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THE

LIBERAL FREEMASON.

Vol. I.] BOSTON, JULY, 1877. [No. 4.

JURISDICTION.

CLANDESTINE.

Before proceeding to discuss the modifications of jurisdiction made by Grand Lodges, we propose to examine the result of such violation, referred to in a former number, under the ancient law of Masonry as it prevails in the several Grand Bodies in Massachusetts. The law is clear enough, and, if followed as a rule of action, Masons need not be pained by the term *clandestine*, in many cases, too, where the word *irregular*, as applied to the facts, would be a better Masonic term.

The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts reads, Article III., Section 2, "No Candidate whose application may be rejected by a Lodge shall be proposed in any other Lodge under this jurisdiction within six months after such rejection; nor shall any candidate be proposed in any Lodge other than the one to which he first applied, without a written recommendation from six members of the said Lodge, of whom the Master and Wardens shall be three. . . . .

"Any candidate residing within this State whose application has been rejected, who shall be initiated in any other Lodge, without the recommendation aforesaid, shall be deemed a clandestine Mason. . . . . .

"No person who has been rejected in any Lodge in this jurisdiction, who shall have procured his degrees in any other jurisdiction, without the recommendation prescribed in Section 2 of this article, and without the written permission of the Grand

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Master, shall be admitted as a visitor in any Lodge of this jurisdiction, or be entitled to any recognition as a Mason, until he shall have been formally healed by the Grand Lodge, and notice thereof shall have been duly communicated by the Recording Grand Secretary to all the Lodges of this jurisdiction."

The Grand Chapter of Massachusetts adheres to this law of the Grand Lodge; the Grand Council does so inferentially, and, though its constitution is not explicit on the subject, no doubt if a case should arise which required it, this rule of law would be adhered to; and the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island has removed all doubt of its position by amending its constitution, so as to require the consent of the rejecting Commandery, in writing, if within the jurisdiction, and, if without, the consent of the Grand Commander in writing.

Under the foregoing provisions of law, and in view of the inherent right of Grand Lodges to make regulations for the government of the Craft, it is evident that the violation of those herein referred to subjects the initiate to the disagreeable and inconvenient penalty of being declared a clandestine.

In a review recently published in Indiana, the point is made in reference to a case recently before the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, thus: —

In this matter the wonder is how a Mason can be styled or held to be *clandestine* when he is made in a regular Lodge, in the usual manner? Can he be so held under some question of jurisdiction, for which he was in no wise informed or to blame? It was the Lodge which should have been disciplined, and been compelled to pay over fees, or had its charter arrested, and not the unoffending member who should suffer. *He was in no sense clandestine if he applied to and obtained his Craft degrees from a regular Lodge.* (The italics are ours.)

In 1849 Charles W. Moore said "We do not see how a Brother who has just received the degrees in a regular Lodge, and in a proper manner, can be regarded as a clandestine Mason. The cause of complaint must lie with much greater

force against the Lodge that received him." Dr. Mackey, Morris, and others, in substance, agree with this; various Grand Lodges have treated the question. Florida agreed with New York, in 1850, that a Mason made in a regular Lodge "cannot be declared clandestine;" but the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has expressly declared against all these, and solemnly applied the term to irregularly made Masons.

It is not essential to claim that the word *clandestine* does not appear in the old Constitutions, but was first used in 1784, because inherent "Power and authority to make *new regulations*, or to alter these," exist in every Grand Lodge.

Webster defines clandestine to mean "withdrawn from public notice for an evil purpose; kept secret; hidden; private and its synonyms — hidden; secret; private; concealed; underhand; sly; fraudulent; and fraudulent he defines, as, 1. "Using fraud in making contracts; trickish. 2. Containing, founded, or preceding fraud; as a fraudulent bargain. 3. Obtained or performed by artifice; and adds the synonyms, deceitful; fraudful; guileful; crafty; cunning; subtle; deceiving; cheating; deceptive; insidious; treacherous; dishonest; unfair; knavish."

From these it does not appear that the word is used unadvisedly in Massachusetts. And if we appeal to the highest legal authorities it further appears that, "Deceit is a fraudulent contrivance, by words or acts, to deceive a third person, who, relying thereupon, without carelessness or neglect of his own, sustains damage thereby." Coke, Litt. 357, b. Further, that "Fraud is a misrepresentation of facts, by which one exercising reasonable discretion and confidence is misled to his injury, whether the misrepresentation was known to be false, or only not known to be true, or even made altogether innocently." 1 Story, Eq. Jur. c. 6.

Bouvier, in speaking of fraud, says, "Misrepresentation as to the legal effect of an agreement does not avoid it as against a party whom such misrepresentation has induced to enter into it; every man being presumed to know the legal effect of an instrument which he signs, or of an act which he performs."

"Fraud, both at law and in equity, when sufficiently proved

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and ascertained, avoids a contract *ab initio*, whether the fraud be intended to operate against one of the contracting parties, or against third parties, or against the public."

"The fraud of an agent by a misrepresentation, which is embodied in the contract to which his agency relates, avoids the contract."

In view of the right of Grand Lodge to amend its regulations, the definition of terms, and the construction of law, it is difficult to see how the word *clandestine* is improperly or unfairly applied to Masons made in regular Lodges, in violation of constitutional law, even though we like the word *irregular* better, and would distinguish such, from those made in *clandestine* Lodges, by applying to the latter the word CLANDESTINE.

A REMINISCENCE OF THE DARK DAYS.

ANTI-MASONRY.

On the evening of the 14th ult., we attended a festival given by the Brethren of Hyde Park Lodge, of Hyde Park, on which occasion we had a treat seldom enjoyed in our society gatherings, — a speech, warm from the heart, with the ring of the true metal, and thoroughly Masonic, from a venerable sister, Mrs. E. H. Cobb, widow of the late Rev. Bro. Sylvanus Cobb, D.D., who was one of the signers of the "DECLARATION." She is the mother of a brother well-known among us as an earnest and devoted worker of the Craft to-day, — Worshipful Brother Sylvanus Cobb, Jr. Circumstances in the life of the aged widow and mother have made her, if not a Mason, at least one who loves and reveres the Institution. In the course of her remarks on the occasion referred to, she gave an interesting reminiscence of her own experience in the "Dark Days." In the autumn of 1833, her husband was a candidate for re-election to the Massachusetts Legislature. There were many influential political anti-Masons in Bro. Cobb's parish (he was pastor of the old First Parish of Malden), and of their number they elected a committee to confer with Mrs. Cobb, and, if possible,

to persuade her to induce her husband to renounce Freemasonry; or, at all events, to withhold his tongue from giving support to the institution in the battle which was to be fought during the coming winter.

Never mind the way and manner in which they introduced their business. Suffice it to say, that they waited upon the lady, and urged their mission; but they found her sternly deaf to all their entreaties, and thoroughly armed in defence of the Institution they sought to crush. Finally, finding all argument unavailing, they thought to touch her in a vulnerable spot. She was the mother of six children, and her husband's salary was but small, and even scant. Said they, in their eagerness to conquer: —

"Mrs. Cobb, do you realize that the bread and butter for yourself and family may depend upon the position your husband assumes in this matter?"

Flushed with indignation, this comparatively small, frail woman arose to her feet, and with eyes blazing, and lips quivering, but with a heart firm, strong, and true, she looked them in the face and made answer:—

"Gentlemen, it may be that you mean what you say; but, mark me, should it really come to a state so needy as you would picture, I will cheerfully take my six children and go out into the woods and dig ground-nuts for their subsistence and my own, before, with my consent, my husband shall, in the least degree, prove recreant or false to Freemasonry!"

