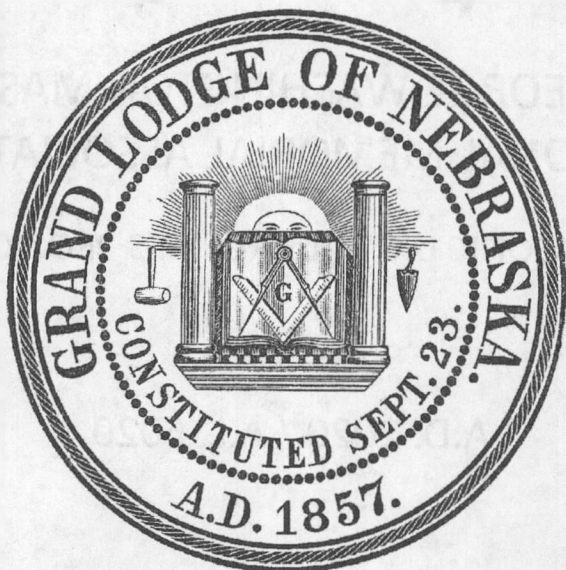


**1877**  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**GRAND LODGE**  
of  
**Ancient Free & Accepted**  
**MASONS**  
of the  
**STATE OF**  
**NEBRASKA**



**A.D. 1877 / A.L. 5877**

This volume digitized by



**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**

**MASONIC DIGITAL ARCHIVES PROJECT**

∞

**A.D. 2020 / A.L. 6020**

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge of Nebraska,

ANCIENT, FREE, AND ACCEPTED MASONS,

AT ITS

TWENTIETH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT

OMAHA.

JUNE 19TH AND 20TH, A.: L.: 5877.

---

ELECTROTYPED AND PRINTED BY  
EGBERT, FIDLAR, & CHAMBERS,  
DAVENPORT, IOWA.

1877.



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA,  
Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons.

AT ITS  
TWENTIETH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION,

HELD AT  
OMAHA, JUNE 19TH AND 20TH, A. L. 5877.

THE Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska began its Twentieth Annual Communication in Freemasons' Hall, Omaha, Nebraska, on Tuesday, June 19th, A. L. 5877, A. D. 1877, at four o'clock in the afternoon — there being present: —

M.: W.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL, *Grand Master*;  
R.: W.: HIRAM C. RIDER, *Deputy Grand Master*;  
R.: W.: CHARLES F. GOODMAN, *Grand Senior Warden*;  
R.: W.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE, *Grand Junior Warden*;  
R.: W.: JAMES W. MOORE, *Grand Treasurer*;  
R.: W.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary*;  
V.: W.: E. R. RICHARDSON, *as Grand Chaplain*;  
W.: WILLIAM E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer*;  
W.: SIDNEY L. F. WARD, *Grand Marshal*;  
W.: JAMES A. TULLEYS, *Grand Senior Deacon*;  
W.: WILLIAM H. PLATT, *as Grand Junior Deacon*;  
Bro.: JACOB KING, *Grand Tiler*.

---

See appendix for record of special communication.

A lodge of Master Masons was opened in ample form.

The Grand Master announced the following committees:—

*On Visiting Brethren.*—BROS.: JAMES B. BRUNER, JOHN STEFFEN, and SETH T. COLE.

*On Credentials.*—BROS.: EBEN K. LONG, WILLIAM S. WHITE, and JOHN G. TAYLOR.

Brother Long, from the committee on Credentials, reported a constitutional quorum of lodges present, and asked for more time, which was granted, to submit in detail the report of the committee.

Whereupon proclamation was made that the Grand Lodge was open for the despatch of business.

On motion of Brother Francis E. White, 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

#### ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN NEBRASKA:—

One year has been added to the mighty past since last we assembled and once again I bid you one and all an earnest and hearty welcome to this your twentieth Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge; and may He who hath guided and preserved us during the past, be with us and direct us in all of our doings during our brief sojourn together; may everything be done decently and in order; may brotherly love prevail; and when we return to our homes, to again resume our several stations, may His watchful care be over us.

Since we last convened, the icy hand of Death has been felt but little in our Grand Jurisdiction, and we miss no familiar faces as we look around us. Would that it might ever thus continue! But while we are not called upon to mourn the loss of eminent brethren of our immediate jurisdiction, we have to chronicle the stately stepplings of the grim

tyrant elsewhere. In July, 1876, I received official information from the Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, announcing the death of Most Worshipful Past Grand Master R. S. Bruns, Grand Representative of this Grand Lodge near that of South Carolina, which occurred February 14th, 1874. The vacancy thus caused has been filled as you will notice hereafter. Brother Bruns was a faithful representative of this Grand Lodge, and an eminent Mason. By the burning of the Southern Hotel in St. Louis, on the 11th day of April, the Grand Lodge of Missouri was deprived of its efficient Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother George Frank Gouley, who perished in the flames. The deceased brother was likewise the representative of this Grand Lodge near that of Missouri. By his death Masonry lost a true friend and a zealous supporter, and our fraternity one of its ablest advocates and defenders. On the 3d day of June, I appointed Brother Vogel as our representative near the Grand Lodge of Missouri. I earnestly recommend that suitable action be taken relative to the departure of Brothers Bruns and Gouley to that land from whence none ever return.

