well settled and well recognized law, existing without dissent among the American Grand Lodges, of exclusive *territorial* jurisdiction. It is not necessary, however, to turn aside and weep rhetorical tears, for the masonic society is not doomed, nor does it stand on the brink of dissolution. There is a moral, numerical, and intellectual strength in the Grand Lodges on the western continent sufficient to conduct this controversy according to common masonic intercourse, and without violence to truth and reason; yet it is to be regretted that a subject so fruitful of discord could not have been permitted to remain forever in obscurity.

He reports contributions from the fraternity within the state to the amount of \$798.35, and from sister Grand Lodges \$8,196.45, for the relief of the destitute and needy within his jurisdiction during the year. And upon this subject he says:—

Masonic charity was never more beautifully or forcibly illustrated to hundreds of destitute brothers, their wives and little ones, than during the period which has elapsed since you were last assembled; for when misfortune befell them—when a dark, impenetrable gloom surrounded them—when they needed something more than mere expressions of sympathy—their hearts were made glad, and they were filled with gratitude for the liberality manifested by those who provided for their necessities. They could truly say, the naked were clothed and the hungry provided with meat. It is not possible to convey in words the thanks of the recipients of these benefactions. The Masonry which teaches its votaries to carry into daily life and practice the tenets of their profession, and bids them wait not for invitations to visit the sick, to relieve the distressed and minister to the suffering, and the Masonry which teaches universal love and benevolence, and inspires in all who come within its influence a veneration for that undefined and incomprehensible power from whence springs man's love for man, by

such manifestations of fraternal care, mingling the cardinal virtues and Christian graces, weaves the silken threads of affection, which, entwining around the hearts of men, bind them to each other. But the past, with all its gloom and sadness, has departed; the broken clouds are hurrying away, and the present yields but little evidence of the great calamity which, like a pall, so recently hung over you; and, though the future is full of promise, and the reward of industry, an abundant harvest, has given such encouragement that none are found to turn from this bright picture to predict a new despair, be not unmindful of the source of these great blessings, for they are not the gifts of men, but of an all-bountiful providence, the fountain from which flows the streams by which the weary traveler on life's journey may be refreshed.

His decisions are all sound. We copy but one—it gives our views on the subject:—

22. No one can be deprived of his rights and privileges as a member until by due trial and conviction for some offense charged, and sentence has been recorded; and all regulations depriving any of their prerogatives are obnoxious, and ought not to be regarded.

The Grand Secretary suggests:—

There should be kept in the office of the Grand Secretary a register, arranged in alphabetical order, of the names of each member, giving date of admission and demission, and the number, name, and location of the Lodge of which they are members. I have in many instances recognized the want of such a record.

The Grand Lodge wisely concurred with the suggestion.

The Grand Lodges of Wyoming and Dakota were recognized. The Grand Lodges of the Indian Territory, Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island were not.

Bro.: Brown presented an excellent review of the proceedings of forty-five corresponding Grand Bodies, covering one hundred and thirty-seven pages. Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial and extended notice.

Under District of Columbia, quoting Grand Master Johnson upon "the profuse and conspicuous display of masonic jewelry," Bro.: Brown pertinently adds:—

Neither tawdry finery nor blazing jewels will cover up a vicious life or supplement an empty head. While genius disdains ornament, the man of understanding avoids everything which contributes to arouse attention or attract the vulgar gaze. Years ago, an eminent critic well said, the wearing of jewelry was a relic of barbarism, and reflecting men do not dissent from his judgment. Masonic jewels were intended for use in Lodges—not to be worn over heartless breasts—not to be pictured on placards nor mounted on sign boards. Masons profess to despise mere show and sham. If they hope to gain respect for their pretensions, if they wish to leave an ineffaceable impress of their principles upon the age—an age far too remarkable for blare, glitter, and social fictions—they will discontinue every practice which militates against those principles, or in the least tends to lessen the respect that will be secured if in their integrity they be maintained.

In noticing our proceedings he says:—

The published record of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge makes a book of two hundred and sixty-four pages, executed in every particular with taste. It has few equals, and few, if any, superiors.

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The Grand Secretary's general and financial reports are models, proving him to be a master workman of unusual business powers.

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A careful perusal of the journal of proceedings shows that our Nebraska friends were not satisfied with their predecessors' acts, and, judging from the quantity of legislation and the skill with which it was effected, we feel certain that many prominent therein had formerly served in their state legislature. Doubtless no Grand Lodge can get on without some legislation, but the evil now imminent is too much of it and too hastily accomplished, to meet current or future wants; hence, repeal, revision, and extension are the order of the day. Whatever laws are passed should be comprehensible by the average mind, and not amended except after conclusive proof of failure, and the most mature consideration. Masonry is conservative, and its laws, rules, and regulations should be few, clear, and stable. No change, however wisely considered, fails to bring in some confusion to delay important work or hinder progress.

Bro.: Geo. S. Smith is credited with a fine oration, and complimented by extended quotations.

Of us he says:—

The Report on Correspondence was prepared by Bro.: J. N. Wise. It is a careful and interesting review of forty-two American Grand Lodges and five in the British Provinces. All receive fraternal attention. His selections betoken purpose, and his comments are frank and to the point.

In answer to our queries as to how those ladies and other "profane" fellows got into the Grand Lodge while at labor, he says:—

We answer Bro.: Wise's interrogatories *seriatim*. The brethren present vouched for those ladies. There were no *profanes* at hand; all others were *pious*, and for that reason needed no vouchers.

It is the custom here, and has been for years, to install publicly, and we beg leave to assure Bro.: Wise none but good results have followed.

We accept your apology, Bro.: Brown, and presume it was all right. When we install in public, we call to refreshment. But doctors will differ, you know.

M.: W.: Isaac B. Sharp is Grand Master, and R.: W.: John H. Brown, Grand Secretary.

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## KENTUCKY, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Louisville, on the 19th day of October, M.: W.: H. Bostwick, Grand Master, and R.: W.: John M. Todd, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address is very brief, but business-like.

He admonishes the brethren that, notwithstanding their mutual congratulations upon assembling again in their Annual Communication, thoughts of sadness come, for in vain they look "for the well-known form and familiar face" of their late Grand Secretary, Bro.: J. M. S. McCorkle, who died on the 5th day of March, 1875.

Bro.: McCorkle was Grand Secretary for twenty-one consecutive years, with the exception of one year. We heartily join our Kentucky

brethren in their lamentations over the grave of the honored and illustrious dead. He did not belong to Kentucky, but to the whole Craft, wheresoever dispersed. *Conquiescat in pace.*

Nine dispensations were issued for the organization of new Lodges.

We regret to note a very material misfortune which befell that noble institution, the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home and Infirmary, which will be explained by the following extract from the Address:

On the 2d day of June, 1875, a severe storm passed over the southern portion of the city of Louisville, strewing destruction in its pathway. The main portion of the building, which was unfinished, was almost entirely destroyed, and it was afterwards found necessary to take down the towers. This calamity involved a loss of some \$25,000 upon the Board of Directors; but, thanks to the noble-hearted brethren of Louisville, who had already done so much for this beneficiary charity, they were equal to the emergency. They at once called a public meeting and resolved to raise an amount sufficient to make good all damage done by the storm, and before the meeting adjourned the entire sum was provided for.

The reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary show a very healthy condition of finances, notwithstanding a donation of \$78,000 by the Grand Lodge to the Widows' and Orphans' Home.

A fine tribute was paid to the memory of Brother John C. Breckinridge, who died on the 17th day of May, 1875.

Six hundred dollars were voted to the family of the late Grand Secretary—a very appropriate appropriation.

From the Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence we excerpt the following:

1. The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred this question, to-wit 'At the time for the regular meeting of the Lodge (Subordinate), the Master or one of the Wardens being present, with two other Master Masons, can a Lodge of Master Masons be opened?' report that a Lodge of Master Masons may be opened with this number.

We are informed that *anciently* three could open a Lodge, but—we'd like to see three open one now. The fact is, so far as our information goes, we are nowhere taught that three constitute a Master Mason's Lodge in the present time. If we are wrong, we would like to receive more light.

The following proposition to change the constitutional make-up of the Grand Lodge was submitted and lies over under the rules:

Amend Section 2, Article 1. Part I, of the Constitution, by striking out after the words 'they being members of Subordinate Lodges' to the words "Grand Lodge," and inserting in lieu thereof, "That for every two hundred Masons, members of Subordinate Lodges within any county or city having a separate representation in the Legislature of Kentucky, there shall be one delegate to represent them in the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. And when there shall be a fractional part of Masons therein of over one hundred and less than two hundred members of Subordinate Lodges, such fractional part shall have one delegate to represent it in said Grand Lodge. The oldest chartered Lodge in any city or county shall be entitled to the first Representative under this amendment who shall be the Master, or, in his absence, the Senior Warden, or, in his absence the Junior Warden of said Lodge; and in their absence, the Lodge shall elect a Representative in their stead, who shall be a member of said Lodge electing him; and his elec-

tion as such shall be certified to the Grand Lodge under the seal of said Lodge. Where any city or county shall be entitled to more than one Representative, the next oldest chartered Lodge in said city or county shall furnish said Representative. And so on, where said city or county are entitled to additional Representatives. After these Representatives have served one term in the Grand Lodge, then the next oldest chartered Lodge shall be entitled to the representation at the succeeding term of the Grand Lodge; and so on, until each and every Lodge shall have represented the membership residing in their respective cities or counties successively." And that all provisions of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, inconsistent with this amendment, shall be stricken out and made to conform thereto.

The familiar name, J. M. S. McCorkle, will no more grace the pages of the Proceedings of Kentucky as the able and courteous writer of the Reports on Foreign Correspondence. His pen has fallen into other hands.

The report this year is prepared by P. G. M. Thomas Todd. He reviews the transactions of forty-one American and ten European Grand Bodies.

Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial notice. He commends our resolutions of non-intercourse with France and Hamburg, and credits us with an "able" Report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. W. John H. Leathers was elected Grand Master, and R. W. John M. Todd, Grand Secretary.

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## LOUISIANA, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held in New Orleans, on the 14th day of February, M. W. John Graham Fleming, Grand Master, and R. W. J. C. Bachelor, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address covers forty-six pages. He elaborates his subjects and treats them exhaustively. The address is able and interesting.

His decisions are in the general current. He says the D. D. Grand Masters report an encouraging condition of the Craft in their respective districts.

He is further informed that the portion of the State which was overflowed in 1874 is rejoicing over abundant crops. We are particularly rejoiced to hear this statement.

He devotes three pages to the "Color-Line" of Ohio, and he does it well.

We trust we will not do the Grand Master an injustice in copying the following portion, *only*, upon the subject:

This will be the first time that ever the subject of Color or Negro has been discussed, either by any Grand Master in his address, or by the Grand Lodge, and I most sincerely regret the circumstances that render such a step necessary; but if the supposed prejudice against our colored citizens is to be made the ground work or excuse for trampling upon the fundamental laws, usages, and customs of our Fraternity, I think it is time the

Grand Lodge of Louisiana, which is most deeply interested in the issue, should proclaim her verdict and try the virtue of remonstrance, even though it tries it in vain.

It is only necessary to refer to the history of Prince Hall Lodge of Massachusetts, and the records of the Grand Lodge of England, to find the most undeniable proof that these pseudo Masons have no legitimate standing; and if they are to be admitted on the ground that "all men are born free and equal," why not be entirely consistent and admit all clandestines, regardless of color, and even other secret societies, if they will only change their name and induce a *willing* committee to proclaim that their work and ceremonies, and means of recognition, are the same as ours?

Then let us go further, and, so far as we are concerned, overturn the moral laws of society and the civil laws of the land, by claiming that children born of adultery or concubinage have equal hereditary and legal rights with those born in wedlock, and that marriage is a useless ceremony.

If philanthropy is the spirit, and the only spirit, at the bottom of this movement, then the leaders of it, both in France and Ohio, are pursuing a very unwise course. If there is any prejudice against the colored man, it can be abolished sooner and more effectually by legal and conciliatory, than by illegal and coercive measures. Let the colored man alone, so far as Masonry is concerned, to work out his own destiny and standing in society, and the day will no doubt come that in this country he can, as he does now in England and France, enter our Fraternity by virtue of his merit and intelligence, and by being made a Mason in a *legally constituted constituent Lodge*, which, in my opinion, is the only body that can legally make him one. It is to be hoped that the constituent Lodges of Ohio will grapple and render powerless the arm that is raised to strike this suicidal blow.

We endorse the Grand Master's position on this subject.

He had occasion to arrest the charter of a Lodge for conferring the third degree on a Fellow Craft contrary to the regulations of the Grand Lodge. We copy the following in relation thereto:

I at first arrested the charter of the Lodge and suspended the W. Master from office for conferring the degree of Master Mason on a Fellow Craft, who had been passed some six years ago, without first submitting his application to a committee, as required by the By-Laws of this Grand Lodge.

Finding afterwards, however, that the W. Master had acted wilfully and knowingly in the matter, and that, whilst the Senior Warden upheld him in doing so, a large number of the members of the Lodge did not, I suspended the first two officers *from all their rights and privileges as Masons*, and restored the charter, placing it in the hands of the Junior Warden in time to permit the Lodge to hold the regular election of officers for the present year. The election not having resulted to suit certain of the Brothers, some thirteen of them joined the W. M. and S. W. in a protest against the election, and my action as well. This protest was submitted at the installation of the officers elected and will be found to be a very revolutionary document. It was taken possession of by my acting Deputy, and upon its receipt I at once suspended the other signers, as I had already the first two officers.

The italics are ours. With our present Masonic education, we are not willing to admit that any Mason may be justly and Masonically deprived of his *rights and privileges* as a Mason, without first being brought under *charges and due trial*. Nor are we of that class who accord to the Grand Master a prerogative of that kind—suspending Masons from all *their rights and privileges as Masons*. We do not wish to be understood as criticising the action of the Grand Master of Louisiana in the case referred to, but our desire has simply been to give expression to our own views upon that question.

The Louisiana Relief Lodge had distributed to the necessities of appli-

cants hailing from twenty-two Grand Lodge Jurisdictions—none from Nebraska.

Dakota, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and Wyoming were duly recognized.

A very large amount of business was done, occupying a six days session.

An able Report on Foreign Correspondence, covering two hundred and three pages, was presented by Brother Wm. R. Whitaker, for the Committee. Forty-three American and nine Foreign Grand Bodies are critically reviewed. Nebraska for 1874 receives due notice

Speaking of Brother Bowen, he says :

He presents in the proceedings the imprint of an "embossing seal" for the Grand Master; the claw of a wild beast, perhaps intended to represent the paw of the lion of the tribe of Judah. As a seal, it is decidedly neat, but its heraldic significance would be a little plainer if the text of the report gave us some information as to the animal from which it was "cut."

The Grand Secretary recommends that the proceedings of the Grand Lodge be printed from its organization, and stereotyped, and that from \$150 to \$300 per annum be devoted to this work, which, to be done without haste, should extend over several years. The recommendation is a most excellent one, and our Nebraska brethren will find great benefit from its adoption at this early period in the existence of their Grand Lodge.

He gives Brother Smith credit with a very fine oration. Endorses our resolutions on France and Hamburg.

Quoting our criticism under Texas, upon the holding of a Lodge of Sorrow on the Sabbath day, he says :

We presume, then, our Brother would refuse to attend the funeral of a Brother Mason on a Sunday? How far will this Sabbatarian predilection carry some of the Fraternity?

Not at all, my good brother. We are ever ready, Sabbath or week-day, to aid in burying a Brother Mason. Holding a Lodge of Sorrow is an entirely different ceremony, and may be held on another day more appropriately than on the Sabbath.

We copy the following only to say we hope you will not be disappointed when you do get the report :

We regret extremely not having received the Report of the Proceedings of Nebraska for 1875. It would have given us great pleasure to have profited by the excellent review we know Brother Wise must have submitted to his Grand Lodge at its last session.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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## MAINE, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held in Portland on the 2d day of May—M. W. Albert Moore, Grand Master, and R. W. Ira Berry, Grand Secretary.

An excellent address was delivered by the Grand Master, from which we excerpt the following sensible remarks upon the—

SECRET BALLOT.

Another prolific source of evil is the abuse of the secret ballot. A conscientious exercise of the right of the secret ballot is the unquestionable right of every member. For the exercise of this privilege the member is amenable to his own conscience alone, and can be called in question by no other authority. Proportioned to the effect of a conscientious or a malicious use of the ballot on the reputation of the applicant, is the responsibility of every Mason for its rightful exercise. We can have no theoretic knowledge of the misuse of the secret ballot, and yet we all know that in some Lodges a clear ballot is unknown for months, and even years. The work of the Lodge is seriously obstructed by the vengeful black-ball cast by some disaffected member, who is not endowed with the gift to see himself as others see him, and hence imagines that he is not properly appreciated and duly promoted. No Mason is worthy of the name, who, animated by such a spirit, seizes upon the ballot-box to avenge himself of some fancied neglect by the Lodge, or of some private pique against the candidate or those presenting him. He violates his masonic and moral obligations, and deserves the severest censure.