That committee sneaked away, and never came again.

Mr. Cobb was elected, as his wife assured him he would be, and the course pursued by the anti-Masons — the sending of that committee to his wife — led him to stand forth in battle for his beloved Order more zealously than he might otherwise have done.

During that session of the Massachusetts Legislature, of January, February, and March, 1834, the Masonic question came up for the last time. We are permitted to copy from the Rev. Brother's diary, written up carefully at the time, his account of the legislative proceedings on the subject of Masonry, together with the part he acted therein. After telling how he, by per-

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sistent efforts, procured a charter for a new bridge between Malden and Charlestown, over the Mystic river, he records in his Diary as follows: —

"Another subject to which I gave earnest attention in its place was the proposed legislation against *Freemasonry*. It was the climax of the famous anti-Masonic excitement. The Speaker's table groaned beneath the burden of petitions praying for an Act to abolish Freemasonry and to render Masonic oaths unlawful. A large special committee was appointed as the reference for these petitions. But that committee was practically superseded and the work taken out of their hands and *political* anti-Masonry killed out, in the following manner: An order was introduced directing the Committee on the Judiciary to consider the expediency of passing a general law against 'Extra-Judicial Oaths,' and to report a bill. That committee reported a bill prohibitive of Extra-Judicial Oaths. They claimed that the design in view was to put a stop to the ridiculous multiplying of 'sea-serpent' oaths, and other practices of running to our Justices of the Peace and making solemn and formal oath to this and that 'cock-and-bull' story, — all which was calculated to belittle the oath and demoralize its sanctity. Masonry was not named in the bill. Yet it was evident that, if this should pass, the political anti-Masons could do nothing more; for, if the Masonic oath should be judged by the courts a nuisance, coming within the legitimate province of the law to suppress it, this would suppress it.

"An anti-Mason moved to amend the bill by inserting, before the words 'Extra Judicial,' *Masonic and other;* so that it should read 'all Masonic and other extra-judicial oaths.' This amendment was carried. Then a Mason moved to further amend by inserting *anti-Masonic* before the word 'Masonic,' so that it should read 'all *anti-Masonic*, *Masonic*, and other extra-judicial oaths.' And this was adopted. The design was to encumber the bill with frivolities and crush it out.

"At this point I deemed it my duty to come to the rescue.* Having obtained the decision of the Speaker that such a motion would be in order, I moved to amend by striking out all the party amendments and restoring the bill to its original form. Addressing the Chair, as in duty bound, I yet designed my argument for my Masonic Brethren, and others who desired to get rid of the political

* The reader will bear in mind that this was not written for publication, but only a faithful minute made in a private diary.

anti-Masonic nuisance. I told them that I was a Mason, and that I knew whereof I spoke. I had known the workings of the institution from its earliest days, and knew that its principles were good and that its influence was good, and only good. And I asked them to remember who of our fathers — the fathers of our country and of our independence — had been Masons. I revered the institution; it was near to my heart, and I would labor without ceasing for its perpetuity, and I was not afraid to risk it under the operation of such a law as was now proposed. Though such a law might suppress the public exhibition of a class of nonsensical and ridiculous oaths which might be regarded as public nuisances, it would not — it could not, among honorable Christian men — touch the quiet exercise, in retirement, of any natural and inalienable right. Let the bill be restored to its original simplicity, as it came from the hands of the committee, and be enacted into a law, and Constitutional right will be preserved; and the political anti-Masonic agitation, by which men who have not substantial merits on which to rise, calculate to continue to raise a whirlwind to bear them into office, will die out.

"My amendment was carried by a vote of 242 to 96. Then the bill, as so amended, was passed by 437 yeas to 37 nays.

"The leading anti-Masons in the House saw that their game was played out, and they raved against their minor associates for their want of sagacity and pluck. That was the end of *political* anti-Masonry in Massachusetts."

Thirty years later, when incorporating this reminiscence into an auto-biographical sketch, Mr. Cobb gave the present form to the last sentence, and added as follows: —

"With regard to the law against *extra-judicial oaths*, I know not whether any case of sea-serpent swearing has been arraigned under it, but it has never interfered with the peaceful operation of the ancient and honorable institution of Masonry. I presume no case has been brought before the Supreme Court to call forth a regular judicial decision on the law, but the most eminent and unbiassed of our jurists have, on inquiries proposed, expressed the opinion that the State Legislature has no constitutional power to prohibit individuals from binding themselves, in retirement, to solemn obligations to each other in the manner of an oath."

Dastardly men are like sorry horses, who have just spirit and mettle enough to be mischievous. — *Pope.*

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FIRE.

In Armorial Bearings fire is used to denote those who are ambitious of honor, who perform brave deeds, who have ardent courage, whose thoughts are aspiring, like as the flame springs upward. We are told that among the Hindoos the ordeal was practised in nine different ways, that of by *fire* being one; and in Europe, throughout the dark ages, the ordeal existed under the sanction of the law and the clergy. It is said, too, that the most prevalent kinds of ordeal were those of *fire*, *water* and the *wager of battle;* but that *fire ordeal* was only allowed to persons of high rank.

It might, at first thought, seem that the *ordeal by fire* to which so many of the cities, towns and homes in America have, within a comparatively few years, been subjected, and by reason of which such immense losses have occurred, was in consequence of the guilt of the sufferers, and on whom the gods were now taking vengeance. But a second and a deeper thought reveals the further fact that it was not the loss of goods that resulted from inability to sustain the *ordeal*, but of life — or of personal honor, dearer than life. In the mighty battles which have, within these or other years, been waged with fire, no recreant knight has come off the victor; and though homes, and places of trade, and highways of commerce, have been swept out of existence in an hour, and lives also have been lost, no useless whine of regret has unnerved the arm, or palsied the brain, whose duty and vocation it is not alone to defend, but to restore.

In the great fire which has so recently devastated the energetic and hospitable city of St. John, it seems that the loss in wealth, greater than at first reported, is about equal to SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS for each man, woman and child in it; while the loss in Boston, by the great fire in 1872, was less than TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for each. Measured by these figures it will be at once seen how much greater is the proportional loss to the former city; but how much greater, also, must be its bravery in its aspirations and efforts to recover from the same. Throwing aside all questions of guilt involved in this ordeal, we have to

regret that no friendly clergy or other aid was near enough or powerful enough to guide the victim over the red-hot ploughshares unharmed. And this brings us directly to the fact that, as the *ordeal by fire* was only allowed to persons of high rank, in the days and times of its trial, so has it again and again been applied to cities high in rank for the virtues which conspicuously characterize a brave and honorable people. In this respect St. John is a marked example. Her places of trade, her seats of exchange, her warehouses and her shops, her homes of economy, of refinement and wealth, all of her best, were so suddenly destroyed that frightened and fleeing women fell, and were consumed by their own doors, as the fire-fiend went crackling on to further horrors. What seals have been set to this people's misery! What duties, too, and trials, what self-denials and what triumphs, also await them! The vigor of their blood, and their conquest over loss and over sorrow, must, by and by, develop.