During the interim since our last assembling, the blessings of peace, quietness, and prosperity have reigned throughout our Grand Jurisdiction; harmony prevails, and the craft are busy at their labors, and will present the fruits of the year for your inspection and approval. Our hitherto pleasant relations with sister Grand Lodges remain unbroken, and desiring to further promote a closer relation, and cultivate more of the spirit of true brotherly love and friendship, I have taken great pleasure in appointing representatives of this Grand Lodge near other Grand Lodges, with whom we were in fraternal accord, where vacancies existed, as follows:—

Brother JOSEPH R. WHEELER, near the Grand Lodge of Connecticut;  
Brother WILLIAM A. McLEAN, near the Grand Lodge of Florida;  
Brother B. R. HUGHES, near the Grand Lodge of Idaho;  
Brother SIMON DUFFIN, near the Grand Lodge of Manitoba  
Brother EDWARD J. APPELT, near the Grand Lodge of Maryland;  
Brother CHARLES F. VOGEL, near the Grand Lodge of Missouri;  
Brother HENRY M. PARCHIN, near the Grand Lodge of Montana;  
Brother ROBERT M. C. GRAHAM, near the Grand Lodge of New York;  
Brother CHARLES E. LAUGHTON, near the Grand Lodge of Nevada;  
Brother EDWARD L. FREEMAN, near the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island;  
Brother AUG. F. SMYTHE, near the Grand Lodge of South Carolina;  
Brother JOSEPH D. SAYERS, near the Grand Lodge of Texas;

Brother MERRICK P. WING, near the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin;  
Brother W. G. TONN, near the Grand Lodge of Wyoming;  
Brother JOHN MUIRHEAD, near the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward's  
Island.

You will notice, from the report of your committee on Credentials, that nearly every Grand Jurisdiction is represented on this floor; and in recommending persons for the important station of Grand Representative I have ever had in mind the plan adopted by this Grand Lodge of requiring each Grand Representative to submit a statement of the status and condition of the Grand Jurisdiction which he has the honor to represent here, which is to be taken in lieu of that usually performed by our committee on Foreign Correspondence. I have endeavored to recommend for these exalted stations those who were not representatives of other Grand Bodies, so that, as far as possible, each individual would only represent one Grand Lodge; and I trust that the reports to be submitted will show the wisdom of so doing.

September 8th, 1876, I received official information of the formation of a new Grand Lodge in the province of Ontario, and at their first Annual Communication, held in June, 1876, F. Westlake was elected Grand Master, and W. W. Fitzgerald, Grand Secretary: asking recognition and an exchange of representatives. A few days later I was in receipt of an official letter from Most Worshipful Brother Albert Moore, Grand Master of Maine, stating that the persons forming the Grand Lodge of Ontario were clandestine Masons, having been expelled by the Grand Lodge of Canada, which has exclusive jurisdiction over the province of Ontario. I therefore declined to enter into friendly relations with them, and so advised our Right Worshipful Grand Secretary to inform them. Our Grand Secretary is but lately in possession of information relating to this so-called Grand Lodge, which he will submit for your information. I would suggest that such action be taken as will best serve to promote the principle of exclusive and sovereign jurisdiction of each Grand Lodge, and promote the interests of the craft.

On the 27th day of January I was officially advised of the Most Worshipful Symbolic Grand Lodge of Colon for Cuba and other Spanish West India Islands. They desired recognition and an interchange of representatives; but not being in possession of sufficient data concerning their organization, I wrote asking for further light, but up to the present time have heard nothing from them.

The resolutions passed at our last Annual Communication, and found



on page 38, proceedings of 1876, in regard to the matters of difference between Western Star Lodge, No 2, and Turpin Lodge, No. 401, Union City, Indiana, have attracted much attention and much comment, not only by the brethren of Indiana, but by prominent Masons of sister jurisdictions, whose opinions are entitled to great consideration.

On March 1st, 1877, I received the following letter from Brother Martin H. Rice, Past Grand Master and representative of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, near that of Indiana, viz:—

“INDIANAPOLIS, February 27, 1877.