True, these are isolated cases, but they are exceedingly vexatious and troublesome, for the reason that there is virtually no remedy or redress. Shielded by the very bulwark whose sanctity they violate, they are beyond the reach of law or discipline; and, as if to aggravate the evil, it often happens that the mistaken zeal of the Lodge leads to a premature and improper discussion (any discussion is improper) of the offense, and to the concoction of various schemes and questionable devices, to discover and identify the offender. A moment's reflection should convince us that such conduct strikes at the fundamental principles of the order, is fraught with danger to the efficacy and protection of the secret ballot, and will ultimately destroy it. When the ballot has been declared it should cease to be a subject of thought or discussion. There is no safety in any other course, and both Lodge and members ought to strictly adhere to this practice.

Four dispensations were granted for the organization of new Lodges. Twenty-four decisions were reported, of which we subjoin two:—

4. If, before a ballot, it is discovered that the Lodge has no jurisdiction, the fact should be entered of record and the petition returned.
17. Suspension for non-payment of dues involves the loss of membership only, but leaves the brother in the enjoyment of the rights and benefits of Masonry. On being reinstated, he should pay his dues assessed during suspension. Suspension for unmasonic conduct involves the loss of all the rights and benefits of Masonry—so that, on being restored, he should not be subjected to dues during suspension.

The first we think is correct, but the latter we do not endorse. As we have elsewhere observed, the payment of dues we hold to be a consideration of Lodge privileges, and, hence, while deprived of those privileges—that is to say, privileges appertaining to *membership*—the suspended brother should not be chargeable with dues.

A "Maine Masonic Text Book" was authorized.

An "alleged attempt to influence members of a jury, in the trial of a cause, by a party, by allusions to Masonry," was severely and justly condemned by the Grand Lodge.

One hundred and forty-two pages are devoted to the Report on Foreign Correspondence, in which are reviewed, in Bro.: Drummond's masterly style, the proceedings of *fifty-seven* Annual Communications, embracing fifty Grand Lodges. Nebraska for 1875 was not received.

we regret. The report is written, almost entirely, in Bro.: Drummond's own language, which he calls "an experiment."

Under Minnesota, upon the temperance question, he answers Bro.: Pierson in the following remarks, which meet our views precisely:—

He objects to the discussion of the "temperance question" in masonic papers. While he personally is in favor of the "touch not, taste not, and handle not" doctrine, and is with those who "make war upon the making, selling, or using the pernicious thing," and that, too, on account of his own experience, still he deprecates the introduction of the subject on masonic occasions. We do not see the force of the objection. In the first degree we are taught that temperance is a masonic "cardinal virtue," which it is the duty of all Masons to practice everywhere and on all occasions. Now, if Masons forget their duty in this respect, it certainly cannot be out of place to exhort them to remember it. We have read some very forcible and even sharp articles from the pen of Bro.: Pierson against evil-speaking by one Mason of another, and we thanked him for it, for that has become a crying evil among us; and we believe that it is proper, and our duty, to rebuke intemperance, profanity, slander, and other vices among Masons; more, if Masons will persist in them, or any of them, we hold that they should be expelled. We do not agree with Bro.: Pierson, that no Mason can bring disgrace on Masonry; we think Masonry is disgraced when its votaries make it in the eyes of the community a synonym for profanity, intemperance, or evil-speaking.

Under Ohio, in commenting upon the proposed recognition of the negro Grand Lodge, he says:—

We shall not, at this point, devote space to the discussion of this question, because we hope and intend, before closing this report, to discuss it under a special head. We will only say that, in our judgment, the proposed action of Ohio is utterly inadmissible; because:—

1. *It annihilates the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction.*
2. *It introduces into Masonry, for the first time, a distinction founded on race.*

We regret exceedingly to perceive that some good brethren seem to have "lost their heads," in consequence of the discussion of this question, and have become unduly excited over it. We even see it stated in the masonic prints that the members of one Grand Lodge are seriously proposing to place it "under the protection" of the Supreme Council of the A.: A.: Rite. It may be that we are to have a masonic "irrepressible conflict" upon this question; but we have an abiding faith that, however the foolishness and passions will contrive to destroy Masonry, God will overrule all things for good, and bring the institution out of all its troubles, based upon a firmer foundation, and more powerful than ever before to enlighten and elevate mankind. But with this faith, we do not propose to be diverted by enthusiasm on the one hand, or fear and prejudice on the other, from pursuing such course as it shall be given us to see that justice and the welfare of Masonry require.

A very able discussion of the status of negro Masonry in the United States is given by Bro.: Drummond at the conclusion of his review, but its length precludes copying.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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## MARYLAND, 1875.

A special session was held on the 27th day of June, for the purpose of paying the last sad tribute of respect to the remains of Bro.: Daniel A. Piper, a Mason prominently associated with the history of the craft

in Maryland, and one of the leading spirits of the Masonic Convention held in Baltimore in 1843.

The Annual Communication was held at the Masonic Temple, in Baltimore, on the 15th day of November — M. W. John H. B. Latrobe, Grand Master, and R. W. J. H. Medairy, Grand Secretary.

The annual address of the Grand Master is brief, and exclusively devoted to home interests. In referring to the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, he says:—

The Grand Master has, therefore, most unwillingly to admit that, in his great anxiety to meet this most honorable obligation at the earliest day, allowances were not made for unexpected contingencies, and that the resumption of the payment of interest on the stock debt will have to be still further postponed.

We noticed this embarrassment last year, and hoped that ere this the Grand Lodge would have found a happy deliverance from the unpleasant situation.

The Grand Master regrets the almost universal delinquency of the Grand Inspectors in the performance of their duties.

Four hundred and five dollars, in subscriptions, were received for the Masonic Library.

A large committee was appointed to organize a Lodge of Relief in Baltimore.

The following we clip:—

As a member of Monumental Lodge, No. 96, I have the honor to present to you, and through you to this Grand Lodge, for its acceptance, a sand-stone plumb-bob found at the ruins of the Temple of Coum-Oumbus, in Egypt, by Mr. James E. Tyson, a gentleman and merchant of this city of high standing, and whose word is reliable.

By the chronicles of that part of the world, it appears the Temple was built about four thousand years ago, or in the time of Abraham, and about four hundred years before the birth of Moses.

Intrinsically it is worthless—for its antiquity valuable; and, although Mr. Tyson is not a Mason, it shows his respect for our ancient institution, and therefore he has requested me to hand it to this Grand Body for their acceptance.

Fraternally, etc.,

BALTIMORE, NOV. 16th, 1875.

THOS. O. WATSON, P. M.

The relic was accepted in appropriate terms. We confidently expect our Maryland brethren to walk *uprightly* hereafter.

A review of the proceedings of forty-four Grand Lodges—including Nebraska for 1874—was presented by Bro. John M. Carter. The report is well written.

Bro. George S. Smith has the credit of delivering “an able and instructive oration.”

But little of general interest attracts our attention in the proceedings before us.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

1876.

The Semi-Annual Communication was held in Baltimore on the 9th day of May, 1876,—R. W. Francis Burns, Deputy Grand Master, in the East, and R. W. J. H. Medairy, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master imparts the felicitous information that the financial condition of the Grand Lodge, from what might be called utter insolvency five years ago, has gradually improved, until now, without a dollar of floating indebtedness, and meeting punctually the interest on its mortgages and the ground rent on the Temple, its credit is equal to that of any other public institution, so far, at least, as its reputation for ability to meet any obligation it may now please to incur is concerned.

He complains of the failure of the Inspectors to discharge their duties. Having received reports from only six of them, he is unable to report upon the condition of the craft.

Very little of interest was transacted at this session.

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### MASSACHUSETTS, 1875.

A Special Communication was held, on the 6th day of August, for the purpose of paying the last sad tribute of respect to one of the greatest of Massachusetts' Masons—M. W. Past Grand Master Winslow Lewis. The occasion was one of great grief to the brethren in that jurisdiction. His death will be regretted wherever his name has been known, and we beg to assure our eastern brethren of our profoundest sympathy.

A Quarterly Communication was held, on the 8th day of September, M. W. Percival Lowell Everett, Grand Master, and R. W. Charles H. Titus, Grand Secretary. Two hundred and fifty-two pages of the proceedings of this Communication were devoted to the memory of Past Grand Master Winslow Lewis.

On this occasion, R. W. Charles Levi Woodbury, Past Deputy Grand Master, delivered a very interesting lecture on the "Evidences of the Antiquity of Freemasonry."

The Annual Communication was held on the 8th day of December.

An able and readable address was delivered by the Grand Master, from which we extract the following :

It becomes my duty to caution the Masters of Lodges against impostors and spurious Masons. A man calling himself Professor Charles de Lagarlier (undoubtedly an assumed name) has a room here in Essex street, where he confers what he purports to be the Degrees in Freemasonry. It is said that his victims number about fifty, and that he assures them, when the so-called Lodge has seventy members, they will receive a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Our only safeguard, besides a rigid examination, is to demand that strange visitors show their diploma. The Master of a Lodge at his installation, promises that no visitor shall be received into his Lodge without due examination, and producing proper vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge. These vouchers should be critically examined. It is sometimes annoying to a

brother to be refused admission because he has not his diploma with him; but if he has a spark of the true spirit of Masonry in him, he will see the justice of this requirement. The Masters of Lodges are, therefore, hereby directed not to admit visitors unless they produce their diploma, and pass a thorough examination, or can be vouched for by a brother who has sat in a Lodge with them.

From the Report of the Committee on Charity we excerpt the following:

Your Committee have been solicited to assist in paying mortgages, publishing books, securing patent rights, and introducing a valuable tooth-powder—in all of which cases, in the opinion of the applicants, great good would follow; but your Committee have in no case felt justified in “granting the prayer of the petitioners,” but have “given them leave to withdraw.”

The Committee did, however, dispense \$1,900 in charity.

On the 28th of December the “Grand Feast” was held, on which occasion everybody was happy, and “toasts” were the order of the day. Forty-seven pages are devoted to this joyous occasion.

We find, as usual, no report on Foreign Correspondence. Massachusetts is one of the few Grand Lodges that do not indulge in the custom of reviewing.

Another Quarterly Communication was held on the 8th day of March, 1876. At this session the Grand Lodge adopted a regulation providing for the appointment of a “Board of Commissioners of Trials,” before whom all trials may be had. It is provided, however, that the Grand Master may appoint a “Special Board of Commissioners for the trial of any given cause,” thus relieving the Subordinate Lodges of the delicate duty of trying their own members.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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## MICHIGAN, 1876.

A Special Communication was held in Detroit on the 29th day of May, 1875, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Public Library Building, in Center Park, on which occasion M. W. Grand Master George H. Durand delivered an excellent address. The following sentiments are worthy of note:—

Headless of croakers and idlers and slanderers, let us strike out like brave men for those social and politic conditions which shall elevate us to a higher life. Let us infuse into the world about us those elements which make society more charming, which make song and laughter and the innocent amusements and graceful pastimes of the young more pleasant, and which shall conspire to give us a nation of men and women noted for bravery, for gentleness, for magnanimity, for culture.

By so doing God will bless us in our lives, and in after years a grateful posterity will refer with pride and with gratitude to the history we have made.

The Annual Communication was held at Grand Rapids on the 25th day of January, 1876,—M. W. George H. Durand in the Grand East, and R. W. Foster Pratt, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master delivered an able address, from which we learn that nine Lodges were organized under dispensation. Several dispensations were granted for special purposes.

Among the decisions reported we find the following:—

ANSWER.— Any brother deeming himself aggrieved by the decision of his Lodge may appeal to the Grand Lodge. The right of appeal is not confined to the accuser, nor to any particular officer in the Lodge, but is a general right, and may be exercised by any brother who deems himself aggrieved by the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened. The reason of this right is based upon the principle that every Mason is directly interested in the good government of his Lodge, and in the integrity and moral purity of its membership; so that either the accused, the accuser, or any officer or member of the Lodge who deems the decision of the Lodge to be wrong is thereby aggrieved, and has an undoubted right to take an appeal to the Grand Lodge, whether such appellant is or is not *pro forma* a party to the record in the particular case prior to the appeal. The preservation of this right to every Mason is essential to judicial fairness in and by Lodges, and is doubly necessary as a protection to every member against unjust decisions and hasty or ill advised conclusions. It is therefore held that an appeal may be taken in the case referred to by any member of the Lodge who deems himself aggrieved.

QUESTION.— A brother in good standing applies for a demit and is refused. Is he liable to pay dues?

ANSWER.— Yes. The Lodge has a right to refuse a demit, and so long as the brother remains a member of the Lodge he is liable to pay dues under our regulations.

We cannot endorse the above. We think that when a brother in good standing, and clear of the books, asks for a demit, the Lodge should have no discretionary power to grant or refuse the request.

QUESTION.— Does the loss of sight in one eye, the other being sound, disqualify a person from receiving degrees in Masonry?

ANSWER.— I think the weight of authority upon this point is that such a defect does not amount to a physical disqualification. I shall therefore hold that the loss of one eye, the other being sound, does not render the petitioner physically disqualified.

The above is wrong, and the Grand Lodge so decided.

Eleven Lodges were chartered.

The Grand Lodge changed the time for the annual election in subordinate Lodges from June to December.

The following resolution was offered and laid on the table:—

*Resolved*, That the space occupied for Foreign Correspondence in the printed proceedings of this Grand Lodge shall not exceed an average of more than one page for each corresponding Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary submitted a Report on Foreign Correspondence, which was received and ordered to be printed; but, from a foot-note we learn that—

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence not having been received up to date, the proceedings have—very reluctantly—been sent to press without it.

We are sorry to miss a report from Michigan, as they are always good.

The following was adopted, and speaks for itself:—

WHEREAS, Additional revenue must be raised to meet the necessary expenses of the Grand Lodge for the current year; therefore,

*Resolved*, That an assessment of ten cents on each affiliated Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction be and the same is hereby laid, to be paid by the respective constituent Lodges and returned with their next annual dues.

M. W. Matthew H. Maynard was elected Grand Master, and R. W. Ellery I. Garfield, Grand Secretary.

### MINNESOTA, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held at St. Paul, on the 11th day of January, M. W. Charles Griswold, Grand Master, and R. W. W. S. Combs, Acting Grand Secretary.

We observe that the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, *and with prayer by the Grand Chaplain*; and a foot-note by the Grand Secretary informs us that this is "a departure from the custom of this Grand Lodge from its organization." Only think of a Grand Lodge getting along twenty-three years without prayer! No man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity, nor should a Grand Lodge. We suggest that Brother Gouley would do well to send two or three Chaplains up to Minnesota.

The Committee appointed at the session of 1875, to procure certain legislation, submitted their report, as did also Professor Pierson his Report on Foreign Correspondence, *before* the Committee on Credentials reported.

The Annual Address covers twenty-seven pages—eight of which are devoted to the claims of "Negro Masonry" to recognition by the Grand Lodges of the United States. We will indulge this subject, as some of our Grand Lodges are having the *nightmare* over Negro Masons.

Grand Master Griswold reviews the situation, and urges the Grand Lodge to a favorable consideration of the Negro. We have room for only one extract from his address on this question:

Again, the action of European Grand Lodges, and the proposed action of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, recognizing these colored Lodges, precipitates this question upon us, and makes it necessary for us to meet it. We cannot long defer its consideration, if we would. Now, brethren, what course shall we pursue? Shall we, or shall we not, extend to these Lodges Masonic recognition? If not, why not? "Because," says one, "they are clandestine, and we have solemnly agreed to hold no Masonic intercourse either with persons or organizations of that class." But how is it made to appear that they are clandestine? Certainly not by following up their line of descent, for, if we do this, we will find that their Masonic genealogy is as clear, true, unmistakable, and as easily traced as our own. We have not time to go into historic details, and, besides, that would more properly be the work of a committee; but we wish to call attention to the fact that the first Lodge of Colored Masons was organized in Boston, was chartered in 1784, and received its charter from the Grand Lodge of England, and was known upon its registry as "African Lodge, No. 459," and was so carried until the union of the Grand Lodges of England, in 1813, when, with all the other American Lodges, it was stricken off. From this beginning sprang all the colored Lodges of this country, both Grand and Subordinate. Now, the case stands thus: They started out regularly from the Grand Lodge of England; we claim the same origin, or, in other words, both they and we are Masonically from the same source.

But, says the objector, there were irregularities attending the formation of their first Grand Lodge, sufficient in their nature to invalidate their Masonic claims. Perhaps so, but I am very strongly of the opinion that our conclusion with reference to this matter will be determined very much by our stand-point of observation. Here we might do well to bear in mind the fact, that men's ideas of regularity, with reference to any and all things, are determined, to a very great extent, by custom, rather than by rigid, unbending rules, and that many things which we now deem irregular were once deemed regular, and *vice versa*. After a somewhat careful investigation of this matter, I am satisfied that the so-called irregularities attending the organization of the first colored Grand Lodge in this country were fewer in number, and of less importance, than those pertaining to the early history of some other American Grand Lodges—Grand Lodges, now venerable with age, to whom we look with feelings of reverence, who have been mighty powers in giving tone to American Masonry, who stand to-day, deservedly in the lead, and from whom we trace our Masonic descent. The facts are, brethren, that, with reference to these facts, we are "living in glass houses," and it is not, in my opinion, at all wise for us to engage in the sport of throwing stones.