It was not mean men or craven who composed the citizens of St. John when this disaster came; but men who were attentive to all the duties of good citizens, who cultivated the arts of peace and throve on the wings of commerce. Her churches and her schools, her charitable organizations, and her many friendly societies, were sustained and patronized by her best citizens. The hospitable character of the people made the city a pleasant place to sojourn in; she was ever like a good Samaritan to him who fell sick by the wayside, while the general candor made it, in fact, the city of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Freemasonry flourished in St. John. Six Lodges, together with the M.W. Grand Lodge, held their meetings in Ritchie's Building, on Princess street. Two Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council, and two of subordinates of Royal and Select Masters, two Encampments of Knight Templars, met in the same building. Here, too, was a Conclave of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, a Chapter of the Royal Order of Scotland, and the various Bodies in the A. and A. Rite. In the nurture of these several organizations, zeal, skill, and fidelity were conspicuous. They were supported by the merchants, who were burned out; by the clergy, whose congregations are impoverished; by the physicians, despoiled of their

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savings, and whose patients have no means wherewith to pay; by the members of the bar, whose clients can now scarcely pay for their bread; by the men whose homes have been made desolate, whose fruits and whose pleasures have ridden out upon the smoke from their destroyed city, and whose sorrows now sanctify the air which encircles its blackened site.

But courage and hope, faith in themselves, strengthened by sympathy, and aided by that charity which finds it blessed to give as well as to receive, and, above all, the goodness of God, which passeth all understanding, will, in due time, enable them to rebuild their city and temple, the glory of whose second house we yet hope to see greater than that of her former.

To the credit of humanity, people at home and people abroad have felt that touch of nature which makes the world kin, and contributions for *Relief*, one of the TENETS of a Mason's profession, are numerous and generous. Charity, which suffereth long and is kind, with awakened and heartfelt sympathy, presents herself like an angel of mercy; and it is earnestly hoped that her white garments may prove ample enough to succor and sustain the distressed, and that good men and all MASONS under her inspiration may abide in Faith, Hope, and Charity — these three; remembering, also, that the greatest of these *is* CHARITY.

ONE OF OURS.

WENDELL T. DAVIS.

Something like a dozen years ago, we made a Masonic visit to the Connecticut valley, Greenfield being one of the towns, and Franklin R. A. Chapter, therein located, forming a part of the pleasant associations which still linger with us. Among the many good citizens and Masons was one whose genial face and manner betokened goodness of both head and heart, and who contributed much to our enjoyment. In the afternoon a drive of a few miles into the beautiful Deerfield valley was taken, under his guidance. At the hotel he exhibited the old door, carefully kept in a case, which successfully resisted the

tomahawks of the Indians, at a time when fire and bludgeon and axe and knife brought dismay and death to so many of the settlers in that locality, and as the setting sun threw its rays of gold over all, the river and valley and surrounding hills seemed to rest in such abiding peace that we did not wonder at the enthusiasm of our voluntary guide, but rather joined with him in admiration of a scene as exceptional as it was beautiful.

The earlier part of the day had been spent in a visit to Turner's Falls, in nearly an opposite direction from Greenfield, and four or five miles distant. Here workmen had for some time been employed in building a new and substantial dam across the Connecticut river, and here, too, in consequence of excavations made, were revealed the tracks of birds and the prints of leaves made in the once yielding clay, but now fixed by centuries in the hardened rocks; and these, as well as the more practical business enterprises, were discoursed upon by our host with an intelligence whose conceptions and contributions were enriching the stores of science, and whose fruition was so soon to make the desert in this immediate locality "blossom as the rose."

On the further bank of the river, across which we were ferried, was the old farm-house, and then the only one in the neighborhood; but it stood like a sign of growth and a seal of promise to the splendid Freemason, whose monument exists in the village he founded, in the factories it contains, in the homes erected in it, and in the hearts of those who inhabit them.

Wendell Thornton Davis was clerk of the old Upper Locks Canal Company, from which sprang, by his inspiration, the Turner's Falls Company, who have utilized a water-power which, for extent, safety, and constancy, is unsurpassed in America, the home of water-powers. In consequence of the enterprise of this company the laurel-bush and fern and scrub oak and forest trees have given place to a thrifty village, various industries have been introduced, and the hum of many busy wheels attest to the sagacity of the man who inspired the change. We have not the data at hand to tell a moiety of the things done in consequence of his direct influence; but he saw much of the fruit of his labors, and reaped something for his reward.

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At the time of his death he was clerk of the Keith and the Montague Paper Companies, the Turner's Falls Pulp Company, of the Clark & Chapman Machine Company, of Turner's Falls Lumber Company, of the Farren Hotel Company, and clerk and treasurer of the Connecticut-river Bridge Company; to each of which he was as a right arm. He was the legal adviser to all these companies, a director and stockholder in each, and kept his business in such perfect order that a fellow-townsman in speaking of it says: "I do not suppose that any six men in Greenfield could do it as well as he did. He had a wonderful faculty of approaching people of all grades and classes, and of winning their confidence and esteem; but his highest happiness was in making others happy. There is no stopping if we once commence to tell his wonderful good qualities, and year after year will go by and still the people of Greenfield will not cease to mourn the loss of so good a man as Wendell T. Davis." What he was as a citizen, he was also as a Mason; foremost among his equals, and of a generous and sanguine nature, he won men to himself and retained their confidence by his unselfish and manly honor. The church honored him, the people loved him, his neighbors took courage from him; indeed all people were his neighbors, hundreds of whom shed tears at his grave and wreathed his tomb with flowers.

We remember with much satisfaction the part we took in helping to elect him Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge F. and A. M. of Massachusetts, in 1864, and that he leaves as sweet a memory to the Grand R. A. Chapter of Massachusetts, of which he was Grand High Priest in 1857. In the A. and A. Rite he was also interested, though, by reason of locality, he could not participate to any extent in its work.

The various Masonic bodies to which he belonged paid appropriate official tributes to his memory, that of the Commandery, which we quote, being at greater length: —

"Et. Sir Wendell Thornton Davis laid aside his knightly armor Sunday evening, December 3d, A.D. 1876, in the 58th year of his age. He was born at Sandwich, Mass., graduated at Harvard College in 1828, studied law at Cambridge law school, and was admitted to the bar in 1841. He then came to Greenfield and engaged in

the practice of his profession, which he continued to the time of his death. The numerous official positions which he occupied, during the past thirty-five years, were all filled with discriminating fidelity and thorough honesty. He has left that best of legacies to his family and friends, — a good name. But it is in the fact that he was our brother, our companion, and our friend, that we desire to perpetuate his memory, and place upon the records of the Commandery a fitting memorial to his virtues.

"His Masonic career has been long, and, as regards the interests of the Institution in this vicinity, most important. He was initiated in Jerusalem Lodge, at Northampton, September 21st, 1847, and became a member of Republican Lodge, June 3d, 1852. He was connected with, and actively interested in, Franklin Royal Arch Chapter and Titus Strong Council; while he may be considered the founder of Templar Masonry in this part of the Commonwealth. As the first Et. Commander of Connecticut-valley Commandery of Knights Templars, he gave to the body a tone and precedence which it has always retained.

"As a man and a Mason, he esteemed it not less a duty than a pleasure to assist, protect, and defend the weary, way-worn traveller who found the heights of fortune inaccessible and the thorny paths of life broken, adverse, and forlorn. We, as friends of him, may well say, adopting the words of the Greek play, —

> "'Ever thou wert more wise for others' good
> Than for thine own.'

"He was the trusted confidant of the young and old. The rich and proud came to him for assistance and counsel; the poor and humble received from him quick sympathy and willing help. He encouraged youth, and did his best to open to all the culture which a few are always seeking to monopolize. His general benevolence lost none of its strength by its diffusion. He loved the whole human race — the good he reverenced, the bad he pitied. Like Goldsmith, —

> "'He quite forgot their vices in their woes;
> Careless their merits or their faults to scan,
> His pity gave ere charity began.
> Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride,
> And e'en his failings leaned to virtue's side;
> But in his duty prompt at every call,
> He watched and wept, he prayed and felt for all.'"