‘HON. GEORGE H. THUMMEL, *Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska*:—

“M.: W.: SIR AND DEAR BROTHER:—I have the honor to hold a commission (dated September 22, 1869,) as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, near the Grand Lodge of Indiana. While holding this commission there have transpired matters of grave import, as affecting the fraternal relations of these Grand Lodges; but I have not been called upon in my official capacity to take any action in the premises. By the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska at the Annual Communication in June, 1876, a copy of which is now before me, I find the Grand Lodge of Nebraska has taken a position toward the Grand Lodge of Indiana that I cannot defend in my capacity as Grand Representative, it being contrary to what I regard as good masonic law in such cases, and also contrary to the principles and teachings of Freemasonry. With no other motive than a desire to be released from the embarrassment in which I am thus placed, I hereby tender my resignation as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, near the Grand Lodge of Indiana, which I do in the same fraternal spirit that I accepted the appointment; and trusting that it may be so received by you and your Grand Lodge, I am,

“Very respectfully and fraternally yours,

“MARTIN H. RICE.”

To this I replied, declining to accept his resignation, and asking him to retain his commission until our Annual Communication, when I would present his letter, and would once more invite the attention of this Grand Lodge to the matter, and that I would try and adjust the difficulty, if possible.

While I am aware that we have twice passed on this matter, and while still of the opinion that the ideas promulgated by this Grand Lodge are in the abstract correct, I am convinced that a strict adherence thereto will not only estrange the Grand Lodge of Indiana and sever our official relations with them, but will place us in a position that will at no distant day be attended with like results with other

Grand Jurisdictions. As far as I can learn, different rules obtain in different states, and each Grand Lodge contends for its own ideas—or, rather, each settles the matter according to the rule that prevails in its own Grand Jurisdiction. The result is a clash between this Grand Lodge and that of Indiana; and, while I am unwilling to recede from our views, there are two sides to this question, and all that we are contending for is a settlement of the matter, if possible, in accordance with our convictions; but we are not seeking, certainly, a severance of masonic intercourse. It makes but little difference how it be adjusted, only so that it be settled. I would sincerely deprecate the severance of our relations with the Grand Lodge of Indiana on account of the small matters of difference, and I would therefore most earnestly recommend, if the matter cannot be settled amicably between the two Grand Jurisdictions, that it be submitted to a commission of eminent Masons, whose decision in the premises shall be final. This manner of settlement has been found to be highly satisfactory between nations, and has been conducive of lasting good to humanity. How much more, then, should we, who profess the broadest brotherly love and charity, seek to adjust difficulties, and not arbitrarily resort to a finality from which, sooner or later, there must and will be concessions made and a truce effected. I recommend it to your careful and earnest consideration.

On the 24th day of June, 1876, official information was received announcing the suspension of Brother Robert Ramsay, our Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of Canada. I immediately declared the office vacant, and requested the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada to recommend a suitable person, whom I would appoint; but, not having received such recommendation, the station remains vacant.

#### NEW LODGES.

I have issued dispensations for the formation of the following new lodges, to-wit:—

October 6th, 1876, to eleven Master Masons, authorizing and empowering them to open and hold a lodge at Wilber, Saline county, to be known as Blue Valley Lodge, with Brother Edward J. Weaver as Master, Brother William H. Mann as Senior Warden, and Brother Henry Clark as Junior Warden. They were recommended by Crete Lodge, No. 37, together with the necessary certificate of R.: W.: Hiram C. Rider, Deputy Grand Master, and Custodian of the Fifth District.

On the 23d day of November, 1876, I received a petition from nine Master Masons, praying for a dispensation to open and hold a lodge at Osceola, Polk county, to be known as Osceola Lodge. They were recommended by Lebanon Lodge, No. 58, at Columbus, Nebraska. Accompanying the petition were the certificates and recommendations of W.: Bros.: E. K. Valentine and N. R. Persinger, Custodians of the Second and Third Districts, respectively. I accordingly issued a dispensation to the brethren named, and appointed Brother John G. Mickey Master, Brother John H. Andrews Senior Warden, and Brother Samuel Snell Junior Warden.

February 16th, 1877, I granted a dispensation to Past Grand Master Alfred G. Hastings and nine other Master Masons, authorizing and empowering them to open and hold a lodge at Firth, Lancaster county, to be known as Firth Lodge. I appointed Brother Hastings Master, Brother J. B. McDill Senior Warden, and Brother Jacob Groves Junior Warden. They were recommended by Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, W.: Brother Rolland H. Oakley, Custodian of the Sixth District, certifying as to the necessary qualifications of the principal officers.

February 27th, 1877, a dispensation was granted to twenty Master Masons of Edgar, Clay county, to open and hold a lodge, to be known as Edgar Lodge. I appointed Brother Milton J. Hull Master, Brother Ezra E. Howard Senior Warden, and Brother Charles H. Kettridge Junior Warden. They were recommended by Evening Star Lodge, No. 49, and by R.: W.: Deputy Grand Master Hiram C. Rider, Custodian of the Fifth District.