We must enter our earnest protest against the recommendations of the Grand Master of Minnesota. We protest, in the name of Masonry, and in honor of, and obedience to, the solemn obligations which all Freemasons have taken upon themselves, and in behalf of legitimate Masonry. We confidently trust that wisdom may guide our Grand Bodies in their deliberations upon this question, and that they may not lose sight of the great importance of harmony and uninterrupted fraternity between existing Grand Lodges.

The decisions of Grand Master Griswold are in harmony with our views.

He recommends the abolition of *dual membership*, which has existed in his jurisdiction.

He fully comprehends what qualifications are necessary to properly fill the Oriental Chair, as the following proves.

Again, I would counsel them never to put anyone in the Oriental Chair simply for the reason that he wishes to be placed there. Those who are the most anxious for Masonic position, who are constantly thrusting themselves forward and soliciting the votes of their brethren, are usually the ones who are the most lacking in the very qualifications necessary to filling well the position they seek. Whatever custom may prevail in other organizations, in Masonry, the office should seek the man, and not the man the office. It is all right for any one to desire to advance; to become all that he is capable of becoming; to fill any position for which he has the requisite qualifications; but whenever the ambition of a brother so far gets the better of his sense of propriety that he enters into a systematic electioneering, button-holing canvass, in order to carry his ends, he, of all others, should not be placed over the deliberations of a Lodge.

An excellent Report on Foreign Correspondence is presented by brother A. T. C. Pierson, in which are reviewed the proceedings of forty corresponding Grand Bodies.

Nebraska did not put in her appearance.

We find much in the review to interest and instruct, but we will have to forego the pleasure of further comment. M.: W.: James C. Braden is Grand Master, and R.: W.: A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Secretary.

## MISSISSIPPI, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held in the city of Jackson, on the 2nd day of February, M.: W.: A. H. Barkley in the Grand East, and R.: W.: J. L. Power, Grand Secretary.

A very excellent and able address was delivered by the Grand Master. We excerpt the following, which is well worthy of perusal:

## THE TRUE MISSION OF MASONRY.

Occupying, as Freemasonry does, a prominent position among the recognized institutions of the land, and which has for its ultimate end the amelioration of the condition and elevation of mankind, it is to be expected that the combined efforts of the Fraternity would be directed to the final accomplishment of this laudable undertaking. Founded on the present principles of morality, and enforcing its tenets, as Freemasonry does, by precepts, based upon and deduced from the divine laws, we have sufficient grounds to foster the hope of great results from the united efforts of those whose lives "are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection." Viewed simply in the light of a social institution, it has claims upon society which call for serious thought and calm investigation. But if we would understand and appreciate its true mission, our thoughts must take a wider range, and grasp those nobler objects, which are the legitimate offspring of the great principles on which the institution rests. The foundation of every virtue is truth. To be good and true is the first lesson which Masonry teaches. To know and do the truth is the grand end proposed, and when this shall have been accomplished, then, and not until then, will the true mission of the institution of Masonry have been fulfilled.

These thoughts, brethren, have been called forth from the fact that the true intent of the Order is not generally understood, and in viewing it, our minds are directed simply to those features which lay upon the surface, to the utter exclusion of those nobler ends, which are worthy of our most patient study. Should this view of the subject serve to arrest your attention and bring your minds to a more thorough investigation thereof, we shall have cause for congratulation, that the effort has not been altogether in vain.

His decisions run in the general current. He held that "no officer of a Lodge, whether elected or appointed, and regularly installed, can demit until the expiration of his term of service." He congratulates himself that he has granted *but one* dispensation for the formation of a new Lodge. He says of the Craft:

Whilst but few Lodges have been added to our roll, the membership has steadily increased, and the data before us warrant the assertion that our condition to-day is one of health and prosperity.

Brother Gathright, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, having met with a serious loss by fire—the work of an incendiary—the Grand Master drew on the Grand Treasurer in his favor, for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, and the Grand Lodge ratified the action.

The Grand Lodge ordered the re-printing of the proceedings, commencing with its organization, to the extent of one volume of 600 pages. The following amended By-Law was adopted:

SEC. 21. The Secretary shall, on or before the day of election of officers, notify every member of the Lodge of the amount of his dues, and request payment; and, should any member allow his dues to remain unpaid on the said day of election, he shall not hav

the right to vote or hold office. The Secretary shall notify such delinquent brother to appear at a Regular Communication, within ninety days after such notification, to show cause why his dues have not been paid; and if he still refuses or neglects to pay, the Lodge may suspend such delinquent, *but such suspension shall not work a release from the payment of dues for the period during which he shall remain so suspended.*

The italics are ours. The payment of dues is a consideration for the enjoyment of privileges appertaining to Lodge membership. Suspension takes away all those privileges for the time being. Hence, our argument would be that the suspended brother should not be chargeable with dues during his suspension from the enjoyment of Lodge privileges.

The following amended rule was adopted, and is sound, as giving *any member* of the Lodge the *right of appeal* from the decision of his Lodge

RULE XIV. The prosecutor, accused, or any member of the Lodge, if either deem himself or the cause of Masonry injured by the decision of the Lodge, in any trial, may, within three months after such decision, file with the Master written notice of his desire to appeal to the Grand Lodge, which notice shall set forth his objections to the action of the Lodge, and a list of such papers as he desires forwarded to the Grand Lodge.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is made by Brother Past Grand Master Thos. S. Gathright, and is an able review of the transactions of forty-three corresponding Grand Bodies.

Nebraska for 1874 receives full and fraternal notice.

Brother Gathright copies the following report of our Committee on Jurisprudence:

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the following resolution: '*Resolved*, That if a subordinate Lodge expel one of its members, which decision is reversed by the Grand Lodge, such decision of the Grand Lodge reinstates such member into membership in the Lodge expelling him,' beg leave to report that it will be found on page 21 of the Grand Lodge proceedings of 1871, that a similar question was propounded and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and reported upon to the effect that the brother was *not* restored to membership of the Lodge from which he had been expelled. Grand Master Hill, in his annual address, proceedings of 1873, called attention to this matter and questioned the correctness of the preceding action of the Grand Lodge upon this subject. No action was taken on the suggestion of Grand Master Hill, however.

Your present Committee on Jurisprudence are of the opinion that when the Grand Lodge reverses the action of a subordinate Lodge, the status of a suspended or expelled brother is restored, and his position in his Lodge and the Fraternity is the same as though no action had been taken by the subordinate Lodge. This, your Committee feel, need not be further or more definitely argued or stated, and recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the action of this Grand Lodge, on page 21 of the proceedings of 1871, in relation to expelled members, be, and the same is, hereby repealed.

*Resolved*, That in case of suspension or expulsion by a subordinate Lodge, and from which an appeal is taken, and the action of the subordinate Lodge is reversed by the Grand Lodge, the status of the brother affected is the same as though no action had been had in his case by the subordinate Lodge.

And comments as follows: This question has been argued in our Grand Lodge, *ad nauseum*, and we have no disposition to make an argument here.

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi has asserted the doctrine that subordinate Lodges have exclusive jurisdiction over membership, that the Grand Lodges can control the action of subordinate Lodges in reference to the general rights and privileges of Masonry, and in reference to the ritual, manner of proceeding, etc. This doctrine has

been emphatically declared. The further doctrine is embodied in its General Regulations: "That sentences of suspension and expulsion take effect from the date of infliction." No matter how the matter comes up for review in the Grand Lodge, whether by appeal or otherwise, the question of the restoration to membership must be decided by the subordinate Lodge. The strongest argument of the other side, that where the Grand Lodge decides on appeal that the trial by the subordinate Lodge is reversed, there has been no loss of membership, and, consequently, there is no restoration, is not recognized by our Nebraska committee, for the question the Committee is considering uses the word "reinstates," and the Committee refer to the fact that the Law Committee of Nebraska, in answering a similar question in 1871, say, "that the brother was *not* restored to membership." Recognizing the fact that membership was lost by the party suspended, our Nebraska brethren, by the resolution quoted, place the whole subject of membership under the control of the Grand Lodge. While the writer has doubted the feasibility of the extreme ground promulgated in our Constitution and Laws, he cannot bring his mind to the position assumed by Nebraska. The able argument of Past Grand Master Hardy, in his address, in 1873, says that an appeal from the decision of a subordinate Lodge acts as a writ of *supersedeas*, and arrests the operation of a subordinate until the Grand Lodge shall have taken action, and, if the sentence is reversed, it, never goes into operation, *ergo*, there is no restoration. In the case of S. R. Spight, Brother Speed, in his very ingenious and elaborate report, says: "We hold *there was no restoration to membership, because Brother Spight never for a moment lost his membership*, and this Grand Lodge could not restore to him what he had not lost." Unfortunately, however, our General Regulations say that sentences of suspension and expulsion take effect from the date of infliction. Membership *is* lost. Lest we drift into a discussion of this matter *de novo*, we will add nothing more than the observation, that there are powerful arguments on each side of the question.

Brother Gathright does not seem to understand our position, precisely. Brother Speed has stated our views, that the reversal or setting aside of the decision of the subordinate Lodge, completely and fully nullifies that action, and, hence, the brother upon whom the judgment of the subordinate Lodge was passed remains just where he was previously. It is understood, however—and we presume it is Brother Speed's view, also—that the sentence of the subordinate Lodge is *temporarily* in effect, until the reversal of sentence by the Grand Lodge.

Having addressed ourselves to this subject last year, under Mississippi, we forbear further remarks.

Our report on Foreign Correspondence is highly commended by Brother Gathright.

M.: W.: John Y. Murry is Grand Master, and R.: W.: J. L. Power, Grand Secretary.

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### MISSOURI, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in St. Louis on the 12th day of October—M.: W.: John W. Luke, Grand Master, and R.: W.: George Frank Gouley, Grand Secretary.

A very able, instructive, and systematic address was delivered by the Grand Master.

Among the decisions reported, we find the following dissertation upon the relative status of

## VIRTUAL AND ACTUAL PAST MASTERS.

\* \* \* \* \* A recipient of the degree, however, in the Chapter can claim no rank or distinction in a Symbolic Lodge, unless he should afterwards be duly elected to preside as Worshipful Master over a regularly constituted Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, when, he being so far duly qualified, there would be no necessity of his again receiving the degree as part of the ceremony of installing him into office of Worshipful Master.

With this definition of the status of a virtual Past Master, and the control of the degree in connection with Capitular Masonry, it remains to consider the same with reference to actual Past Master in Symbolic Masonry.

The Worshipful Master elect of a Lodge receives the degree as a part of the installation ceremony, without which he is not qualified to preside; and none other than a Worshipful Master elect can receive it, though some years ago this Grand Lodge deemed it necessary that Wardens should also receive the degree. That rule has become obsolete. To determine how it is controlled, the inquiry suggests itself: Who has the authority to convene a Lodge of Past Masters, and to install the Master elect of a Lodge? Primarily, it is with the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master; then with the District Deputy Grand Masters, who by law are authorized to install the officers of newly constituted Lodges; but it is the right of every Worshipful Master of a chartered Lodge to install his successor. Except by his request, no one else can do so; and it is his duty to install him, or to see that it is done by some competent Past or Presiding Master, before he can surrender his charge to his successor.

It follows, then, that a Lodge of actual Past Masters, opened by any other authority than as before mentioned, would be illegal; and, in consideration of the fact that a Chapter Past Master has means of recognition to prove himself in any Lodge of Past Masters, the following is an evident conclusion:—

DECISION.—A virtual or Chapter Past Master has the right to sit in a Lodge of actual Past Masters, but has not the right to preside therein, or to confer the degree, unless he should have become a Present or Past Presiding Master of a legally constituted Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, and then he can only preside at the request of the Worshipful Master, who has the authority to convene such a Lodge.

We cannot agree with his conclusion that a Chapter Past Master has any right to sit in a Lodge of actual Past Masters.

The following extracts from the address speak for themselves, and are eminently worthy of serious thought:—

The present hot-bed production of Masons is showing its consequences in the bickerings and dissensions to some extent so prevalent—the electioneering for office, the disgust manifested by unsuccessful aspirants for office, and the formation of cliques to promote the interests of their respective candidates; the displeasure shown openly by friends of a petitioner because some one or more members dared to exercise their undoubted right to reject a petitioner, no matter how estimable his character might be in the opinion of all his acquaintances; the suspicious scrutiny to ascertain, in violation of all law, who the rash offender may be, and, worse still, a determination to make reprisals by steadily black-balling every petition afterwards presented, and in some cases compromising with objectors by mutual agreements to “vote for my man if I will vote for yours.” Add to these the election of officers unqualified for their positions, and their abortive attempts to confer the degrees, the meanings of which are unintelligible alike to teacher and pupil, and which the candidate can be, therefore, safely depended upon never to reveal to others, and for the fees paid by him he does not learn enough to be able to visit any other Lodge; and, should ignorance lead to the violation of moral and masonic law, the fault is mutual on both sides.

As an indication of moral status, note the numerous trials constantly occurring in Lodges for gross unmasonic conduct. Though they may justify the belief that members are determined to enforce discipline, there are many other cases which should be brought to trial, but for want of sufficient direct evidence, from a partisan spirit among

members, or the prominence of station or popularity of the supposed offender, or the too great elasticity of the mantle of charity, they are not undertaken. It is not often that discipline is necessary upon those who have been members for many years, but it is upon those who have been swept in, as it were, with a drag-net, during the past few years, some of whom have acquired a foothold for confusion amongst us that it is not easy to dislodge.

The question would arise: Why should there be so many occasions for discipline in an institution that professes only to admit good men and true? Does admission into it make men worse? And, as the world outside makes the character of its worst members its standard of estimate for the whole, our Lodges gain or lose accordingly the respect of the communities in which they are situated, and, with it, all their influence for good.

The foregoing evils are the result of individual neglect and carelessness, in committees and at the ballot-box. Legislation cannot eradicate them, nor laws make good Masons out of bad material; and, when any of these evils become chronic in a Lodge, justice to the fraternity at large requires that that avenue of admission into it should be closed—if not voluntarily by the members themselves, then by higher authority. I speak as unto wise men; judge ye what I say.

In a material point of view, there is also something to be said. Some of you doubtless know of Lodges the approach to which is up a rickety staircase outside of the building, not very safe for persons who may have been imbibing too much in a saloon not far distant; the entrance into the Lodge room being through an ante-room seemingly the receptacle for all sorts of rubbish, into another with a floor covered with dirty saw-dust, interspersed with cigar stumps and tobacco—furniture all shabby in proportion, and air redolent with tobacco smoke, which is not dissipated even when the Lodge is open. How could a visitor suppose that any teaching of profound moral truths would be effective in such a place? Surely, if cleanliness is next to godliness, such Lodge rooms are the very antipodes of it; and it may be an excuse for them, if they do take in bad material, that they cannot get any decent person to go to such dirty places.

If I were searching for an argument in favor of the Adoptive Rite, it would present itself in the beneficial effect that visits to our Lodge rooms from the other sex would have in teaching us the fifth cardinal virtue of cleanliness.

A resolution looking to the establishment of a Widows' and Orphans' Home was adopted.

Over thirty cases of appeal were disposed of in an equitable manner.

A large amount of business was transacted. Many more items we would like to notice, but our space is largely devoted to the address.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is good, of course, and is the offering of Bro. Gouley. The report covers one hundred and thirty-nine pages, and reviews the proceedings of forty-nine Grand Bodies, supplemented with the review of foreign Grand Bodies from the New York committee. Nebraska for 1874 receives friendly notice in the following style:—

The Grand Lodge got into communication by going first through the preparatory sifting-mill of a Master's Lodge; but as we have had our say on that subject, under the head of Indiana, we pass on.

The annual address is brief, and chiefly local.

A resolution was adopted prohibiting non-affiliates of over one year from petitioning for a new Lodge. From this we should judge that they are not troubled any with non-affiliates up there, and what they have they want to keep for seed. Down in Missouri we are not only glad to have them help to get up new Lodges, but also charge no affiliation fee to join an old Lodge. Happy Nebraska!

Bro. George S. Smith, Grand Orator, delivered a very fine address.

The Committee on Charters and Dispensations made about a half-dozen different reports—something like they do in Louisiana, which we have already reviewed.

The proceedings are magnificently printed, and if they had "sub-heads" they would be perfect.

Bro.: J. N. Wise submitted a carefully prepared Report on Correspondence of one hundred and thirty-two pages.

Under the head of Arkansas, he properly excoriates one of their laws, which directed officers to be nominated in Lodge before they can be voted for, and that votes cannot be cast for one not nominated. Such a law is an abject aping after modern beneficial debating societies called "Orders." It is a disgrace to Masonry.