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THE TWO VILLAGES.

Over the river, on the hill,
Lieth a village white and still;
All around, the forest trees
Shiver and whisper in every breeze;
Over it, sailing shadows go
Of soaring hawk and screaming crow;
And mountain grasses, low and sweet,
Grow in the middle of the open street.

Beside the river, under the hill,
Lieth another village still.
There I see, in the cloudy night,
Twinkling stars of household light, —
Fires that gleam from the sunny door,
Mists that curl on the river shore;
And in the streets no grasses grow,
For there the wheels go to and fro.

In the village on the hill,
Never's a sound of smith or mill;
The houses are thatched with grass and flowers;
Never a clock to toll the hours;
The marble doors are always shut,
You cannot enter in hall or hut.
All the villagers lie asleep;
Never a grain do sow or reap;
Never in dreams do moan nor sigh;
Silent, and idle, and low, they lie.

In that village under the hill,
When the night is starry and still,
Many a weary soul in prayer
Looks to the other village there,
And, weeping and sighing, longs to go
Up to that home, from this below;
Longs to sleep by the forest wild,
Whither have vanished wife and child,
And heareth, praying, this answer fall, —
"Patience, that village will hold you all."

THE REVEALING TRIAL.

Is there not a sure test the deep truth of each man to divine,
When the cow may be brought to the banks of the brook of red wine?

Poems of the Orient.

FOLLY FOR ONE'S SELF.

He who is only for his neighbors wise,
While his own soul in sad confusion lies,
Is like those men who builded Noah's Ark,
But sank, themselves, beneath the waters dark.

Ibid.

THE LESSONS OF A LIFE.

In December, 1845, in the department of the Vosges, Xavier Thiriat, a boy of ten, accompanied four young girls of about the same age to the church. They had to cross a brook, over which was placed a single loose plank. The boy crossed safely; the first girl that attempted it fell in. The boy jumped in, pulled her out, and then, walking in the water, guided each of the girls across. Some time was lost by this, and the party reached church late. Xavier, ashamed of being late, did not go up to the stove, but kept behind. He reached home chilled; a dangerous disease followed, by which he was left a complete cripple for life; his only mode of moving about was on hands and knees, so completely were his legs paralyzed and distorted. Coming of very poor people, there was every prospect that Thiriat would be a heavy charge to his family, and a wretched burden to himself. Instead of this he reached manhood bright, cheerful and intelligent. Reading all the few books which he could lay hold of, he was soon the best-educated man in his district, and rapidly acquired extensive influence, which was always used for good. He induced the young people to read and to study. Some contributions to the local newspaper, the "Echo des Vosges," attracted attention, and made him known, the result of which was that further intellectual opportunities were extended to him. He made himself a good botanist, meteorologist, and geologist, instructed others in these branches, and procured the foundation of several local libraries. He could not, however, be satisfied without achieving his complete independence, and earning his support. He

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obtained the position of manager of the telegraph at a neighboring town, was made secretary to the Mayor, became a favorite correspondent of several agricultural papers, and received the highest reward of the French "Franklin Society," — its gold medal. All this was accomplished by native force of character and strong religious feeling, under circumstances not merely adverse, but, at first sight, absolutely hopeless. A horrible deformity, intense suffering, absence of instruction, crushing poverty, — all these disabilities were overcome, unaided, and this ignorant and crippled lad made himself the light, intellectual and moral, of his whole district. —*Philadelphia Ledger.*

BADNESS.

To pass a hard and ill-natured reflection upon an undesigning action; to invent, or, which is equally bad, to propagate a vexatious report without color and grounds; to plunder an innocent man of his character and good name, a jewel which perhaps he has starved himself to purchase, and probably would hazard his life to secure; to rob him, at the same time, of his happiness and peace of mind; perhaps his bread — the bread, may be, of a virtuous family; and all this, as Solomon says of the madman who casteth firebrands, arrows and death, and saith, "Am I not in sport?" — all this out of wantonness, and often from worse motives; the whole appears such a complication of badness as requires no words or warmth of fancy to aggravate. —*Sterne.*

NOTHING FORGOTTEN.

"There is nothing, no, nothing beautiful and good that dies and is forgotten. An infant, a prattling child, dying in its cradle, will live again, in the better thoughts of those who love it, and play its part though its body be burned to ashes or drowned in the deepest sea. There is not an angel added to the host of heaven but does its blessed work on earth in those that love it here. Dead; oh, if the good deeds of human creatures could be traced to their source, how beautiful would even death appear! for how much charity, mercy and purified affection would be seen to have their growth in dusty graves!"

Dickens.

He who reforms himself has done more towards reforming the public than a crowd of noisy, impotent patriots. — *Lavater.*

LODGES BY IMMEMORIAL CONSTITUTION.

Preston tells us that a sufficient number of Masons met together within a certain district, with the consent of the sheriff or chief magistrate of the place, were empowered, at this time, to make Masons, and practise the rites of Masonry, without a warrant of Constitution. The privilege was inherent in themselves as individuals; and this privilege is still enjoyed by the two old lodges which are now extant (1795), and act by immemorial constitution.

The two lodges alluded to are still in active existence, but there were formerly four referred to in the old records, and accounted for, as follows, by Preston, whom we again quote: —

"1. The old Lodge of Saint Paul, now named the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 1, formerly held at the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Church-yard, is still extant (in 1795), and regularly meets at the Free Masons' tavern in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, on the 4th Wednesday of every month. This lodge is in a very flourishing state, and possesses some valuable records and other ancient relics.

"2. The old lodge, No. 2, formerly held at the Crown in Parker's-lane in Drury-lane, has been extinct above fifty years by the death of its members.

"3. The old lodge, No. 3, formerly held at the Apple-tree Tavern, in Charles-street, Covent-garden, has been dissolved many years. By the list of lodges inserted in the book of constitutions printed in 1738, it appears that in February, 1722-3, this lodge was removed to the Queen's Head, in Knave's Acre, on account of some difference among its members, and that the members who met there came under a *new* constitution; though, says the Book of Constitutions, *they wanted it not*, and ranked as No. 10 in the list. Thus they inconsiderately removed their former rank under an immemorial constitution.

"4. The lodge, No. 4, formerly held at the Rummer and Grapes Tavern, in Channel-row, Westminster, was thence removed to the Horn Tavern, in New Palace Yard, where it continued to meet regularly till within these few years, when, finding themselves in a declining state, the members agreed to incorporate with a new and flourishing lodge under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, entitled,

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The Somerset-House Lodge, which immediately assumed their rank.

"It is a question that will admit of some discussion, whether any of the above old lodges can, while they exist as lodges, surrender their rights; for those rights seem to have been granted by the old Masons of the metropolis to them in trust, and any individual member of the four old lodges might object to the surrender, and in that case they never could be given up. The four old lodges always preserved their original power of *making*, *passing* and *raising* Masons, being termed Masters' Lodges; while the other lodges, for many years afterwards, had no such power, it having been the custom to *pass* and *raise* the Masons made at these lodges at the Grand Lodge *only*."

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

At the last triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter, held in Nashville, Tenn., in November, 1874, twenty-four State Grand Chapters were represented, out of forty now in America. *De facto*, these all belong to the "great American Confederation of Royal Arch Masonry, and as such must be considered — they are part and parcel of the Masonic family of America." Of these, Canada and Nova Scotia are in foreign territory and under a different government; Pennsylvania never did form a part of the Gen. Gr. Chapter, while Virginia, Rhode Island, and possibly one or two others, maintain an independence of that body, but in one or two cases a sort of negative independence. At that session, four of these Grand Chapters were recognized, and two of them became constituent members of the General Grand Chapter; the others not represented were so, principally by reason of the Knights Templar attractions to be in New Orleans a week later. Twenty subordinate chapters were reported as under the immediate jurisdiction of the G. G. body, and a total membership of 126,521, but now about 134,000. The officers then elected to serve for three years were: —

M.E. Elbert H. English, *General Grand High Priest*, Little Rock, Ark.

M.E. John Frizzell, *Dep. Gen. Grand High Priest*, Nashville, Tenn.

M.E. Robert F. Bower, *General Grand King*, Keokuk, Iowa.

M.E. Alfred F. Chapman, *General Grand Scribe*, Boston, Mass.

M.E. John McClellan, *General Grand Treasurer*, Boston, Mass.

M.E. Christopher G. Fox, *General Grand Secretary*, Buffalo, N. Y.

M.E. Noble D. Larner, *Gen. Grand Capt. of the Host*, Washington, D. C.

M.E. Henry Bostwick, *General Grand Royal Arch Capt.*, Covington, Ky.

The next and twenty-third triennial convocation will be held in Buffalo, N. Y., commencing Tuesday, August 21, 1877, when, as appearances indicate, a full representation will be reported, and the present general good-will everywhere prevailing will give additional pleasure to the renewal of friendships cemented by brotherly love and Masonic charity.

THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Twentieth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, commencing August 28, 1877.

Under its jurisdiction there are THIRTY-ONE State Grand Commanderies and TWENTY Subordinates, having a total membership of about 48,000. Of these, Colorado has the least in numbers, and New York the most, — both of members and Subordinate Commanderies, — Alabama has the smallest average membership to each Commandery, and Massachusetts and Rhode Island the largest. Fourteen of the Grand Commanderies have been organized since and including the year 1860; these have in Subordinates 143, and in membership 8,408. The 20 Subordinates, reported to the Grand Encampment in 1874, had 1,404 members, which leaves to the other 17 Grand Commanderies, formed prior to 1860, a membership of 38,188. Canada reports 584 members, and these, though under home government, make about 48,600 Templars affiliated in America at the present time; and probably there are about 2,000 unaffiliated, but otherwise in good standing.

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From present appearances, the Conclave in Cleveland will be very largely attended by individual Knights and by Subordinate Commanderies; active preparations are being made for the accommodation of all comers, and another brilliant Triennial display will, no doubt, add to the attractions of Templar Masonry.

The present Grand Officers are: —

Sir James H. Hopkins, Pittsburg, Pa., *M.E. Grand Master.*
Sir Vincent L. Hurlbut, Chicago, Ill., *R.E. Dep. Grand Master.*
Sir Walter L. Bragg, Montgomery, Ala., *V.E. Grand Generalissimo.*
Sir Edward T. Schultz, Baltimore, Md., *V.E. Grand Captain General.*
Sir Benton H. Langley, Winona, Minn., *V.E. Grand Senior Warden.*
Sir Charles R. Woodruff, Louisville, Ky., *V.E. Grand Junior Warden.*
Sir John W. Simons, New York City, *V.E. Grand Treasurer.*
Sir Theodore S. Parvin, Iowa City, Iowa, *V.E. Grand Recorder.*
Sir Joseph P. Hornor, New Orleans, La., *V.E. Grand Standard Bearer.*
Sir John H. Brown, Leavenworth, Kansas, *V.E. Grand Sword Bearer.*
Sir Joseph W. Fellows, Manchester, N. H., *Grand Warden.*
Sir Edwin G. Bower, Dallas, Texas, *Grand Captain of the Guard.*

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION.

The Annual Session of the Massachusetts Council of Deliberation was held in Boston, on the 29th of June, and was a happy repetition of all previous ones.

The address of the Illustrious Deputy was well presented and well received; the attention of the members of the A. and A. Rite was called to the various interests affecting it; the general depression of business, and economy in management were judiciously alluded to; timely and practical suggestions were made; sixty-three Brethren were reported to have received the 14th degree during the year, and a generally healthy condition of the Rite to prevail.

Reports were made by the Committees on Business, on Death of Wendell T. Davis, 33°, on State of the Rite, on Permanent Fund, on Amendment of By-Laws, on Regulations, whereby it is proposed that the Body highest in rank shall give a sketch of deceased members, also by Grand Hospitaller, and the By-Laws of a Subordinate were approved.

A highly poetic and philosophical address was given by the Grand Orator, Illustrious and Rev. Bro. William R. Alger, on the "Apotheosis of Humanity; or, the Nine Sublime Attitudes of Man in the Universe of Being."

He presented man as a statue standing on a pedestal, the earth, 8,000 miles high, the movement of whose arm, could it be comprehended in its mighty aggregate power and grandeur, would strike the beholder dumb; as a Charioteer, a Rider, and Driver, driving around the ecliptic at the rate of 80,000 miles an hour, sometimes with heels over head and sometimes with head over heels, and all subject to the great laws of the Universe of which Charioteer, Rider, and Driver formed a part, and which he fully comprehended; as a Mediator, in whom the past and present were concentrated in the present consciousness of man, for whom there is no want of room without, as there is no want of capacity within, to grasp with one hand the infinitesimally small and with the other the infinitely great, and even to reach unto God himself; as a student, critic, and aspirant, for whom the creative principle is the ever ascending consciousness to a free purpose. But the richer of these attributes is that of his personal supremacy over the whole human race, and in this each man is a king, who, in his statuesque position, has twelve hundred millions of men settling away from around him. He transcends all these, however, in the relation in which man stands to God, as maintained by all the old great teachers and by him who spake as never man spake, and that is a persuasive union between God and man.

No mere sketch of the address can give any adequate idea of its poetic beauty and scholastic excellence, and though some of

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its passages were loaded with ornament, it was clear in its points, and explicit enough in details to give a correct understanding of its argument.

At the close a banquet was served, according to the usual formalities and graces, peculiar to the happy administration of the affairs of the A. and A. Rite in Massachusetts, by the present Illustrious Deputy.

ST. JOHN'S DAY.

This festival day was quite generally observed after the manner of Masons, and more publicly, by a number of the Commanderies of Knight Templars in the jurisdiction. The 24th of June coming on Sunday, was observed in Providence, R. I., by St. John's and Calvary Commanderies jointly, by appropriate religious ceremonies at the "Church of the Mediator," of which the R.E. Grand Commander, Rev. Sir Henry W. Rugg, is Pastor, and who delivered the address, and which was so highly thought of by the Press of that city that a copy was solicited for publication. The order of service was arranged and beautifully printed, under the following heads: ORGAN VOLUNTARY, JUBILATE DEO, FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON, INVOCATION, TE DEUM, RESPONSIVE LESSON, GENERAL EXHORTATION AND CONFESSION, A GENERAL CONFESSION (*to be said by the Knights, all kneeling*), GLORIA PATRI, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS, THE COMMANDMENTS, DOMINUS REGIT ME, PRAYER, HYMN, SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON, ANTHEM, ADDRESS, HOPE, PROMISE AND VICTORY, TANTUM ERGO, CONCLUDING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION.

Under these several heads, and in the proper places, the order was impressively and eloquently executed by Pastor, Knights, and Choir.