Under the head of Missouri, he pays a compliment to Past Grand Master Owens, but unfortunately counted up thirty-nine Lodges under dispensation, of which he issued twenty-four, and yet the Grand Master says "they have too many Lodges in Missouri." We suppose Artemus Ward would call that "sarkasm."

He seconds our motion for Grand Secretaries to grant the reviewers and readers generally "sub-heads." Brother Beecher has defined theological "inwardness," and Brother Josh. Billings has given us the meaning of "cussedness," but it takes some Grand Secretaries to furnish the compound word of "inward-cussedness" whenever they get under the spell of a scientific book printer. We will say to Brother Bowen that we have no reference to allusions—nothing personal whatever—we mean a whole lot of them.

Under the head of Virginia, where some Grand Officers were installed by *proxy*, Bro.: Wise truly says: "You might as well hold that parties may *marry* by *proxy*"—*i. e.*, on the *European plan*.

"Sub-heads" hurts Bro.: Gouley, and, lest he should grow prematurely gray in his worry, we will urge Bro.: Bowen, the next time we meet him, to send a great gross of sub-heads to the Grand Secretary of Missouri, to be used according to taste.

Under Virginia, quoting Bro.: Welford as follows:—

"We insist that neither a Past Master nor a presiding Worshipful Master can be tried by a subordinate Lodge"—

Bro.: Gouley says:—

We must confess our astonishment at the Past Master's part of the business, for we had supposed that there was not a Grand Lodge left in the world which held to this doctrine.

If not tried by the Lodge, then by whom? By the Grand Lodge, we presume. Why? Because he is a member of the Grand Lodge. So are the Wardens—why not include them? As he has not, then, we suppose, it must be that he can "only be tried by his peers." Why are the members of Grand Lodge his peers? Are they all Past Masters? Certainly not. The only *logical* deduction, then, from all this, is that, as he can only be tried by Grand Lodge, and as none but Past Masters are his peers, that all but Past Masters retire from Grand Lodge while the trial goes on.

We will wager all we have, or expect to have, that no Grand Lodge in the world would dare to drive out the Wardens—the legal and constitutional members of that body—and then call itself the "Grand Lodge." Not by a long shot. Now, then, where is Bro.: Welford's high and mighty PAST MASTER, except as a *member of his Lodge on the floor—the peer of all others, and all others the peer of him?* Upon what meat did such great Cæsar feed, that he is not amenable to the laws of his Lodge? \* \* \* \* \*

We will take your wager, Bro.: Gouley, and cite you to the Grand Lodge of Michigan. You will please "make over" all your worldly possessions to Bro.: Bowen as executor, and sub-head the instrument,

"MY LAST WILL."

M.: W.: James E. Cadle is Grand Master, and R.: W.: George Frank Gouley, Grand Secretary.

## MONTANA, 1875.

A Special Communication was held at Helena, on the 1st day of October, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the *United States Assay Office*, on which occasion the Grand Orator delivered an excellent address.

The Annual Communication was held at Radersburg, on the 5th day of October, R. W. Harry R. Comly, Deputy Grand Master, in the East, and R. W. Cornelius Hedges, Grand Secretary.

The Annual Address was read by the Grand Secretary, Grand Master Stackpole being absent, in consequence of the death of his child.

Resolutions of sympathy for the Grand Master in his affliction were adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodges of the Indian Territory, Wyoming, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and Dakota were recognized.

A proposition to organize a Masonic Life Insurance Company is engaging the attention of the Grand Lodge.

A charter was granted to certain brethren at Centerville, for the organization of a Lodge, without their having served a probation under dispensation. We think the plan is hardly justifiable.

The Grand Master decided that, in case an officer was re-elected, his re installation was not necessary. He also recommended that one ballot should be sufficient for the three degrees. The Committee on Jurisprudence dissented.

The following was adopted, and is sensible :

*Resolved*, That it is the desire of this Grand Lodge, and their earnest request, that the M. W. Grand Master visit all the Lodges in this jurisdiction, during the year, and that he inspect their work and records, and do all he can to infuse a greater zeal and raise the standard of Masonic morals and duty.

An excellent report on Foreign Correspondence is presented by Bro. Hedges, in which are reviewed the proceedings of forty-two Grand Lodges—Nebraska for 1874 among the number.

The status of Nebraska may be seen from a Montana standpoint, by a perusal of the following, from the pen of Brother Hedges :

## NEBRASKA.

One of the most accurate gauges of Masonic vitality that we know of is the style in which the annual volume of its transactions is prepared, printed, and issued to the world. Judged thus, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska must be credited with having made most progress for 1874. The record before us of its Seventeenth Annual Communication, held at Omaha, June 24th, 1874, is beautiful to behold and peruse. We would read it for its clear, bold print and airy margins, even though the substance were not attractive. We are satisfied, both by experience and observation, that money well invested in printing pays better returns than any other investment for self-interest.

This Grand Lodge was for a time crippled by losses from its treasury through the negligence or criminality of a former Grand Treasurer. It has now fully recovered, repaid its borrowed money, and, with ample revenues, now addresses itself vigorously to diffusing a cheerful and healthy light.

With no mean or narrow ambition, it seeks to establish close fraternal connections with all the Masonic jurisdictions in the universe, and to this end has appended to a circular a request in Latin, for foreign jurisdictions to exchange publications. We cannot exactly approve of this eagerness to extend relations in foreign lands. In many countries, what is known as Masonry seems something very different from what we call by the same name. The traditions of our Order should make us extremely cautious, and enter upon no relations till they could be full, free, and cordial. We might, with about equal propriety, seek alliance with the Odd Fellows, Good Templars, etc., as with many of the so-called Grand Orientals. We do not know that harm would ensue in either case, but we somehow fear that, in the attempt to unify the institution the world over, we should drift away from our landmarks, and become lost. The zeal to enlarge the Church at one era became so great that whole nations were nominally converted and baptized in a day. It extended the nominal empire of Christianity, but careful and candid students of history must admit that, in the result, it heathenized Christianity about as much as it Christianized heathenism. *There is no harm in exchanging transactions even with the Vatican.* We shall soon need polyglot secretaries.

He says: "We cannot exactly approve of this eagerness to extend relations in foreign lands," and, in closing his criticism, uses the language we have italicized in the above quotation. We have not sought to enter into "entangling alliances" with any foreign Grand Bodies. But, with Brother Chadwick, we think "there is no harm in exchanging transactions even with the Vatican." Our Masons want to know what is going on in all portions of the globe.

He says:

The Grand Master's address was conspicuous for brevity, but Grand Secretary Bowen supplied all deficiencies, and has circulars enough to start a "circulating library." If he perfects all his schemes, Nebraska will soon become the most orderly jurisdiction in America.

We advise Brother Hedges to "go slow" with this kind of complacency, for Brother Parvin will hear of it.

Again we quote:

We can hardly endorse the scheme proposed by him, and even approved by the Grand Lodge, to set apart a fifth of each year's gross revenues, and let them accumulate, to provide a permanent endowment fund for the support of the Grand Lodge at some future time. What else is it but taxing the present generation for a future one, that will, in all probability, be better able to support itself than the present one to provide for present wants?"

Upon reflection and mature consideration, our Grand Lodge thought just as Brother Hedges, which accounts for its refusal to adopt the measure. Brother Hedges, you did not read correctly.

Of us he says:

Brother Wise reports on Correspondence very fully and courteously, and, of course, did the work *wisely*. The address of Brother Boyce is largely reproduced, and served up to a larger circle of readers.

And concludes:

When we came to Montana, a little more than ten years ago, there was little sign of settlement along the Platte, save Indian lodges, where now are populous cities and flourishing Masonic Lodges. Could there be a greater contrast?

We're progressive fellows down here, Brother Hedges.

M.: W.: Harry R. Comly is Grand Master, and R.: W.: Cornelius Hedges, Grand Secretary.

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### NEW BRUNSWICK, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at St. John, on the 22d day of September, M.: W.: John V. Ellis, Grand Master, and V.: W.: Wm. F. Bunting, Grand Secretary.

From the Grand Master's address, we learn that the Craft are prosperous and harmonious. Fitting eulogies are pronounced upon the illustrious dead.

No dispensations were granted for the organization of new Lodges.

A Lodge enquired whether objection would be made to its holding a "Masonic Gift Enterprise." It was advised not to do it, and it didn't. Sound.

The following *generous* proposition was made to the Board of General Purposes. We wonder if it was our *Omaha* friend who made it:

GENTLEMEN: I desire to give three grand concerts, or a short season of opera, at the Academy of Music, Saint John, in aid of the new Masonic Hall, now in contemplation of erection in this city, and I desire that I may be allowed permission to advertise the same whenever and wherever I choose, for which I will guarantee the Lodge the sum of five thousand dollars, to be devoted to such purposes as the Lodge may deem advisable.

With every sentiment alive to the importance of your good work,

I am, with respect,

The following is the reply of the Board. Served him right:

The Board at once proceeded to consider this proposition, and unanimously adopted the following, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Board acknowledges the sentiments of good will conveyed in \_\_\_\_\_'s note, and, while thanking him for his generous offer, they do not feel disposed to lend the aid of the Craft in the promotion or encouragement of lotteries, and, therefore, respectfully decline to take advantage of his proposal.

The Board considers that it may properly refer to this matter, knowing that the policy adopted in the above quoted reply will meet with the earnest endorsement of every Masonic body throughout our jurisdiction.

How strange it is that Masonic bodies cannot appreciate such noble, self sacrificing proffers of assistance.

The following report of the Committee on relations with other Grand Lodges, was adopted:

That, having had under consideration the memorial of the Grand Lodges of Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and Wyoming Territory, and finding that the proceedings in each case have been regular and in accordance with the usages of the Fraternity, they recommend the said Grand Lodges to recognition by the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, and suggest that fraternal communication be established by an immediate exchange of representatives.

Your Committee have also examined the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory, and, while they consider that these indicate that the affairs of the Fraternity in the jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily, still, in the absence of a formal application, they do not feel justified in recommending either recognition or an exchange of representatives at the present time.

Upon the right of voting and holding office, the Grand Lodge adopted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That while, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, a Mason is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Fraternity, until he be suspended, excluded, or expelled, after having undergone a regular trial, there is nothing in the general regulations of the Craft to prevent Lodges, if they desire to do so, enacting a by-law, providing that brethren in arrears of dues on the night of the annual election in their Lodge shall not be eligible to vote at such election, or to hold office.

We regret that we are not permitted to read a report on Foreign Correspondence.

M.: W.: Robert T. Clinch is Grand Master, and V.: W.: Wm. F. Bunting, Grand Secretary.

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### NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1875.

The Semi-Annual Communication was held on the 29th day of December, 1874, for the purpose of exemplifying the work in the three degrees. A large number of Lodges were represented.

The Annual Communication was held May 19th, 1875, M.: W.: Nathaniel W. Cumner, Grand Master, and R.: W.: John A. Harris, Grand Secretary.

The Annual Address is well written and business-like. From it we learn that the "Lodges are very prosperous," and that peace and harmony dwell throughout the jurisdiction. But one dispensation for a Lodge was granted. Twenty-eight special dispensations were granted for installing officers, to wear jewels and aprons in public, and to confer degrees. Nothing peculiar in his decisions attracts our attention.

The following was offered and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, but no report from the Committee is discoverable :

*Resolved*, That no less than seven Master Masons be competent to open a Lodge, for the transaction of any business.

The following righteous amendment to the Constitution was offered and lies over under the rules :

SECTION 151. No officer or member of the Grand Lodge shall, in his own right, be entitled to more than one vote.

The business of the session was confined to matters of local interest. The report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Brother Nathan P. Hunt, and covers one hundred and seven pages. Forty-seven

corresponding Grand Bodies are passed in review before him. Nebraska for 1874 receives liberal notice. The review is largely made up of judicious extracts, without comment.

Our resolutions of non-intercourse with France and Hamburg were quoted in full.

M. W.: William Barrett is Grand Master, and R. W.: John A. Harris, Grand Secretary.

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### NEW JERSEY, 1876.

The Annual Communication was held in Trenton on the 19th day of January — M. W.: Wm. A. Pembroke, Grand Master, and R. W.: Joseph H. Hough, Grand Secretary.

An excellent address is that of Grand Master Pembroke. He issued two dispensations for new Lodges, and two for the election of officers to fill vacancies, and one of "acceleration."

The following decision of the Grand Master was not concurred in — and we think justly — by the Grand Lodge:—

When a Lodge in this jurisdiction, by request of a Lodge in another jurisdiction, grants permission to confer the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees on an Entered Apprentice, such permission is equivalent to a surrender of Lodge jurisdiction, and the brother, after again passing the ordeal of the ballot, becomes, in accordance with the laws of this jurisdiction, a member of the Lodge in which he is raised. The Lodge in which he is initiated cannot be required to return any portion of the fee paid prior to initiation, though it is optional with them to do so.

The following gems of thought are copied from the address, and are worthy of impression upon the memory, as with a pen of iron:—

In fulfilling the doctrine of love to each other, it would be well to remember that in the Great Light of Masonry it is written, "Love is the fulfilling of the law," and also to remember that if any law of Masonry be *golden* it is the law of love. And, seeing a brother who is burdened with life's cares and anxieties, or struggling to bear up under its misfortunes and trials, we should cheer him by acts of kindness and with words of sympathy and encouragement; or if, perchance, while ascending with toil the hill of life he has grown weary and discouraged, and, yielding to the strong influence of the tempter, has fallen in despair, let no brother utter the sentence of condemnation, but, in accordance with that love that makes our brotherhood a unit, promptly render that assistance upon which, perhaps, his very existence depends; for, by so doing, we may not only fan to a flame the last spark of hope that lingers in the dying embers of a disheartened soul, but secure for ourselves the approval of Him who is not unmindful of even a cup of cold water given in His name to a thirsty soul.

"Ah, the pains that might be lightened,  
Every hour and every day,  
If we would but hear the pleadings  
Of the hearts that go astray.

"If we would but help the erring,  
Ere we utter words of blame—  
If we would, how many might we  
Turn from paths of sin and shame?"

“Let us lift our fainting brothers,  
 Let us strengthen ere we chide;  
 Let us, ere we blame the fallen,  
 Hold a light to cheer and guide.”

The Grand Lodge “did the honors” of presenting to the venerable Past Grand Master, Daniel B. Bruen, a handsome Past Grand Master’s jewel, which was accepted in a neat little address by the recipient.

Nothing of special interest was transacted at this session.

An excellent review of seventy pages, criticising the proceedings of forty-one Grand Lodges, was presented by Bro.: Marshall B. Smith. Nebraska for 1874 is courteously noticed.

He characterizes Grand Master Dunham’s address as “a straightforward business document,” appending an extract as a key-note.

Bro.: George S. Smith is credited with an “eloquent oration.”

He has the temerity to say of our humble report, that it is “an exhaustive, able, and spicy review of the proceedings of forty-seven Grand Lodges, including New Jersey for 1874;” \* \* \* and concludes with: “At all events, Bro.: W., here is our hand and fraternal good wishes for yourself and the craft in Nebraska.”

We return the compliment of good wishes, both for ourself and the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

The following we find to be his views upon “non-affiliation,” under Utah:—

The Grand Lodge adopted some stringent resolutions with reference to “non-affiliates.” We can only hope that no such “blue laws” will ever be found among the statutes of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. We are no advocates of the mistaken policy of “non-affiliation,” but we cannot see how a brother can be compelled to affiliate, unless Lodges be compelled to receive his application; and all the Grand Lodges of whom we have any knowledge yield to subordinate Lodges the ancient prerogative of choosing their own members.

We are happy to note that Bro.: Smith was accounted “a good and faithful servant” as “a reviewer,” and advanced to the more honorable position of Grand Master, whilst Bro.: Hough was granted another year’s lease on the Grand Secretary’s office.

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## NORTH CAROLINA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in Raleigh, on the 6th day of December, M.: W.: George W. Blount, Grand Master, and R.: W.: Donald W. Bain, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master’s address is business-like, and his decisions, generally, in accordance with common usage. In one, however, he directed that a portion of the record of a subordinate Lodge be *expunged*. This, we think, is an error. The records of a Lodge should be a *true and faithful* minute of *what was done*. To *expunge* a portion, leaves the record of the transaction untrue. To *reconsider* or *rescind* were better.

The Grand Secretary's report is excellent, and shows that they have the right man in the right place.

Brother J. H. Mills, Superintendent of the two orphan asylums under the care of the Grand Lodge, submitted an excellent report of the condition of those institutions. They are considered to be in excellent working order, giving home and comfort to many a friendless orphan. May the God of the Fatherless abundantly prosper and bless the enterprises.

The Grand Master and Brother Mills both sought relief from further duty in their respective positions, but the Grand Lodge wisely re-elected both of them.

The Grand Lodge adopted a new Code of Trials, prepared by Brother Bain, the Grand Secretary.

A Special Communication was held on the 27th day of December, in Raleigh, for the purpose of dedicating the new Masonic Hall.

The Grand Secretary informs the Grand Lodge that, owing to pressure of other duties, no report on Foreign Correspondence had been prepared. This they regret, and we.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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### NOVA SCOTIA, 1875.

Several emergent Communications were held for the purpose of considering questions relating to the Grand Lodge hall property.

The Annual Communication was held at Halifax, on the 2nd day of June, R.: W.: Allen H. Crowe, Deputy Grand Master, in the Orient, and R.: W.: Benjamin Curren, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master was in attendance at the dedication of the new Masonic Temple, in New York, at the time of this session. His annual address, however, was read to the Grand Lodge. Five dispensations were issued for the organization of new Lodges.

His decisions are with the general current. We copy one only :

*Question.* Is it necessary to take the ballot when the investigating committee have reported unfavorably ?

*Answer.* Yes; the ballot must be held, whether the petition be reported on favorably or unfavorably. (Standing resolution, No. 4.)

The following constitutional provision indicates the manner of electing the officers of subordinate Lodges :

Every Lodge shall, annually, at its regular meeting in March, elect the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary, by ballot, the remainder by open vote. The ballot shall be taken in the manner prescribed for Grand Lodge.

Notice was given that a motion would be made, at the next Annual Communication, to adopt the following :

*Resolved*, That, while this Grand Lodge recognizes the right of a Master of a Lodge to refuse a visiting brother admittance to his Lodge for good and sufficient reason, it is of opinion that, when such admission is refused to a Mason in good standing, the reason for such refusal should be furnished by the Master refusing the said brother, and if he is not satisfied with such reasons, the brother shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Lodge, by whom the same shall be investigated.

We think when the motion is made, it ought to fail of adoption, as we believe that question has no right to pass beyond the walls of the subordinate Lodge.

Complimentary despatches were passed between the Grand Lodges of Nova Scotia and New York—both being in session.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Brother A. H. Crowe. It covers one hundred and twenty-one pages, and reviews the transactions of forty-two corresponding Grand Bodies. Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial and extended notice.

Observing the fact that Grand Master Dunham had only made one decision during the year, he says :

Quite refreshing to know that the brethren of this jurisdiction read for themselves, and do not bore their Grand Master with questions upon subjects that have been decided upon times without number.

As complimentary to Brother Bowen, we copy the following :

The Grand Secretary presents an elaborate report; he is evidently a systematic officer, and spares no pains to induce others to follow his example. Accompanying his report are copies of eight circulars issued from his office during the year, variously addressed: from five of which we make extracts :

Referring to Brother Bowen's circular concerning *Grand Representatives*, he remarks :

We wish Brother Bowen had gone a little further and defined the object of such appointments, for, so far, we fail to see what benefits have accrued to the Craft from duties performed by any such incumbents.

We have several representatives of other Grand Lodges near our own, and, with one exception, have never heard a report from, or seen a communication handed in by any of them. The writer has the honor of holding one of the most important of these appointments, and has made several attempts to open a correspondence with his fellow-representative abroad, but so far without success. His communications remain unacknowledged. Evidently the position is now considered a sinecure.

Will Brother Wise, in his next report be kind enough to give us the benefit of his wisdom upon the subject, and show us, if he can, how the office can be made useful?

Well, that is taking it for granted that we have a "life lease" of this honorable and responsible position. But we will gladly dispense wisdom for the delectation and edification of Brother Crowe. Our Grand Secretary has struck the vein, and much to the regret of the writer hereof, as he has the honor to represent four Grand Lodges. The suggestion is, that the Grand Representative be *requested* to furnish to the Grand Lodge in which he has the privilege of a seat, a synopsis or abstract of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of which he is the accredited representative, so far as questions or matters of general

interest are concerned. How will this plan suit you, Brother Crowe? It is urged that this will greatly aid and facilitate the preparation of the report on Foreign Correspondence.

Brother Crowe is disposed to play on our good name :

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Brother Wice ; the name it indicative of the review ; he is evidently no wise-acre. *Wise* in name, *wise* in thought, his wisdom prevails throughout his whole review, and for the pleasure we have enjoyed in its perusal we tender him our fraternal regard. May he fully realize the fact that Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Many thanks for the complimentary reference.

Under New Brunswick, in noticing the remarks of the Grand Master upon the subject of "Color," Brother Crowe says :

He very wisely and properly, we think, deprecates the idea of establishing in New Brunswick a Lodge to be composed exclusively of men of color. Having had some experience in the matter, we would advise our New Brunswick friends to leave well enough alone. We notice that many of our sister jurisdictions in the United States are also exercised upon the subject. They all agree that this unfortunate race is well enough in its place, but the difficulty seems to be to define where that place should be. We say, certainly not in a Lodge of Masons dedicated exclusively to their use. Masonry recognizes no such distinction. We think the subject ought to be dropped ; the discussion of it is a blotch on the fair escutcheon of our institution. Let the ballot box settle the question. If a colored man is unworthy of a seat with his more favored white brethren, then he should not be initiated. Every Lodge has the right to select its own associates. Let them decide for themselves, and, depend upon it, the ballot box will be better guarded than if left to any particular class.

But we forbear further notice of this excellent review.

M. W. J. Wimburn Laurie is Grand Master, and R. W. Benjamin Curren, D. C. L., is Grand Secretary.

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## OHIO, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in Columbus on the 19th day of October — M. W. Asa H. Battin, Grand Master, and R. W. John D. Caldwell, Grand Secretary.

Upon the question of making Masons at sight, the Grand Master says : —

I have, upon three occasions during the year, been urgently solicited to so far take from subordinate Lodges a part of their duty as to make Masons at sight. I have promptly declined in each case ; because —

1. I believe the degrees should not be conferred, except in and by a legal Lodge.
2. I do not understand the *modus operandi* of making Masons at sight : whether the Grand Master should place the candidate upon a rock, and say unto him, in solemn tones, "Thou art a Mason," or whether he should summon a sufficient number of brethren, and confer upon him the three degrees after the manner of a Lodge. The former would be easily performed ; but what amount of light would the newly-made brother have received? Should the latter be adopted, I do not believe that any sensible Mason in the state would be willing to render assistance.

3. I believe that every Mason should be a member of some subordinate Lodge. I have no faith in unaffiliated Masons. To make a Mason at sight, and turn him loose, to roam wildly over the masonic world, a member of no Lodge, is not according to my ideas of propriety.

Sixteen dispensations were granted for the organization of new Lodges.

The Grand Master brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge the question of recognition of the "colored Grand Lodge" of Ohio, and fortifies himself on the question as follows:—

It is well known to us all that the coming year is the centennial of the nation. One hundred years ago our patriot fathers proclaimed to the world those noble words, embodying great truths, that shook the thrones of monarchs as an earthquake—"All men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." They were the foundation of a great republic, which, having stood the test of time, the shocks of foreign and intestine wars, is now, at the close of its first century, greater, stronger, more powerful than ever before, and, like the Temple of Solomon, the wonder and admiration of the world. Our people are indeed free. Prejudice has given way to reason, passion to judgment, and all men of every race, without regard to previous condition, are invested with equal rights and immunities. The summit of perfection in free government has been reached, not only in theory, but in fact, by liberating the bondsmen and placing all upon an equality in rights.

That which is true of the nation should be true of the great masonic brotherhood. For near a century there has existed in this country an organized body of men who are generally known as "colored Masons." They claim to be in possession of the same secrets with us; that the principles and objects of their organization are identical with ours: that they derive their authority from legal sources, and are in every sense of the term legal Masons. For many years they have been seeking recognition at the hands of their sister Grand Lodges; and while making but little progress in our own country, their claims have been recognized by Grand Lodges in other jurisdictions. The United Grand Lodges of Masons of Germany, at their meeting in Darmstadt, in the month of May last, adopted the following resolution:—

"With regard to the motions made by the Grand Lodge, 'Prince Hall' (Massachusetts), and the Grand Lodge of Ohio (colored), the convention of Grand Lodges declares that these Grand Lodges appear properly constituted, and that the German Lodges will accord the members of those Lodges and their sister Lodges, *without reserve and joyfully*, acceptance into their Lodges."

It will thus be seen that the colored Masons of America are securing that recognition abroad which is denied them at home; and it seems to me that, upon the anniversary of our nation's birth, the time has come when it is not only proper, but right, that we should take some definite and decisive action in good faith to ascertain the actual status of these organizations. I have not had time or opportunity to examine the question as I should have done, owing to the long illness of my father, to whom I devoted my whole time for weeks in August and September; but it is very apparent to every one either that they are Masons or they are not. If they are such, the fact can be readily ascertained; if they are not, it can as easily be determined. If they are possessed of the same knowledge which we claim, then the legality of their organizations become involved; and here a question arises that can probably never be settled in a manner entirely satisfactory to the masonic world. But, whatever may have been their origin their existence is undisputed; their Grand and subordinate Lodges are in our midst: they are recognized as Masons by Grand Lodges of respectability abroad; they are asking recognition at the hands of the Grand Lodges in America, and the question must be met by us. Brethren, why should we longer defer it? Shall it be because his skin is not colored like our own we shall spurn the colored Mason with contempt? or shall we not rather examine into the condition of the organization of which he is a member, and in which he has received light, with a view to effecting a complete union of the great

masonic family in our country, when each may recognize the other as a brother, traveling the same great highway of life to a common destiny? I am aware of the prejudice against the African race—I am not entirely free from it myself. We all have our passions and prejudices, and we should use our utmost endeavors to keep them within due bounds. But, whether he comes from the jungles of Africa, the swamps of Carolina, the plains of Hindoostan, the sands of Arabia, the snow-capped summits of Norway, the Emerald Isle, the sunny fields of France, or from whatever nation or clime he may have traveled, *if he is a Mason*, and can prove himself such, he should be welcomed as a man and a brother into our Lodges, and entitled to equal rights in our great brotherhood. The boast of Masons has been that its votaries possess the same mystic language in every clime; that its language is universal, entitled to recognition wherever heard or manifested, and that all Masons, in the character of Masons, stand upon the most perfect equality. At present, in our own country, we cannot recognize Masons receiving light in colored Lodges. We are presented in our own state with the anomaly of two Grand Lodges, each with a great number of subordinate Lodges, all teaching the same great truths, speaking the same language, and yet the one not permitted to recognize the other, and all intercourse between the two prohibited. In this great centennial year, whilst liberty and equality are shed abroad through our great nation, is it not right and proper that we, as Masons, shall at least attempt to bring about, by proper means and in a legal manner, a union of these two Grand Lodges in one state? If there is any illegality in the organization of either, let it be healed; it has been done before, and it can be again. Let us, then, with that charity and liberality which characterizes all Masons, extend the fraternal hand of fellowship to our brethren of every nation, clime, race, and kindred under heaven. And let it be, too, not only in name, but in spirit and in truth. Let us illustrate our teachings by example; and, as the crowning glory of republican government is the equality of all men before the law, so should the crowning glory of our mystic temple be the equality of all men, without regard to race or previous condition. Brethren, this question must be met. We may, for the present, pass by on the other side; we may look upon it, fold our mantles around us, and pass on; but the Good Samaritan is coming—has come, and is pouring the oil of fellowship into the wounds, binding up the bruises, and taking the sufferers to his own house. Why should we longer delay? I am vain enough to believe that we are capable of meeting it fairly. I have faith in our people—I have faith in their sense of justice and magnanimity. I cannot believe that many years can elapse before the great body of colored Masons will be recognized as a part of the great masonic family, and accorded their rights as such. I have candidly expressed my opinion, and I leave the matter to you for your consideration, earnestly hoping that you may have wisdom to devise some means by which the Masons of Ohio may be united into one family and brotherly love prevail. If within the great centennial year this result can be accomplished, or measures taken looking to such result, we shall have reason to rejoice that the march of progress is onward and upward, and the universal brotherhood of man, on the Western continent, fully, fairly, and unchangeably established, and the world made better by our example.

Upon this same subject, the following memorial appears:—

MEMORIAL FROM WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF GERMAN LODGE OF MASON'S,

CINCINNATI, in October, 1875.

To the Grand Lodge of Masons for the State of Ohio:—

BRETHREN:—I beg leave to respectfully present for your kind consideration the following memorial:—

The United Grand Lodges of Masons of Germany have, at their convention in Darmstadt, in the month of May, 1875, passed the following resolution in relation to the colored Grand Lodges of America:—

“With regard to the motions made by the Grand Lodge, ‘Prince Hall,’ and the Grand Lodge of Ohio (colored), the convention of Grand Lodges declares that these Grand Lodges appear properly constituted, and that the German Lodges will accord to the members of those Lodges, and of their sister Lodges, without reserve and joyfully, acceptance into their Lodges.”

Upon reading this resolution, the following questions presented themselves to my mind: What influence will this action have upon the discussions of our own Grand Lodges? Will they, at last, compelled by outward pressure, take up the subject of negro Lodges in earnest, or will silence and inaction be repeatedly the watchword, as it has been time and again, allowing prejudice against race and color to override those very principles of justice and brotherly love we like to glory in so much? Or will the whole discussion, if taken up at all, terminate in a fruitless and passionate debate over a transgression upon our respective jurisdictions? Very likely the latter, I thought.

And now, brethren, in my humble opinion, common humanity, self-respect, and the highest interests of our beloved brotherhood imperiously demand from us to at least ascertain the facts respecting colored Lodges. The men constituting the same either are Masons or are not. If they *are*, we have no earthly right, and no excuse whatever, to let things go on as heretofore, and not recognize them as such. If they are *not* Masons—if they are impostors—then we must proclaim it to the world. Justice to ourselves demands it.

It would be contrary to masonic principles and to masonic philosophy not to recognize them, if they are Masons—all prejudices of white people against negroes notwithstanding. It would, on the other hand, be the grossest neglect of our duty as Masons not to unveil to the world's vision their imposition, if they are *not* Masons. It would be, finally, on our part, as men and Masons, an exhibition of extreme weakness and (I hope I do not offend you) cowardice, if we did not, at the earliest moment, put an end to this anomalous state of affairs in the masonic world by a speedy examination of the same, and manly, decisive action thereafter.

Are we afraid of the light shed on the subject by such an examination? If we are, let us abandon our proud proclamation, "Let there be light." If we are not, let us have speedy action, and rid the masonic world of an unqualified misery, which makes us feel uneasy as often as we venture to discuss it, and creates serious doubts in our own minds as often as we declare the supremacy of masonic principles.

In view of this, and in consideration that this negro question should be looked squarely into the face, as it will create not less an "irrepressible conflict" in the masonic world than it did in the political world, and in further consideration that we, as true Masons, are ever ready to seek after truth and deal with justice, I present the following for your action:—

Believing that the Grand Lodge of Masons for the state of Ohio is aware of the existence in this state of organized bodies of colored citizens, who claim to be in possession of the *signs* and *secrets* of Free and Accepted Ancient Freemasonry, the undersigned regards it as the paramount duty of the Grand Lodge of *white Masons* to appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the legitimacy of said claim; and if, upon examination, it shall appear well founded, then I respectfully urge that the necessary steps be taken to *utilize* this *timber*, rather than condemn it as *rotten* and *unfit* for use, without having subjected it to a *fair, candid, and impartial test*.

Very respectfully,

F. I. WERNER,

W. M.: Hanselmann Lodge, No. 208, F. and A. M.

This subject, with the foregoing documents, was referred to a special committee, who "most heartily and unanimously agreed on report, as follows:"—

PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF THE COLORED GRAND LODGE OF OHIO.

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the annual address of the M. W. Grand Master, and accompanying documents, as relates to the so-called colored Lodges, and more especially the colored Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Ohio, have given the subject careful consideration, and respectfully report the following:—

We do not propose, nor do we deem it necessary at this time, to enter into the history of the origin of so-called colored Freemasonry in this country. That subject has been fully discussed in nearly all the Grand Lodges and masonic periodicals of this country

for more than twenty-five years past. Your committee deem it sufficient to say that *they* are satisfied *beyond all question* that colored Freemasonry had a legitimate beginning in this country, as much so as any other Freemasonry—in fact, it came from *the same source*. Your committee will not attempt, at this time, to investigate as to the transmission of this legitimate beginning down to the present time, when we find more than forty subordinate Lodges and a Grand Lodge of so-called colored Freemasons, and an aggregate of more than eight hundred members, in the state of Ohio. Your committee have only to say that such is the fact.

Your committee have the most satisfactory and conclusive evidence that these colored Freemasons practice the very same rites and ceremonies, and have substantially the same esoteric or secret modes of recognition, as are practiced by ourselves and by the universal family of Freemasons throughout the world.

The question of the recognition of these colored Freemasons has long been before this Grand Body, and your committee feel that its importance is pressing upon us, and demanding prompt, serious, and decided action. Your committee, therefore, offer for adoption the following resolution:—

“Resolved, By the ‘Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio,’ that this Grand Body will recognize the so-called Grand Lodge of colored Freemasons of the state of Ohio as a legitimate and independent Grand Lodge, on condition that the so-called colored Grand Lodge shall change its constitutional title, so that it shall read as follows: ‘*The African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio.*’ And if the said so-called colored Grand Lodge shall accept this recognition and make the suggested change in its constitutional title, then, and in that case, upon said action being reported to the M.: W.: Grand Master of this Grand Lodge, under the seal of said body, then the M.: W.: Grand Master is hereby authorized and instructed to issue his proclamation to the subordinates to this Grand Lodge and to the Grand Lodges throughout the world with whom we are in fraternal correspondence, recognizing the said so-called colored Grand Lodge as an independent Grand Lodge in the state of Ohio, under the title of ‘*The African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio.*’”

Respectfully submitted.