On Monday, the 25th, many of the Commanderies celebrated the day and extended Knightly hospitalities. Woonsocket Commandery was received and entertained by Worcester County Commandery; St. Omer, of Boston, were the guests of Haverhill Commandery; Sutton, of New Bedford, went to the historic island of Nantucket, where they remained three days; South

Shore spent the day at Nantasket Beach, with the ladies; and others of which we are not informed, either as bodies or by delegations, were duly observant of the feast of St. John.

Holy Sepulchre Commandery, of Pawtucket, R. I., under the efficient management of its Eminent Commander, Sir Henry A. Pierce, had promptly extended invitations to the officers of the Grand Commandery to accept their hospitalities as guests of the body; and these, having been accepted, precluded attendance elsewhere.

The programme for the day was finely printed and was equally well executed. On arrival, the grand officers were escorted to the elegant mansion of Sir Olney Arnold, where they were hospitably entertained, and where, too, they were received by the Commandery and escorted to the Trinity Church (Episcopal), which may be appropriately called a Templar Church, so significant are its decorations. Here the services were conducted under the following heads: PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*on entering*), SENTENCES, EXHORTATION, CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, LORD'S PRAYER, VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO, PSALM 122 (*chanted*), FIRST LESSON, TE DEUM LAUDAMUS (*chanted*), SECOND LESSON, BENEDICTUS (*chanted*), DEVOTIONS (*all kneeling*), HYMN 175, ADDRESS by Sir Rev. B. W. Atwell, of Springfield, Mass., from the words, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," HYMN 68, BENEDICTION, RECESSIONAL HYMN.

After the services in church were concluded, the march was taken up for Masonic Hall, where an elegant dinner was equally well served. Several halts were made on the route for refreshments, served by resident Sir Knights, and though none could have been hungry, yet it was evident that all were busy enough at table.

At the close of the dinner, many practical and eloquent speeches were made by past and present grand officers and others. Indeed, so swiftly flew the time that many speakers had to be kept over until next year.

The grand officers were escorted to their hotel, where they were permitted to rest, and indulge in such repose as would refresh the body and tranquillize the mind during a couple of hours preceding train time.

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"SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT?"

At the June Assembly of Boston Commandery, a very pleasing incident took place, which must have been agreeable to the more youthful Knights, and cheering to those more aged. For nearly a year past, Sir Abraham A. Dame, who presided over the Commandery in 1827–29, under the title of Most Eminent Grand Master, has been unable to attend the meetings; but on this evening E. Commander S. Mason, Jr., had taken especial care to have him present. A committee of Past Eminent Commanders was appointed to escort the venerable Sir Knight into the Asylum, where he was received with appropriate honors and respect. On entering, the Sir Knights not in line rose to their feet, and all joined in singing "Should Old Acquaintance be Forgot?" etc. This was continued with fine effect during the march to the East, where a kindly welcome was extended by the Eminent Commander. After witnessing the work on the Order of the Temple, Sir Knight Dame made a brief speech, in which he expressed himself grateful for the attentions shown him, and filled with pleasure at again meeting with the Sir Knights in the Asylum of Boston Commandery. He also complimented the fidelity shown to the ritual, as taught by Webb and Fowle, and gave words of encouragement to all. He said that possibly he might not have the satisfaction of again meeting with them in the Commandery; but, so long as God permitted him to live, he should feel, as he always felt, a lively interest in their prosperity, and, in conclusion, wished them "good night."

OUR PROSPECTS.

In view of the experience of most, if not all publishers of Masonic magazines, it is not surprising that we should frequently be asked, "What are your prospects?" And to this we make answer, "As good as we expected, but not good enough to induce us to make any extravagant promises." When first asked to start a magazine, — *urged* is the more appropriate word, — we said we had not any money to lose in the

business; but we would give our time for one year, and, if the Masonic Fraternity cared to support it, we would continue the publication, but not without a balance thereafter on the right side for labor.

We adhere to that contract, and think the result indicates that the LIBERAL FREEMASON will be continued.

We doubt if any magazine has ever been started in more depressed times, or against greater odds; but we intend to have it win its way to a reasonable and respectable support. In Massachusetts alone there are 26,083 Masons who are members of the 211 Lodges reported; and if it should be asserted in Missouri that five per cent. of that number would not take a Masonic home journal, it would be received by Massachusetts Masons with ill grace, and possibly attributed to the assumption of a mere tyro. And yet we have thought, and still think, that there are as many as the number suggested who will take this magazine, if there are fifty men in the State who will take a little active interest in it. As an example, two Brethren have sent in 52 subscribers, out of an aggregate membership of 433, — over 12 per cent., — and this, too, by simply remembering to speak to others as they incidentally meet them. If the chief officer or secretary, or any member in each Masonic Body would take a like interest, we should no longer hear the complaint that "Masons won't read" — but Masonic journals could then afford to pay for talent, that at the lowest can earn one dollar per day at sweeping street-crossings.

As we did not go into this enterprise without solicitation, we in turn solicit such interest as is above suggested; our present subscribers can each add one if they will, and then, beyond the range of doubt, success is secured.

The "Boston Daily Transcript," the "Boston Daily Traveller," the "Bunker Hill Times," "Cambridge Press," and other journals have spoken well of us on several occasions; our exchanges do the same, and special articles have been noticed. Brother John Moore, of Ottawa, writes in a very complimentary style, M. Ex. Luther J. Glenn, of Georgia, the same; also Grand Master Luse, and Grand Recorder Parvin, both of Iowa. In short, we get good words enough, though accompanied by the

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usual complaint, already alluded to; but as an offset to this, we refer to those who are willing to help, with pride. As an inducement to start, and as a means of supporting this magazine, our advertisers, who are all Masons but one, and that one is represented by a good Mason, put in their money, and risked success. Of course we do not intend to have them regret it, by failure to continue at the end of the first volume; but, being men of business integrity in their several places, we feel that similar good qualities, applied to the attainment of useful knowledge in Masonic matters, will contribute to continue in Massachusetts a Masonic Magazine whose predecessors were discontinued with regret.

REVIEWS, NOTES, AND COMMENTS.

FROM ABROAD.

The Royal Family and Freemasonry. — At the approaching meeting of the Grand Lodge of England, which will be held at the Freemason's Tavern on the 25th inst., the Prince of Wales will be formally proposed for re-election as Grand Master, and will, of course, be accepted by the Lodge. His Royal Highness will then nominate, either personally or through the Earl of Carnarvon (*pro* Grand Master), His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as Senior Grand Warden, and His Royal Highness Prince Leopold as Junior Grand Warden. Their Royal Highnesses will, in that case, succeed the present Grand Wardens, the Earl of Dunoughmore and Colonel and Hon. William Vernon. The other Grand Officers will include the Rev. W. L. Onslow (Chaplain in ordinary to the Prince of Wales), Grand Chaplain; Bro. Samuel Tompkins, Grand Treasurer; Bro. Æneas McIntyre, Q. C., Grand Registrar; Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary; and Bro. Ernest Wendt, Grand Secretary for German Correspondence. Should the Prince of Wales be unable to attend, the Earl of Carnarvon will preside at the ceremonial, which promises to be one of unusual interest and importance, as there is no precedent for three princes of the blood in Grand Lodge at the same time. — *The London Freemason.*

England. — *Bedford Lodge*, No. 183. — From the "Rosicrucian," we learn that it is uncertain when this Lodge was organized. From information handed down from the Master in 1772, it was in good

circumstances about 1739 and 1740, and was first known as an Operative Lodge; but no records of its transactions are preserved prior to 1766. On May 17th of that year it was formally constituted by Lord Blaney, then Grand Master, as the "Operative Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, No. 364," and met at the "Mitre Tavern," Union street, Cripplegate, on the first and fourth Wednesday in every month; none but Operative Masons were admitted members before this period. The Lodge has been renumbered several times; it has had the average experience of Lodges, and its records, extracts from which are published, show an interesting and useful life.