L. V. BIERCE.  
E. T. CARSON  
F. WILLMER.  
C. A. WOODWARD.  
L. H. PIKE.

The whole matter was, for the present, disposed of as follows:—

After deliberation thereon, Bro.: Lewis H. Williams, Worshipful Master of Russellville Lodge, No. 166, now R.: W.: Grand Junior Warden, moved that final action on the subject matter of the colored Grand Lodge, as above, be deferred until the next Annual Communication; which was agreed to.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was directed to embody, in printed circular or pamphlet, the address of the M.: W.: Grand Master on the colored Grand Lodge including the memorial, formerly presented to this Grand Lodge, of said colored Grand Lodge, the report of special committee just read, with the memorial of the Worshipful Master of Hanselmann Lodge on said subject, and the report of the Committee on Foreign Communications, which had been referred to said special committee, and distribute the same to subordinates and Grand Lodges.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is from the gifted pen of Bro.: John D. Caldwell, the Grand Secretary. It is needless to say it is an able and interesting document, albeit it is very *highly colored*—some forty-five pages being devoted to the proofs of legitimacy of *negro Lodges* in the United States. We would like to give our readers the whole of the arguments in favor of the recognition of the negro Grand Lodge of Ohio, but our space forbids. As this dark subject will be referred to a committee of our own Grand Lodge for discussion, we forbear any comment at this time.

M.: W.: Charles A. Woodward is Grand Master, and R.: W.: John D. Caldwell, Grand Secretary.

## PENNSYLVANIA, 1875.

A Quarterly Communication was held on the 2nd day of June, R.: W.: Alfred R. Potter, Grand Master.

At this Communication the Grand Master informed the Grand Lodge that he had been credibly informed of some gross irregularities on the part of Lodge No.—, meeting at S——, viz: that of admitting as visitors six clandestine Masons, at the stated meetings held March, 1875; that he had felt it his imperative duty to visit that Lodge, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts of the case; that on the 31st day of March, 1875, he directed the District Deputy Grand Master, Brother ——, to call a special meeting of said Lodge in the early part of April, 1875, when, accompanied by some of the Grand Officers and District Deputy Grand Master, Brother ——, he visited said Lodge, and opened a Grand Lodge, for the purpose of hearing whatever explanation the Lodge might be able to give; that Brother ——, Worshipful Master of the Lodge, admitted the reception of six clandestine Masons, and read a defense for said action. The Grand Lodge revoked the charter.

Another Quarterly Communication was held September 1st.

At this Communication the Grand Officers are elected, and the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge are examined and adjusted.

The Annual Communication was held on the 27th day of December. R.: W.: Alfred R. Potter, in the Grand East, and R.: W.: John Thomson, Grand Secretary.

From the reports we learn that the almoners of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund disbursed to one hundred and eighty-three needy applicants \$3,185, and the stewards of the Stephen Girard Charity Fund relieved the pressing wants of one hundred and sixty-five applicants at an expense of \$2,961; in all, over six thousand dollars—a magnificent charity. The outgoing Grand Master's address is brief and of local interest.

The incoming Grand Master, R.: W.: Robert Clark, delivered a short address, defining his course of action, and recommending such matters as he deemed worthy of action, to the attention of the Lodge.

The several Communications held during the year 1875 were largely devoted to the financial operations of the Grand Lodge.

A very able and interesting report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Brother E. Coppee Mitchell, Chairman; but Brother John C. Uhle has credit for a portion of the review. Forty-five American Grand Lodges share the criticisms of the Committee. Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial notice, with liberal extracts from the proceedings. Brother George S. Smith is credited with an instructive and able oration. Our resolutions of *non-intercourse* are copied in full, without comment.

Our Pennsylvania brethren, by the aid of Brother William James Hughan, the Masonic antiquarian of England, have discovered and brought to light a very valuable secret, which has lain buried in darkness from our old colonial times until the present, the discovery of which establishes the fact, to their satisfaction, that the first Masonic Lodge on American soil was organized and held in Philadelphia, in the year 1730. Philadelphia may, therefore, be considered the *premier* masonic city of America. It will now be in order to hear from Massachusetts.

At a Quarterly Communication, held March 1st, 1876, a very excellent *special report* of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was presented by the chairman, Past Grand Master Richard Vaux. The subject of the report is the fraternal relationship of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania with other Grand Lodges.

We copy a portion of his remarks touching the "German Grand Lodge League:

Eight bodies, claiming to be Masonic Grand Lodges, in Europe have formed a Masonic Diet, or grand governing national Masonic authority, which assumes powers over, and regulates the rights and privileges of the inferior bodies that have surrendered these rights to this Diet. Among the extraordinary powers claimed by this German Masonic Diet, or League, is "the right of jurisdiction," or a control over it. This Diet has the disposition, it would seem, to go into any Grand Lodge jurisdiction of the States of the United States, and set up Lodges, under the plea of nationality, that Masons so organized into a Lodge are Germans, or work in the German tongue, and therefore owe allegiance to this German Grand Diet. This appears to be the logical deduction from a claim o "the right of jurisdiction."

It is also claimed by this Diet, that "the object and aim of this League is to secure and promote the unity and Masonic joint action of the Lodges in Germany, and to assume in common a Masonic attitude toward the Grand Lodges outside of Germany;" that "it is exclusively the business of the German Grand Lodge League to determine whether new alliances shall be formed with Grand Lodges outside of Germany, and whether those already formed are to be dissolved." The Grand Lodge Diet is the organ of the Grand Lodge League, and this Grand Lodge Diet consists of the eight Grand Masters and the two Master Masons, elected by each Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodges which are assumed once to have been supreme and sovereign bodies, but have now surrendered some of their inherent powers which are inseparable from Masonic sovereignty, are:

- I. The Grand National Mother Lodge of the Prussian States, zu den drei Weltkugeln, at Berlin.
- II. The Grand Lodge of Saxony, at Dresden.
- III. The Grand Lodge of Hamburg, at Hamburg.
- IV. The Grand Lodge of the Eclectic Union, at Frankfort-on-the-Main.
- V. The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Germany, at Berlin.
- VI. The Grand Lodge of Freemasons zur sonne, at Bayreuth.
- VII. The Grand Lodges of Prussia called Royal York, zur Freundschaft, at Berlin.
- VIII. The Grand Lodge zur Eintracht, at Darmstadt.

Whatever may be the future relations of this Diet with lawfully organized Grand Lodges, it is very evident to every member of our Grand Lodge, that there can be no longer any Masonic intercourse with, or recognition by, the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, and the Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, of either this Diet, or the emasculated Masonic bodies that are its present constituents, during the existence of this Diet, with its present character.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is old enough to understand her own duty, and no greater benefit can be conferred by her on her sister Grand Lodges, both in the States of our Union and wherever Masonry is to be maintained on the landmarks, than by declar-

ing, in her conservative action, that no recognition can be given to this Diet or its constituents. All time has proven that the abandonment of Masonic law brings its own condemnation.

R.: W.: Robert Clark is Grand Master, and R.: W.: John Thomson, Grand Secretary.

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### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1875.

We are in receipt of a pamphlet from which we learn of the organization of a Grand Lodge bearing the above title.

A meeting of Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens was held at Charlottetown, on the 31st day of October, 1874, and, after an organization was effected, a resolution was adopted, appointing a committee to ascertain what steps were necessary to the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Island, and to communicate with the several Lodges, and request the appointment of three delegates from each, to meet on the third Thursday in December following.

A meeting was held, pursuant to the request above stated, but, owing to the impassable state of the roads, a very small representation was present. Hence, another adjournment was ordered, to the fourth Thursday in January, 1875. On January 28, a meeting was again held, at which six Lodges were represented.

The advisability of a permanent organization was discussed, and another resolution ordered to adjourn till February 24th; at which time eight Lodges were represented, and the following definite resolution adopted, with others:

*Resolved*, That Brothers Crabbe, Macgowan, Higgs, McKenzie, G. A. Aitken, D. Logan, W. T. Hunt, D. Rogers, R. Hunt, B. D. Howatt, Frederick Clark, John Yeo, J. A. Matheson, and R. A. Clark (with power to the various Lodges to increase the numbers) be appointed a committee to communicate with the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, informing them of the intention of the Fraternity in the premises, and to communicate with the Grand Masters of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, requesting them to attend on the 24th day of June next, for the purpose of installing the officers of the Grand Lodge. The said Committee to be empowered to make the necessary arrangements for the celebration on the occasion of the organization of the Grand Lodge.

In obedience to the above resolution, thirty-five representatives assembled at Charlottetown, on the 23d day of June, 1875, and organized in regular form.

The following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the rules governing the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick be adopted for the government of this Convention.

*Resolved*, That each general vote of the Convention shall be by individual representatives, and that a vote by Lodges may be called for by any member when each Lodge shall have one vote.

*Resolved*, That the Representatives now in Convention assembled, on behalf of the Lodges represented by them, do hereby declare themselves to be "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Prince Edward Island.

*Resolved*, That the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick be, for the present, adopted as the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, so far as the same may be found applicable to existing circumstances, except, nevertheless, that all the officers of Grand Lodge shall be elected.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to frame a Constitution and General Regulations for the government of this Grand Lodge, and report thereon at the next communication.

On the following day the officers were duly installed by M.: W.: John V. Ellis, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

A Special Communication was held August 12th, for the purpose of adopting a Constitution.

We congratulate the brethren of this new Grand Lodge upon the favorable auspices under which their organization was accomplished. We wish them a prosperous and peaceful career.

M.: W.: John Yeo is the Grand Master, and R.: W.: B. W. Biggs is the Grand Secretary.

## RHODE ISLAND, 1875.

A handsome pamphlet, embellished with fine steel portraits of M.: W.: Nicholas Van Slyck and Oliver Johnson, brings us tidings from the Craft in Rhode Island for the year 1875.

A festival Communication was held at Newport, on the 24th day of June, 1874. A very fine oration was delivered by R.: W.: Tracy P. Cheever. St. John's Lodge prepared a banquet, and invited the Grand Lodge to partake and enjoy; and doubtless they did.

The Semi-Annual Communication was held November 16th, 1874.

On the Louisiana-France question, the following was adopted:

*Ordered*, That this M.: W.: Grand Lodge do hereby declare that the Grand Orient of France, in derogation of the lawful authority of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Louisiana, by recognizing and fraternizing with the so-called "Supreme Council of Louisiana," has violated the well-established law of the supremacy of Grand Lodges within their respective jurisdictions, and that we, in vindication of the rights of our sister Grand Lodge of Louisiana, forbid all Masonic intercourse between the members of the Masonic Fraternity of this jurisdiction, and the initiates and members of the Grand Orient of France and its subordinates; and with the initiates and members of the so-called "Supreme Council of Louisiana," and its subordinates.

We are glad to see that the Grand Lodge adopted the following, in contravention of the decision made by Grand Master Lloyd Morton, and which, it will be remembered, we criticised in our review of last year:

THIRD. That the fifth decision therein contained is declared void, it being the opinion of this M.: W.: Grand Lodge, that it is the duty of a Lodge to assist its members

when in need, no matter where they may be. If the member is in good standing, he has the right to call upon his Lodge to assist him in his hour of trouble, and his Lodge should heed his cry of distress, and, as far as in their power, minister to his relief.

Several special Communications were held, for the purpose of dedicating halls and burying the dead.

The Annual Communication was held on May 17th, 1875, M.: W.: Nicholas Van Slyck, Grand Master, and R.: W.: Edwin Baker, Grand Secretary.

A good address was delivered by the Grand Master, but nothing in it, however, claims our special notice.

The Grand Secretary having informed the Grand Lodge that some Lodges were in the habit of advancing candidates without their having acquired due proficiency, a committee report the following resolution, in connection with their report upon the subject, which was adopted :

*Resolved.* That the Masters of subordinate Lodges are hereby forbidden to so construe Sections 14 and 15 of Article VI. of the Constitution as to permit the advancement of a brother to a higher degree, who has not given in open Lodge the first section of the lecture of the degree he has last received, or to sign the By-Laws of his Lodge, until he has, in the same manner, given the first section of the third degree.

It will be seen here that our Rhode Island brethern are "coming down to the work," even so far as to acquire proficiency in the *third degree*. The plan is good.

The following regulation was also adopted :

*Ordered.* That the visitors applying for admission to any subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction shall present a diploma or certificate, under seal of the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction from which they hail, and pass a strict examination, unless they are avouched for by some well-known brother, as Masons in good and regular standing.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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## SOUTH CAROLINA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Charleston, on the 14th day of December, M.: W.: James A. Hoyt, Grand Master, and R.: W.: Charles Inglesby, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master delivered an able and interesting address. He represents the Craft as in a "prosperous and harmonious condition." He questions the justice of "dropping from the rolls for the non-payment of dues," and, in comparison of the two processes, "dropping from the rolls for non-payment of dues" and "suspending for a Masonic offense," he says :

Yet, under the law now existing in this jurisdiction, a Master Mason who has been indefinitely suspended for a crime against the general laws of Masonry may be restored to membership by a vote of two-thirds, after due notice given of the intention to restore,

while a brother who has been erased from the roll for non-payment of dues is required to petition, wait one month's probation, and receive a unanimous ballot in his favor before restoration is complete. Either horn of the dilemma will relieve the embarrassment of this perplexing question, but it is preferable to yield the point of making it so difficult for an erased brother to resume his status in the Lodge, "and, with this view," it is recommended that the law be so amended as to make it compulsory on the part of Lodges to erase every member who shall be in arrears more than twelve months, and at once notify him of this action; if within a reasonable time thereafter, as the law may provide, or the Lodge itself be left to determine, the member thus erased does not discharge so just an obligation, it would subject him to indefinite suspension, thereby working an absolute forfeiture, for the time being, of all Masonic privileges.

We hear the same arguments from other jurisdictions, where "dropping from the rolls" is practised. He also calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to the evil effects of "dual membership," and recommends its prohibition.

The following resolution, reported on by the Committee on Jurisprudence, was adopted:

*Resolved*, That when a candidate has received a favorable ballot, the naked objection of a member not present at the ballot will not prevent the degree balloted for being conferred. The objector is required to assign a reason for his objection, or prefer charges, as the case requires, and upon the validity of which the Lodge shall pass.

As a remedy, or, rather, a *substitute*, for dropping from the rolls for non-payment of dues, the following provisions, amendatory of the Constitution, were considered as read, and carried over to the next Annual Communication for action:

If any member of a Lodge shall neglect to pay his annual dues to the Lodge at the regular Communication, immediately preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the Secretary shall, at the first regular Communication thereafter, present his name to the Worshipful Master, and the member shall forthwith be debarred all his privileges as a member of such Lodge, without further action on its part, and the Secretary shall notify him immediately of said action.

If the said dues are paid on or before the third regular Communication of said Lodge from the date of the action aforesaid, he shall be restored to all the privileges of membership.

But if the dues are not paid on or before the third regular Communication from the action of the Lodge, then the Worshipful Master shall direct the Junior Warden to prefer charges against the defaulting member, and summon him to appear at the next regular Communication of the Lodge for trial, as in all other offences, whereupon, after allowing him opportunity for his defence, the Lodge shall proceed to ballot, and, two-thirds concurring, he shall be declared indefinitely suspended.

But, if the Lodge is satisfied that the neglect of payment has arisen from poverty, inability, or other excusable cause, it shall be competent for the Lodge to remit the dues, and permit the brother to continue his membership.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is presented by Brother Charles Inglesby, the Grand Secretary. He courteously reviews the proceedings of *fifty-two* Grand Lodges—being the full list of North American Grand Lodges.

Nebraska for 1874 receives full and fraternal notice.

Of our efficient Grand Secretary, he says:

The Grand Secretary is a laborious and pains-taking officer, who, in order to well perform his work, spares himself neither time nor trouble. We were quite sure of this as soon as we saw the very elegant style, form, and manner in which he had gotten up the proceedings; but his report made assurance doubly sure. Not only does he give in this document an account of his actings and doings, but he also submits, for consideration, amendments to the Constitution, and various propositions. Under the former head, he suggests that one-fifth the annual gross receipts be set apart, as a revenue fund, to meet the expenses of the Grand Lodge, said fund to be invested, and no portion thereof expended until it shall amount to \$50,000. This *may* be a good idea, but, for many reasons, we seriously doubt it.

The following *Jeu D'Esprit*, at our expense, is indulged in :

During the session, three of the Lodges invited the Grand Lodge to a reception and ball at the Grand Central Hotel. The Grand Lodge accepted and attended in a body—they do not say so, but we suppose, in regalia. Certainly a queer, a very queer, an extraordinarily queer sight it must have been, to have seen aprons, and collars, and gavels, and squares, and levels, and plumbs, and columns of wisdom, and strength, and beauty, bobbing about, and whirling around in the mazy evolutions of the dance! Imagine a grave and dignified Grand Master, in full regalia, tripping around on the light, fantastic toe!

Quoting our criticism of Arkansas, on reversal of the judgment of a subordinate Lodge, he says :

We agree with the premise, but come to precisely the opposite conclusion. It seems to us a sophism, to say that where the Grand Lodge *reverses* the decision of a subordinate which had expelled a member, such brother remains a member *by the action of the subordinate Lodge*. In our judgment, the Grand Lodge is an appellate tribunal, and not a court of original jurisdiction, and, therefore, where on appeal proceedings are set aside or reversed, for irregularity or error, a new trial is ordered, and the sentence of the subordinate Lodge is suspended *pendente lite*.

Our position seems to be misunderstood by Brother Inglesby. Our argument is this, that when the Grand Lodge, which is an appellate tribunal, shall reverse the action of a subordinate Lodge by which a member has been suspended or expelled, it does so *because the act of the subordinate Lodge was illegal, contrary to the law and the regulations*, and hence, *void and null*. If void, the brother did not lose his membership, but *remains* a member.

The act of suspension or expulsion is only *temporary*, until the Grand Lodge shall have reviewed the case upon appeal, or the defendant shall have passed his right of appeal.

He is fully determined to take us on the wing. He treads on our "light, fantastic toe" thus :

Brother Wise twits the Grand Master of British Columbia for having granted a *dispensation* to hold a ball at the Colonial Hotel. It was a funny subject for a dispensation, but only a *little* funnier than the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, as a body, going to a ball at the Grand Central. "A word to the Wise"—"Mote and beam"—"Glass houses and throwing stones."

That is the "unkindest cut of all;" and we challenge you to measure swords with us, Brother Inglesby—at a safe distance.

Our Grand Lodge attend a ball in a body, did you say? Excuse us, but the record does not say so.

Upon the subject of *Masonic Life Insurance*, we append his criticism:

We greatly regret to record that Past Grand Master Wheeler submitted a report, recommending the organization of a Masonic Life Assurance Association for the jurisdiction, of which the Grand Secretary shall be *ex-officio* Secretary and Treasurer. The report was adopted and a committee appointed to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws, etc.

We say that we regret to record this, because we think it settled, beyond all controversy, that business and Masonry cannot be joined, except to the injury of Masonry. We are taught that Masonry is a beautiful system of morality, teaching man his duty to his God and to his fellow-man, and thereby promoting brotherly love, relief, and truth. Append to it such schemes as the one under consideration, and you will bring into the Fraternity many who will be solely influenced by selfish, mercenary considerations, and whose greed for gain will surely engender discord and strife, and a scramble for office. Losses of money may occur, bringing, as their result, the heartburnings and recriminations incident to all commercial institutions—in a word, Masonry will be shorn of all those great and glorious characteristics which in all ages have distinguished it from, and elevated it above, the ephemeral institutions which from time to time have sprung up around it. We hope and trust that the Grand Lodge of Nebraska will pause and reconsider this vital matter.

And again, quoting our comments, he says:

In his review of Missouri, we are gratified to read him thus:  
 "But the Grand Lodge very wisely, we think, concluded that it was not one of the prerogatives of a Grand Lodge to operate an insurance society, by refusing to adopt," etc.

He says:

We say that we are gratified, because we see that the resolutions adopted by his Grand Lodge, on Past Grand Master Wheeler's report in favor of the Masonic Life Assurance Company, are not WISE, and we trust that he will move a reconsideration of that question at the next annual.

Of our review, he speaks in these flattering terms:

This review is one of the most readable and discriminating that we have seen; its criticism being fair, candid, and to the point, yet always courteous and fraternal.

M.: W.: Wilmot G. De Saussure is Grand Master, and R.: W.: Charles Inglesby, Grand Secretary.

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## TENNESSEE, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in Nashville on the 8th day of November—M.: W.: A. J. Wheeler, Grand Master, and R.: W.: John Frizzell, Grand Secretary.

From the Grand Master's excellent address we take the following good suggestion:—

Our Grand Lodge should, however, secure more information in regard to the particular Lodges of the state. It should know where the weak and the strong are—their surroundings, their Lodge rooms, their annual dues, their indebtedness, their property, and their wants. We should know who are the destitute in the state, not by name, but by number—how many Masons' widows, orphans, and dependents, in decay or want, that

are entitled to our protection. This and other valuable information we can gather by having proper questions and blanks in our returns for Lodges to fill up, and an edict requiring said information to be given.

He recommends a change in the law which provides that the Grand Lodge cannot be held outside of the city of Nashville.

Five dispensations for new Lodges were issued during the year.

The Grand Master pays eloquent tributes of respect to the memory of ex-President Johnson, Bro. W. R. Ross, and Past Grand Master John W. Paxton.

The following is to the point, and especially the latter two clauses:—

WHEREAS, A feeling of uneasy disquiet prevails among the members of this Grand Body in regard to the subject of electing Grand Officers, it being thought by some that brethren have used improper means to have their names put forward for position:

1. It is therefore declared to be the feeling of this Grand Lodge that the offices of this Grand Lodge should be the free, voluntary gift of members, uninfluenced by ulterior considerations.

2. It is declared to be unmasonic for any brother to declare himself a candidate, or to use, or cause to be used, any influences to advance his own election.

The following is from the Committee on Jurisprudence, and was adopted by the Grand Lodge:—

The question of Vesper Lodge, No. 248, is as follows: "After a member of a Lodge has been suspended indefinitely for non-payment of dues, has the Lodge the authority to suspend him indefinitely for any other offense?" We answer this question affirmatively.

We may be somewhat obtuse, and we confess we are, but we would like to learn the *modus operandi*. If a man were suspended ten feet in the air, how could he again be suspended the same height without first being taken down?

The following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence be, and are hereby, requested to devise and prepare a plan by which the membership and attendant expenses of this Grand Lodge can be reduced, and to present the same to the next Annual Communication.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was submitted by M. W. A. J. Wheeler. On motion, it was received and placed on file, and we are sorry we have not access to the files.

M. W. J. C. Cawood is Grand Master, and R. W. John Frizzell, Grand Secretary.

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## UTAH, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Salt Lake City on the 9th day of November—M. W. Charles W. Bennett, Grand Master, and R. W. Christopher Diehl, Grand Secretary.

The annual address is brief, but business-like.

The Grand Master says he has not been called upon to dispense authority for the organization of any new Lodges.

The new code of jurisprudence had been promulgated to the subordinate Lodges, and worked well.

We find nothing exceptionable in the Grand Master's decisions.

He recommends the adoption of a resolution prohibiting installation by proxy — a good recommendation.

Bro.: Diehl is happy over his success in building up a Grand Lodge library and the Grand Lodge appreciates his efforts in that direction by giving him funds for the purpose. Eighty-six volumes were added during the year, forty-six of which were standard masonic works, and works on Utah and Utah affairs.

The financial condition of the Grand Lodge is good.

The Grand Lecturer reports success in the practice of the "new work." And of the office he says:—

I would further advise that the office of the Grand Lecturer be filled by election, and that his term of office be extended to twenty years, or during good behavior. This action would establish a uniform work, and forever silence "schisms." This cannot be done in one year, nor two, but continued teaching from one instructor alone can bring about the happy result of entire uniformity.

If this last suggestion is not acted upon by this Grand Body, then I would advise that the Grand Lecturer exemplify the work which he has taught before the Grand Lodge when his term of office expires, for the benefit of his successor in office, that there may be no deviation from the work which our Custodians labored so long and hard to agree upon, and which was unanimously adopted at our last session. This I stand ready to do, if it is the wish of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge did not see fit to adopt the recommendation of the Grand Lecturer.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved,* That hereafter elective officers shall not be installed by proxy.

We would like to ask Bro.: Diehl, why the elected officers, and not the appointed ones? Are not the latter just as much officers as the elected ones? Are their obligations not as positive and binding as those of the elective officers?

The following amendment of the Standard By-Laws was adopted — the latter clause of which we question the wisdom or propriety of:—

Any member in good standing may withdraw from membership for the purpose of joining another Lodge outside of the jurisdiction of his Lodge, or by reason of leaving the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Utah, or by helping to form a new Lodge, by paying his dues and notifying the Lodge to that effect at a regular meeting; but should such withdrawal be for the purpose of uniting with a Lodge under this jurisdiction, no demit shall be granted until after the member desiring such demit shall have been elected to membership by the Lodge petitioned.

A spicy and well written review of the transactions of fifty American Grand Lodges is presented by Bro.: Diehl, the Grand Secretary. Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial, complimentary, and extended notice.

Our Grand Secretary, Bro.: Bowen, receives the following compliment:—

There can be no doubt that the Grand Secretary, Bro.: Bowen, is the soul of the Grand Lodge. His annual report is not only of great value to his own jurisdiction, but also to such colleagues who are willing to learn and improve, and the undersigned is one of them.

He compliments our review, and quotes approvingly from it, and then says:—

“A little nonsense now and then,  
Is cherished by the best of men.”

Now, Bro.: Diehl, we wish to know if you mean that our review was made of nonsense. If so, we challenge you to choose your weapon and meet us on Pike's Peak on New Year's Day, for mortal combat. We will choose the *setting maul* for ours. But he becomes better natured, and winds up by accepting our advice to take a new deal (Diehl).

Under Illinois, we find the following as Bro.: Diehl's belief as to the resurrection of the body:—

On this point we stand and fall with Bro.: Robbins, and it is a great question in our mind whether Bro.: Robbins believes in “the resurrection of the body” at all. We know that we don't—landmark or no landmark—and we don't hold back in telling this, either; and we do not think that our masonic standing will be impaired by our disbelief—at least not in Utah. We have read and studied, in our early days, too much the works of our great German philosophers, more especially Humboldt's “Cosmos,” and we will never betray them in our manhood. Humboldt's portrait hangs in our room, and his eyes look upon us while we write this, and he need not now, nor ever shall he, be ashamed of his humble countryman. Furthermore, we advocate “cremation,” and do believe that when cremation of the dead body becomes the universal custom—and it will, sooner or later—the belief in the “resurrection of the body” will fall to the ground as a natural consequence.

We admire Bro. Diehl's candor in stating his belief; but he does not get that belief from the teachings of Masonry, nor from the Bible, from which all that is good in Masonry is derived.

Do you believe the Holy Bible to be the inestimable gift of God to man? *Masonry* so emphatically teaches us. The Bible teaches us as positively that the body shall be raised—not our *corruptible* body, but an *incorruptible* body. What does the third degree teach, if it does not symbolize and teach the resurrection of the body? Is it argued that *man* can thwart the decrees and plans of God, by simply burning human bodies to ashes? That argument would wrest from God his omnipotence, and thus destroy the foundation stone of Freemasonry. We opine that pinning faith to the “great German philosophers” will not prove a very formidable *masonic* argument against the resurrection of the body. Our trust is in God, and our faith is well founded. *Si Deus nobiscum, quis contra nos?*

M.: W.: Edmund P. Johnson is Grand Master, and R.: W.: Christopher Diehl, Grand Secretary.

## VERMONT, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in the city of Burlington, on the 9th day of June, M. W. Nathan P. Bowman, Grand Master, and R. W. Henry Clark, Grand Secretary.

The Annual Address is ably written, and is full of good thoughts.

The Grand Master pays fitting tribute to the memory of Past Grand Master George Mortimer Hall, who departed this life on the 24th day of August, 1874.

No new Lodges were organized during the year. They have stopped at one hundred in Vermont.

Just as we expected, they have run afoul of the moon again. Fortunately, however, only one Lodge was lost in the fracas. The Grand Master recommends all Lodges whose by-laws are affected by the moon to amend them so as to hold their stated Communications on some particular day of the week.

The following may be of interest :

## SPURIOUS WORK.

On the 10th of January, I received a communication from a brother of Mt. Vernon Lodge, No. 8, at Morrisville, informing me that a printed work in cypher, called "Eeci Orienti," was being sold in that vicinity, claiming to be the correct work and lectures of this jurisdiction, and authorized by the officers of this Grand Lodge. I immediately directed the Grand Secretary to issue a circular to all the Lodges in this jurisdiction, warning the brethren against the use of the work, and directing the Masters of Lodges to prefer charges and punish any Mason who should be instrumental in circulating the work. The circular was issued with promptness, and I have heard nothing from it since that time.

The following is too good to pass by :

My brothers, are we living the principles of our institution? Do we not find some among us who seem to have joined the institution for selfish purposes, and when they find themselves disappointed in not being able to turn it to pecuniary benefit, go out, and, in many cases, disgrace the cause of Masonry? Are we all careful in our dealing and daily intercourse with each other? Are we always ready to exercise charity? Are we not too apt to shed tears over the sufferings afar off, and pass by, too often, that real misery that meets us at every step? Do we not have too many among us who disgrace the Order by intemperance and profanity? No true Mason, who appreciates the moral teachings of our institution, will ever take the name of "God but with that reverential awe which is due from a creature to his creator," and to all Masons who are alive to the sense of God's goodness and purity, profanity is a revolting and disgusting practice; and every Mason who will persist in such a practice after being expostulated with, if we are all true to our convictions, and cannot reform them, let them be cut off and thrown out, that the beauty of our temple be not marred with their presence, and then may we hope to exemplify the great moral truths inculcated by the Masonic institution.

Nothing new is laid down in his decisions.

The Grand Lodge had the face to *watch* Past Grand Master Park Davis, and when they got him in the Grand Lodge they *chained* him. It was a fine gold watch and chain.

In attempting to prepare for a reprint of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge from 1794 to 1834, the committee find "that the record book of the Grand Lodge from 1794 to 1840 is missing."

From the Grand Master's address, and from the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, we learn that the Craft are harmonious and prosperous.

An excellent report on Foreign Correspondence is presented by Bro. Henry Clark, Grand Secretary, in which the transactions of forty corresponding Grand Bodies are criticised, in a fraternal and able manner. Nebraska for 1874 receives cordial notice: under which head we extract the following:

George S. Smith, Grand Orator, delivered the annual address before the Grand Lodge in the presence of the members of that body, and the three local Lodges, and many sojourning craftsmen, and residents of Omaha. It was a production of rare merit, eloquent in language, chaste in style, enunciating sentiments of rare value. We would gladly make liberal extracts therefrom did space permit. The oration appears in full in the proceedings.

The old custom of requiring certificates of good standing from traveling brethren being renewed in neighboring jurisdictions, the Grand Secretary was authorized to prepare and furnish the Lodges of the jurisdiction blank certificates of good standing, in stub book form, on durable paper, and of convenient size, the cost not to exceed fifty cents for each certificate, and one hundred dollars was appropriated for the purpose of carrying the instructions into effect. A committee was appointed to prepare and present a Constitution and By-Laws for a Masonic Life Assurance Association.

The excellent report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of J. N. Wise, reviewing the printed proceedings of all American Grand Lodges. The report is one of the models of judicious selections, conservative comment, and wholesome suggestions. A fraternal review is made of Vermont. Grand Master Davis' address is said to be "a very able address," from which his words on the object of the institution are quoted, and commended "as containing a good deal of *good hard sense*." What he says under the head of Foreign Grand Bodies and Correspondence is also extracted.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

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## VIRGINIA, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held in Richmond, on the 13th day of December, M. W. Wm. B. Taliaferro, Grand Master, and R. W. John Dove, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master delivered a very able and highly interesting and instructive address.

Dispensations were issued for the formation of thirteen new Lodges.

Of the status of non-affiliated Masons, the Grand Master presents the following sensible views:

A non-affiliate relinquishes many privileges by voluntarily dimitting from his Lodge. He ceases to exercise the right to choose the officers, as well as of being himself promoted to the honors of his Lodge—he has no right to participate with them in the social hours of refreshment and recreation—but that he should be denied the general right of

Masonic association, and the privilege of Masonic burial, without any violation of Masonic obligation, seems a departure from the original design of our institution.

I know that these views are not generally received now-a-days. We are told that the drones who do not work should not be fed; that he is no true Mason who does not connect himself with a Lodge, and he cannot expect to enjoy any of the rights or benefits unless he contributes to the common fund. I confess that, in my opinion, unless attended with great inconvenience, all Masons should feel it to be a duty to connect themselves with some Lodge, but I would make the Lodges attractive enough, by the material which constitutes them, to induce the desire in the minds of non-affiliates to unite with them.

The following are among his decisions on Masonic law :

2. That the failure to obey a summons to show cause for non-payment of dues, is not such a violation of Masonic obligation as will subject the delinquent brother to trial for unmasonic conduct.

A *summons* is a *summons*, and a failure to *obey* is a *failure* to obey ; and we all know what we said about "*due summons*."

13. An Entered Apprentice removing from a foreign jurisdiction, and permanently settling in this, may be legally passed and raised without the consent of the Grand Lodge, Grand Master, or subordinate Lodge to which he was originally subject—but Masonic comity requires that his Lodge should be consulted before conferring the degrees."