AT HOME.

Fraternal. — We have recently had a visit from, and some very pleasant interviews with, Companion Daniel Shiels, of Edinburgh, Scotland, who came to us with a letter of introduction. Brother and Companion Shiels, with his estimable and agreeable lady, Mrs. Shiels, came over to the Centennial Exhibition, since when they have been spending their time in travel, and visiting in the United States and British Provinces. Brother Shiels has taken much interest in Masonic matters on this Continent, and thinks that he has learned many things that will be useful at home. On May 14th, the work on the F. C. Degree was witnessed in Mt. Lebanon Lodge, A. L. Richardson, Master, and later in the same evening, that of the M. M. Degree in Revere Lodge, W. R. Cooke, Master; subsequently several of the Brethren met with Brother Shiels socially, when he expressed his admiration of the careful manner in which the business was transacted. He also said that the attentions he had received in this country from the Brethren were to him perfectly marvellous, and that he could account for them in no other way than to attribute the fact to the influence of that brotherly love and good-will which opens the arms and the hearts of one to the other, and makes a Mason feel like a brother the world over. He and his lady intend to visit the coming Exhibition in Paris, and the year following to revisit Boston, which they both like, at greater length.

Past Grand High Priest Richard Briggs has just returned from his annual visit abroad, and brings with him good news of the Craft. The æsthetic taste of Ex. Companion Briggs is proverbial, and his wares, at all times inviting to the connoisseur, will be still more so by a carefully selected addition to his stock of new and rare designs. We have with pleasure observed the Masonic success of our Illustrious Companion, and refer with equal satisfaction to the culture and business success of so excellent a Brother.

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Fitchburg. — Jerusalem Commandery of Knights Templars, composed of many of the leading citizens and best Masons in that vicinity, received an official visitation from V.E. Sir John Dean, accompanied by the Grand Prelate and the Grand Recorder, on April 19th. This Body has of late been doing but little work, though there is evidence of increased interest and activity among its members. Two candidates were Knighted on this evening, the work being well done, and complimented accordingly. The Masonic Apartments in Fitchburg are very fine they are also fitted and furnished in a superior manner; the expense attending this has borne quite heavily upon the local Craft, but their energy is equal to the emergency, and these beautiful rooms can be referred to with pride, as an evidence of the good taste of the Brethren. E. Commander Sir John W. Kimball has the requisite ability to insure success for his Commandery.

Providence, R. I. Calvary Commandery was officially visited by the V.E. Deputy Grand Commander Sir John Dean and suite, on the evening of May 1st, when the Order of the Temple was worked in a very creditable manner, and was complimented accordingly. The E.C. of this Commandery has removed to New York; hence the labor has devolved upon Sir S. G. Stiness, Generalissimo, and this officer has deservedly won the highest praise for the inspiriting manner in which his duties are performed. At the elegant banquet which followed the work, welcome was given to all present; speeches were made by R. E. Henry W. Rugg, Grand Commander, who was present during the entire evening; by the V. E. Deputy Past Grand Commander Van Slyck; Past Grand Master James Hutchison, who has been a Templar nearly half a century; by G. H. Burnham, E.C. of St. John's; Henry A. Peirce, E.C. of Holy Sepulchre; R. F. Latimer, E.C. of Narragansett; J. R. Pendleton, the Grand Recorder, and others. The entire occasion was full of pleasure.

Lynn. — Olivet Commandery K.T. was officially visited on May 2d, by Past Grand Commander R.E. Sir N. Van Slyck, accompanied by E. Sir W. B. Blanding, S. G. Stiness, E. L. Freeman, C. M. Avery, J. C. Hall, the Grand Recorder, and Sir Knights Andrew, Dixon, and Roberts. The work on the Red Cross, as given by E. C. Sir John Shaw, 2d, and officers, was pronounced exceeding close to the standard; the drill was complimented, and well-deserved praise was bestowed upon the appearance of the Knights and the general good condition of the Commandery. This visit was arranged to be made by E. Sir N. W. Aldrich, but owing to severe illness it was happily made by Sir Van Slyck. The attentions bestowed upon the Grand Officers were highly appreciated; they were, however, in harmony with the practice of this Body, which has, since its organization, annually given the Grand Officers a drive, ending with a dinner, and, later in the evening, with a banquet for all the Knights. Speeches were made by all the members of the delegation, Sir Knights W. D. Pool, E. A. Ingalls, C. C. Fry, and other members of the Commandery. The officers of Olivet were installed April 18, by Sir C. M. Avery, Sir Knight Chapman acting as Marshal; and then, as at this time, the "courtesy and hospitality" of the Sir Knights of Lynn were most gracefully rendered.

East Boston. — William Parkman Commandery received an official Visitation by the V.E. Deputy Grand Commander Sir John Dean, accompanied by Past Grand Commander R.E. Sir Benjamin Dean, and by Grand Recorder Chapman, on the evening of May 10th. The work on the Order of Malta was well rendered by Eminent Commander William Waters, Jr., and his associate officers, and gave satisfaction to the reviewing officer. Speeches complimentary to the Commandery were made by each of the visitors, and by E. Sir J. B. Wilson, Commander of Cœur de Leon Commandery. The evening was a wet and unpleasant one, but a good attendance of the Knights gave evidence of their interest in Templar Masonry, and was a practical illustration of what the V.E. Deputy said, "That it was worth something to be a Templar." The apartments occupied by this Commandery are commodious, well fitted and furnished, and are sufficiently economical for occupancy without being burdensome. At the close a fine banquet was served, and a season of social pleasure was much enjoyed.

Salem. — Winslow Lewis Commandery. An official visit was made to this Body on the evening of May 17th, by V.E. Deputy Grand Commander Sir John Dean, accompanied by the Grand Recorder, which proved to be an occasion of unalloyed pleasure. That well-known Mason and Templar, E. Sir William Sutton, is and has been Commander of this Commandery since its organization until the present time, except the years 1872–74, and, veteran though he is, his accurate rendering of the work on the Red Cross would have been creditable to a much younger man. There was a good attendance of Knights, who seemed to be actively interested. At the close a banquet was served, after which "General Sutton" introduced

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various speakers in a very happy manner; among these were the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Recorder, Sir George B. Loring, Sir A. J. Thompson, formerly of New Hampshire, and some others whose names are not at hand, but whose wholesome and sometimes humorous words contributed to the general enjoyment. The tone of the argument of all was, that Masonry, when properly understood and appreciated, serves to enlighten the mind, strengthen the morals, and purify the heart.

Newburyport. — The Commandery of Knights Templars in this city, which also bears its name, is the third organization in the jurisdiction, its charter being dated May 12, 1808. During its existence it has had a varied experience, but from periods of depression it has emerged to greater activity and usefulness. The Masons of Newburyport now have pleasant, convenient, and inviting apartments; they are not burdened by debt, nor borne down by heavy annual rents, hence their present condition and future prospects are very encouraging. In the Armory of the Commandery hang three parchment diplomas, found in Nantucket some years ago by the writer, and returned through proper channels to Newburyport, from whence they issued. They were given to Hamilton Moore, who was made a Knight Templar in 1796, as shown by one of the diplomas, which also shows the zeal of the Brethren in the cause of Templar Masonry in its earliest history in America. The official visitation made to Newburyport Commandery, on May 24th, by E. Sir N.W. Aldrich, accompanied by Grand Recorder Chapman, and E. Sir C.C. Dame, found the same knightly spirit prevailing which has so long characterized the Knights of this Body, and especially during the several years in which E. Sir John N. Pike has been Commander. The work was well done, and at its close a banquet was served and an hour passed socially.