This decision is wrong, according to our light. We hold that one Lodge has no right to meddle with the work of another without its consent.

18. That a member of two or more Lodges, being suspended by one Lodge for non-payment of dues, stands suspended in all, and a restoration to the rights and benefits of Masonry in the Lodge suspending him does not restore him to membership in that or any other Lodge of which he was a member, but, to be restored, he will have to petition each Lodge, and be subject to the test of the ballot in each.

20. That a Lodge admitting to membership a member of another Lodge in arrears for dues becomes responsible therefor, and a refusal to satisfy a demand made for the dues of the delinquent will subject the offending Lodge to a suspension of its charter, in the discretion of the Grand Master.

If we were counseled in the premises, we would advise the "total annihilation" of *dual* membership, and then we would know whether a Mason was affiliated or not. Under the *dual membership* system, you "can't most always tell." And then Lodges would be saved the vexations indicated in the foregoing decisions.

The following is one of the decisions of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence :

4. A brother who has been suspended by a Lodge, but restored to the rights of Masonry, though not to membership in the Lodge which suspended him, cannot obtain a dimitt from such Lodge ; nor is the same necessary to authorize his application for membership in any other Lodge.

We simply remark, that restoration from *suspension* cannot consistently be done without restoring to the position occupied before suspen-

sion. Otherwise, "suspension" is a misappropriation of a term, which should properly be called expulsion. *Expulsion* is cutting off membership *suspension* is merely a deprivation of membership for the time being, or until a certain contingency takes place.

A large amount of business was done at this session.

We regret exceedingly to find no report on Foreign Correspondence. The Committee asked for further time to finish their report, and for permission to have it printed with the proceedings, which was granted; but—it does not appear.

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### WASHINGTON, 1875.

A Special Communication was held at Olympia, August 17th, for the purpose of "receiving" the Grand Lodge of Oregon. The following explains:

The special business of this hour being the formal reception and welcome of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Oregon, the officers and many members of which were in waiting at reception hall, they were then conducted into the Grand Lodge room by DeMolay Council of Kadosh No. 2, A. and A. S. Rite, and received and welcomed by the private grand honors of Masonry.

Brother Reed, the Grand Secretary, is felicitous after the following style:

Our brethren of Washington not only rejoice at so happy a result—they feel truly grateful, more than grateful—in that they were greeted and honored by so large and respectable a delegation from our Mother Grand Lodge, of Oregon, among whom were her present Grand Officers, and many of her illustrious and highly honored Past Grand Officers, and our brethren; likewise, for the presence of our distinguished, intelligent, and warm-hearted brethren from British Columbia, and our fair and accomplished representative from Idaho, *the wife of P. G. M. Jonas W. Brown.*

In justice to Bro. Reed, we will own the italics in the last line. We inquire of Bro. Reed, purely for information, if the ladies, generally, in Washington and Idaho, are Representative Masons?

The "Reunion" is pronounced a "grand success."

Another Special Communication was held at Port Townsend, on the 6th day of December, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Presbyterian Chapel.

The Annual Communication was held September 23d, M.: W.: James R. Hayden, Grand Master, and R.: W.: T. M. Reed, Grand Secretary.

An excellent address was delivered by the Grand Master, from which we learn that two dispensations were issued for the formation of new Lodges. Two "accelerating" dispensations were also issued.

Among the decisions we note the following:

VIII. An unaffiliated Mason is incompetent to prefer charges against a Master Mason in good standing.

We do not think the above ruling is sound. Any Mason in good standing ought to be competent to prefer charges.

The Grand Master gives us a full and pleasing account of the *Reunion* previously referred to. They doubtless had a good time, and we would like to have been there.

Bro. T. M. Reed gives us three pages of review—not review, either but a short dissertation on Masonry generally.

The Craft on our Northwestern Coast are in a healthy and happy condition.

M. W. Thomas T. Miner is Grand Master, and R. W. T. M. Reed Grand Secretary.

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### WEST VIRGINIA, 1875.

A Special Communication was held at Parkersburg, on the 1st day of May, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the United States Court House and Postoffice.

Also a Special Communication was held at Wheeling, on the 18th day of September, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of a capitol building.

The Annual Communication was held on the 9th day of November, M. W. Robert White, Grand Master, and R. W. O. S. Long, Grand Secretary.

From the address, we learn that the Craft are prosperous and thrifty. Five dispensations were issued for new Lodges.

The decisions are ordinary.

The reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, in a historical point of view, are good.

The following was adopted upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence:

Has a Lodge the right to refuse a demit to a brother paying his dues and assigning no reason for asking for the same?

Your Committee are compelled to answer this question in the negative. To affirm such a right would include the idea of enforced or compulsory membership, a relation which, "even if practicable, would certainly be of no benefit to either party." At the same time, we take occasion to say that we cannot see how any brother, clearly appreciating his Masonic obligation, can ask for a demit under such circumstances.

A memorial page is inscribed to the memory of R. W. Josiah Bigelow, who, for more than fifty years, stood in the front rank of Virginia Masonry.

We regret to find no report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. W. Kebhart D. Walker is Grand Master, and R. W. O. S. Long, Grand Secretary.

## WISCONSIN, 1875.

The Annual Communication was held at Milwaukee on the 8th day of June—M.: W.: Jedd P. C. Cottrill, Grand Master, and R.: W.: Geo. E. Hoskinson, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address is devoted to a recital of his official doings.

Several special dispensations were granted, and among them, we observe, three were to relieve candidates of the *proficiency* requirement, and give the following excerpt from the address to show the grounds—the italics are ours:—

I have granted three dispensations, to different Lodges, to advance candidates without their exhibiting proficiency. I granted these dispensations upon the unanimous votes and request of the Lodges, after considerable reflection, but finally deeming that if they were willing to receive the applicants they might be permitted to do so—inasmuch as it was not likely that the applicants could ever make themselves sufficiently known to enable them to visit elsewhere.

A dispensation to put *drones* into the masonic hive is very much in keeping with the following "bull" against the organization known as "Adoptive Masonry," or "Order of the Eastern Star:"—

Application having been made to me for instruction and advice by several of the subordinate Lodges which have received circulars signed ———, Past Grand Lecturer, etc., asking the use of their Lodge rooms for a lecture upon so-called "Adoptive Masonry," and for the institution of so-called Chapters of the (so-called) Eastern Star, this circular is issued for the guidance of the subordinates.

Section 15 of Article XXI. of the Constitution provides that "The conferring in any Lodge of what is known as honorary or side degrees is strictly forbidden."

At the Annual Communication held in 1872 the following standing order was adopted:

"Ordered, That no Lodge room shall be used for any purpose other than for masonic bodies and for masonic purposes."—*Proceedings of 1872, page 51.*

At the Annual Communication held in 1873 this standing order was amended by adding to it the words, "Without a dispensation from the Grand Master."—*Proceedings of 1873, page 21.*

Under this constitutional provision and general order, the Grand Master, after careful examination, is of the opinion:—

1st. That the so-called degrees of the Eastern Star are side degrees within the intent and meaning of the Constitution.

2d. That no Lodge room can be used for any of the purposes mentioned in the circular alluded to, without a special dispensation, in each case, from the Grand Master.

The Grand Master is also of the opinion that no Lodge, and no Mason, *as such*, can properly have any connection with, or give any countenance to, the so-called degrees above referred to; and he is assured, to-day, by ——— that he will forthwith cancel all his appointments within this jurisdiction, and institute no more Chapters (so-called) within it.

The Grand Secretary is directed to cause this circular to be printed, and a copy thereof to be transmitted to each subordinate Lodge within this jurisdiction; and the same will be read in open Lodge at the next regular communication after its receipt, and entered in full upon the minutes.

The same rule of construction here laid down will apply to any other similar so-called degrees that may be attempted to be introduced within this Grand Jurisdiction.

Before my interview with him he had started three of his so-called Chapters. Upon receipt of my circular, two of them at once disbanded, as did the third one shortly afterwards; and so this irregular and swindling humbug perished in Wisconsin. \* \* \*

The Committee on Jurisprudence endorsed the action of the Grand Master.

We have heard somewhat about this "*adoptive Masonry*," and, from all the information we have been able to gather, we are of the candid opinion, deliberately formed, that *even the Grand Master of Wisconsin* would be—none the worse man or Mason by having the honor of membership in the "Order." In fact, we expect to live to see the day when he and the writer hereof will both be "highly honorable members," and "*sisters*" of the "Eastern Star," and when the principles of "the Order" will exert their benign influences in the homes and upon the lives and characters of even Wisconsin Masons.

[*Note*, by way of explanation. The foregoing remarks are not intended for the edification of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, but for the defense of our Masons' wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters.]

The recognition of the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory was postponed. The Grand Lodge of Wyoming was recognised, and the Grand Orient of Hungary was not.

The following generous order was adopted:—

*Ordered*, That in case of any calamity happening to any community or communities, by pestilence, fire, or from any other cause, the M. : W. : Grand Master is hereby authorized to donate from the funds of the Grand Lodge such sum or sums as he may deem adequate for the relief of distressed brethren in such community: *Provided*, that he shall not donate to exceed one thousand dollars in any one year. He is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the Grand Treasurer for amounts donated.

The following decision of the Grand Master was, with others, referred to the Committee on Judiciary, but, for some reason, they did not report on it:—

One Lodge cannot confer degrees, *as a matter of favor* to another, upon the material of the latter.

What! not if requested (?)

The report on Foreign Correspondence was presented by Brother George D. Wilber, the committee. It covers eighty-six pages, and criticises the proceedings of thirty-two corresponding Grand Bodies in a very candid, handsome, and able manner. He does not quote, but writes up the whole in his own style.

Nebraska for 1874 receives extended and cordial notice.

That our brethren may be better advised as to the rank our Grand Lodge is beginning to assume among the many Grand Lodges, we copy the following extracts from Bro. : Wilber's review:—

Much business was transacted at this communication; and we must commend the thorough-going manner in which the Grand Secretary has performed his duties. To Nebraska we give the first place on our list of exchanges, for the surpassing excellence of their printed proceedings. The paper is of fine quality; the printing would do credit to any establishment; the arrangement of the type into larger and smaller sizes, facilitates reading and a ready reference; and last, though not least, the broad margins of the pages rejoice the eye of all who can appreciate beauty.

The Grand Secretary, being wide awake and keenly alive to the interests of Masonry, makes his report the means of calling the attention of the Grand Lodge to the various

important matters which should claim its attention; and we notice that most of his suggestions were approved by that body.

At his suggestion, subordinate Lodges are required to record, in a condensed and systematic manner, all the data of the memberships in each Lodge, in a "Compendium" furnished to each Lodge at actual cost, and send the same up to the Grand Lodge, at its next Annual Communication, for examination. At least one christian name must be given in full with each surname, in making the entries. When these Compendiums are written up, Nebraska will have a complete history of every person who has applied for admission within her jurisdiction. We should be glad to see the plan tried in Wisconsin.

In place of publishing the names of rejections, suspensions, and expulsions, each Lodge is furnished with a "Black Book" at cost, in which to make such entries; and we suppose each subordinate Lodge is kept informed of these, through the Grand Secretary. This was adopted to *avoid suits* in the courts about the private affairs of Masonry.

It was decided to stereotype and reprint the proceedings of their Grand Lodge from the date of its organization, the proceedings of the same year to be also stereotyped; and this was done as an act of far-sighted economy, as it will be necessary to print and reprint from time to time, only as many copies as may be needed for immediate use.

The Grand Secretary was also authorized to prepare and furnish to their Lodges blank certificates of good standing, in stub-book form, on durable paper and of convenient size, at actual cost, not to exceed fifty cents for each certificate. This is designed to supercede and avoid the expense and bulk of the ordinary "diploma" now in use.

Bro.: Geo. S. Smith is credited with a fine oration, although he does not "take much stock" in orations.

Of our humble self, he indulges in the following:—

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, prepared by its chairman Bro.: J. N. Wise—no novice, by the way—presents a judicious review of forty-seven American Grand Lodges, Wisconsin included, and occupies one hundred and nine pages, exclusive of Bro.: Pinner's review of Masonry in Europe, prepared in behalf of the Grand Lodge of New York. Notwithstanding the disclaimer of Bro.: Wise, we must accord to him just the "gifts" necessary to the preparation of a good review. Manifesting a fraternal feeling towards the whole craft, he nevertheless ventures on just criticism when, in his judgment, occasion demands.

Want of time and space forbids our quoting from Bro.: Wise's report several items we had marked; but we heartily reiterate his appeal to Grand Secretaries to recapitulate on one page all statistics contained in their several proceedings.

The M.: W.: Grand Master was re-elected, and R.: W.: John W. Woodhull (?) was elected Grand Secretary.

## WYOMING, 1874-75.

We have before us a pamphlet containing the proceedings of a convention held at Laramie City on the 15th of December, 1874, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for Wyoming. Four Lodges were represented. The usual forms and customs were observed. Grand Officers were elected and duly installed, and the Grand Lodge of Wyoming declared regularly organized. A Constitution and By-Laws were then adopted; after which sundry resolutions were adopted, and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

The First Annual Communication was held at the same place on the 12th day of October, 1875,—M.: W.: E. P. Snow, Grand Master, and R.: W.: John K. Jeffrey, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master's address has a good "ring." He says that officers of subordinate Lodges residing fifty miles from the place of meeting seldom miss a communication, and follows:—

This speaks volumes for the Lodge, and should serve as a severe rebuke to those members of other Lodges who reside on the very threshold of the Lodge room, and still cannot find time to attend the meetings.

The following is worthy of note:—

See to it that your officers are men of exemplary character, intelligent, and respected in the community. Avoid all quarrels and dissensions. Make the Lodge meetings interesting to the fraternity. Receive none into the order but those who are worthy and well qualified. Let Masonry be what it professes—a voluntary association.

In reference to Lodge dues, he says:—

Let it be understood that the payment of dues is voluntary, and, as the principles of Masonry are taught, your Secretaries' ledgers will be balanced, your treasuries filled, and non-affiliates unknown.

The following is pure metal:—

Masonry requires obedience to the moral law, and every man who takes upon himself the solemn obligations of our order professes to take this law as a rule and guide of his faith through life. How can we, then, consistently with the teachings we have received, profane the name of that God in whom we have said we put our trust, or engage in a traffic the tendency of which is demoralizing in its effects, and brings reproach upon our order?

Are men Masons who engage in the sale of ardent spirits, and thereby bring their fellow creatures to drunkards' graves, disgrace their families, and bring reproach upon an order whose cardinal virtues are Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice?

In answer to the last question, we say, No.

The following expresses his appreciation of Foreign Correspondence reports:—

I believe that in no way can so much valuable information be obtained as through the reports of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. Mooted questions are discussed from every conceivable standpoint, grave errors are detected and pointed out, and that spirit of emulation as to who can best work and best agree is inculcated.

The following amendment to the By-Laws was adopted:—

On all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, each member thereof shall be entitled to but one vote, in his own right, or by virtue of any office or position he may hold in the Grand Lodge or any subordinate Lodge; nor shall any member, by proxy or delegate authority, ever cast more than three votes, his own included.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence acknowledge the receipt of proceedings from twenty-five Grand Lodges, but attempt no review. Nothing of special interest to other jurisdictions was transacted.

We congratulate our young sister upon the favorable auspices under which she has started out.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary were re-elected.

## CONCLUSION.

Looking over the great field of Freemasonry, we have abundant reason for congratulations at the general peace and prosperity which are characteristic of the workings of the fraternity. With our masonic telescope we are able to discover but one unfavorable sign upon the American continent—a small speck in the horizon, which, if not dissipated by favorable breezes, may cause a storm to burst upon us. The proposed recognition, by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, of the so-called *colored Grand Lodge* of the same jurisdiction—if such proposition should become an accomplished fact—will cause estrangements and divisions in American Freemasonry that makes us tremble to think of. We trust, however, that wise counsels will be brought to bear upon the consideration of the subject, and that the prosperity and harmony of the craft will not be lost sight of, in a generous desire to legalize and fraternize a mass of clandestine Masonry. In the consummation of the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, she would recede from her position upon the question of Grand Lodge sovereignty, and thus break down our only safeguard against the encroachments of European Grand Bodies—a safeguard which American Grand Lodges have erected for self-defense and for self-preservation. We sincerely trust that our brethren of Ohio will ponder well before taking so radical a step.

## A CLANDESTINE GRAND LODGE

Was organized on the 10th day of February, 1876, in the province of Ontario, to supersede the Grand Lodge of Canada, by a number of *sore-heads*. The title of the organization was to be "The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Ontario." We are happy to note the promptness and decision with which the Grand Master of Canada met the question. He suspended the participants from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, and the Grand Lodge subsequently expelled them. It is to be hoped this action will finish the *spurious organization*.

Our labors are over. We tender our thanks to our *confreeres* for their kindly criticisms, and for the many pleasant and profitable thoughts which find expression through their reviews.

J. N. WISE, for the Committee.