Lawrence. — Bethany Commandery of this city has long enjoyed a reputation for the excellence of its work and its fidelity to the ritual, and this was augmented on May 29th, when the Order of the Templar was conferred on Sir Eli E. Gurney, it being the occasion of the official visitation of the Grand Generalissimo, E. Sir N.W. Aldrich, accompanied by E. Sir George H. Burnham, Commander, and Sir G. M. Carpenter, of St. John's Commandery, Providence, and by the Grand Recorder. The visiting officer gave deserved praise to E. Commander Sir Thomas Leyland, for his fine rendering of the ritual, and complimented the Sir Knights on their fine appearance.

The apartments occupied for Masonic purposes in this city are unexcelled in the jurisdiction, the fitting and furniture are complete, and the frescoing is specially fine. There are two halls, a parlor, armory, ante-rooms, dressing rooms, closets, and water on one floor, a kitchen and banquet hall, 40 × 80, in next floor; hence the Fraternity have all the conveniences needed, and, what is better, at living rates of expense. During the evening a fine banquet was served; short speeches were made by the Commander, by each of the official delegation, by Past Commanders D. Frank Robinson, and Caleb Saunders, the present efficient Mayor of the city, each of which was complimentary to the general good purposes of Masonry, and the part which Bethany Commandery sustains in it.

Hudson. — The Knights Templars of Hudson and vicinity, comprising Trinity Commandery, may justly pride themselves on the splendid appearance they made on the occasion of the official visit by E. Sir Charles M. Avery, Grand Lecturer, accompanied by Past Commander E. Sir William D. Pool, on the evening of May 24th. Every Sir Knight present, about fifty of them, was in full Templar costume, — a fact not common to witness, but very creditable to the Body, and complimentary to the Grand Commandery and its representatives. The apartments occupied by this Body and the Masons of Hudson are in harmony with the display of the evening, and while they reflect honor upon the good taste and liberality of the Craft who occupy them, they also exemplify that prudence in management which can secure elegance and maintain it without sacrifice.

Brockton. — Bay State Commandery, K.T., was officially visited, June 4th, by E. Sir Edward L. Freeman, Grand Lecturer, accompanied by Sir Henry A. Pierce, E.C. of Holy Sepulchre Commandery. The work on the Order of the Temple was well rendered, and the Commandery was found to be in a very satisfactory condition. A good attendance of Sir Knights gave evidence of interest in the grade, and most of them appeared in costume. Eminent Commander Baalis Sanford, Jr., is taking great pains to advance the standard of this comparatively young Commandery to the front.

Weymouth. — South Shore Commandery, located in East Weymouth, E. Sir William Humphrey, Commander, was visited officially by Sir E. L. Freeman, Grand Lecturer, accompanied by Sir A. F. Chapman, on June 11th. The work on the Order of Temple was well done, and received, as it merited, official approbation. Sir William Wallace, Gen., Sir *Jim* Henry Clapp, C.G., and the

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other officers, were at their posts; 46 Knights in uniform were in line; and a large number of visitors were present. Past Commanders Z. L. Bicknell and George W. Fay were also present, an example to be commended, for it is quite too common for past presiding officers to absent themselves. Weymouth was once noted for a strong anti-Masonic feeling, but now many of its best citizens are members of the Fraternity. There are two Lodges, a Chapter, and Commandery in the town. The latter was formed in 1870, and received its first candidate Nov. 28 of that year. Since then it has conferred the Orders on 94 candidates, is free from debt, and has a handsome balance in the treasury. There is talk of building a new Masonic hall, and together the bodies have nearly money enough to build a good one; but the Brethren intend to exercise prudence, and not "pay too dear for their whistle."

PITTSFIELD. — Berkshire Commandery, located in this noted town, with all its attractions of surrounding hills, whose scenery delights the eyes and cultivates in its citizens a taste for the beautiful in Nature, was officially visited and inspected by the Grand Commander, Sir H. W. Rugg, on June 11th. From what we know of the Knights composing this body, and the zeal and fidelity of its eminent Commander, Sir Henry Chickering, we have no doubt but it received official sanction. The Masonic apartments in Pittsfield are among the best in the jurisdiction; a large hall, a smaller one, ante-rooms, closets, armory, large banquet hall, and kitchen, all being on the same floor, and held on a long lease; and an annual rental that would give relief to many more heavily taxed. There are two Lodges, a Chapter, a Council, and the Commandery, in town; and the Chapters in South and North Adams and Great Barrington contribute a fair proportion of candidates to the Commandery. The Masons in this section of Massachusetts are representative men, and add lustre to the good reputation of the Craft.

HANOVER. — *Phœnix Lodge.* The Brethren of this Lodge, with their ladies, held a strawberry festival at the Lodge-room in Hanover, on the evening of June 28th. Wor. Bro. Arnold greeted the comers in so cordial a manner that even visitors and strangers were placed entirely at their ease. Music and dancing kept the company together until the "wee sma' hours." This Lodge not only excels in its hospitality, but in its work would put many city Lodges in the shade. Its officers are Frank Arnold, W. M.; A. C. Waterman, S. W.; and James Sweeney, J. W.

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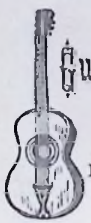
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JANUARY 1, 1877.

RECEIPTS.

Premiums received in 1876	$445,884 17	
Interest and rents	195,145 62	
Total income		$641,0[illegible] 79

DISBURSEMENTS.

TO POLICY HOLDERS.

For Death Claims	$165,287 21	
For Endowments Matured	51,495 00	
For Dividends	91,948 33	
For Surrendered Policies	88,668 20	
		$397,398 74

EXPENSES.

Commissions and allowances to agents, and medical examiners' fees	$40,895 34	
Salaries of officers and clerks	13,754 77	
Rent of Agency offices	4,659 83	
Printing, Advertising, Postage, etc	5,418 28	
Miscellaneous Expenses	9,115 64	
		$73,843 86
Taxes		5,397 44
Re-insurance		2,682 62
Total Disbursements		$479,322 66

ASSETS.

United States Registered Securities	$542,900 00
City, County, and Municipal Bonds	118,000 00
Mortgage Loans, first lien	1,767,740 63
Loans on approved collaterals	60,953 23
Real Estate	217,676 98
Premium Notes on policies in force	193,738 44
Stock in Massachusetts National Banks	153,080 00
Cash in Company's Office	235 83
Cash in Banks	60,912 69
Cash in hands of agents and accounts (secured)	24,193 82
Net premiums in course of collection	30,779 27
Net deferred quarterly and semi-annual premiums	29,660 79
Interest accrued on investments	66,558 91
Office furniture (cost over $12,000)	3,000 00
Total Assets	$3,269,430 69

Appropriated as follows:

Reinsurance reserve (4 per cent. Actuaries' table)	$2,858,977 92
Losses reported, but not due	39,445 00
Unpaid Dividends	7,436 78
Premiums paid in advance	8,731 55
Contingent Liabilities	12,601 80
Surplus over legal reserve, Massachusetts standard, and all liabilities, actual and contingent	342,237 64
	$3,269,430 69

If the reserve is estimated by the New York standard (4 1-2 per cent. American Experience Tables), the surplus of the company is inceased about $170,000, making a total surplus of $512,237 64.

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