April 24th, 1877, a dispensation was issued to ten Master Masons of Ulysses, Butler county, authorizing and empowering them to open and hold a lodge, to be known as Fortitude Lodge. I appointed Brother George Miller Master, Brother Madison Rodgers Senior Warden, and Brother Sumner Darnell Junior Warden. They were recommended by Oliver Lodge, No. 38, and Fidelity Lodge, No. 51, and by W.: Brother L. S. Moe, Custodian of the Second District.

The petitions, recommendations, and accompanying papers in each case are herewith presented.

I am advised that all of these lodges will apply for charters at this present session. I am informed that they are working harmoniously and are prospering, and that they will exhibit satisfactory evidences of their skill and ability to conduct and manage the affairs of a lodge. I would therefore recommend that charters be granted to all of the above

named lodges except Fortitude Lodge, which has been created so recently that I am of the opinion they had better remain a longer period under dispensation, and I would suggest that the dispensation be continued another year without fee.

The brethren of Hamilton Lodge, U. D., the dispensation of which was, by your direction, renewed for another year, will also apply for a charter, which I recommend be granted.

#### SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.

I have received applications from several of the constituent lodges for special dispensations to install their officers, they having failed to do so at the proper time; and in two instances applications have been received for authority to elect a Master—all of which I have granted.

October 6th, 1876, Mt. Zion Lodge, No. 6, of Springfield, Dakota Territory, wrote me, desiring permission to receive the petitions of three persons, naming them, who were residents of this state. Mosaic Lodge, No. 55, of Norfolk, which had jurisdiction over the petitioners, having given its consent for the candidates so to apply, I gave consent as desired, not because I considered that the Grand Lodge had any jurisdiction over the subject matter, but to follow a precedent of this Grand Jurisdiction. It certainly occurs to me that if an individual living in this state petitions a lodge in an adjoining state, and the lodge having jurisdiction over him gives consent or releases its claim on the applicant, the law has been complied with, and I cannot see wherein this Grand Lodge has any connection with the matter. We, as a Grand Lodge, are only granting permission for a lodge outside of this jurisdiction, and over whom we have no control, to do something which is the peculiar province of a subordinate lodge that has already acted in the premises. I should be pleased to hear from our committee on Jurisprudence on this subject.

I have issued two special dispensations for the conferring of degrees in less time than prescribed by our rules and regulations. In each case the applications were well recommended and the petitions accompanied by the usual fee.

I have refused many applications, and often, when the applicants learned that a special dispensation cost ten dollars, they suddenly ascertained that all emergency had ceased, and that they had plenty of time.

On the 19th day of April, 1877, I received a petition from the Master

and Wardens of Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, stating that they (the officers) were about starting to the Black Hills, to be absent some months, and asking that Brother Benj. Crabb, a Past Master and a member of Lancaster Lodge, be appointed to act as Master during their absence. Deeming it a matter of the greatest importance to the brethren of Lancaster Lodge that some one should be named to act as Master and to look after the welfare of the craft, and having implicit confidence in the skill and ability of Brother Crabb to act as Master, I accordingly issued a special dispensation to Brother Crabb, empowering him to act as Master of Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, during the absence of the Master and Wardens of said lodge; which I trust will meet with your sanction. It will be necessary for you to authorize a continuance of the dispensation until the annual election.

On the 18th day of December, 1876, I received a communication from one of the members of Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, informing me that the lodge, at its last stated meeting, had resolved to surrender its charter. I had, previous to this, been advised that matters were not in a prosperous condition among the brethren, and that discord and apathy were sowing their seeds. Desiring, if possible, to assist them in their difficulties, and to prevent, if possible, the dissolution of the lodge, I had considerable correspondence with different persons who were conversant with the affairs of Lafayette Lodge, and, from all I could learn, I became fully satisfied that the best interests of our fraternity would be served by an arrest of their charter, and I was on the eve of visiting them for this purpose when I was advised that they had, of their own motion, concluded to surrender their charter. I immediately advised Brother Robbins, Master of the lodge, that I had been informed of their action, and requested him to send me the charter, but no attention was paid to my request. Thus the matter rested until after the adjournment of our legislature, when, on my return home, I was much surprised to find that it had not been received. I immediately wrote Brother Robbins, reminding him of my former request for the charter, but my letter, as before, was only treated with the courtesy of sublime silence; and on March 20th, 1877, I wrote our R. W. Deputy Grand Master, empowering him to visit the brethren of Lafayette Lodge and to receive their charter, jewels, etc. This he did, and I hand you herewith the charter, together with the report of Brother Rider's doings and the receipt of Brother W. R. York, Secretary, for the jewels, etc. In this connection I also present for your consideration the petition of

Brother York and seventeen others for a restoration of the charter upon certain conditions, which are set forth in the petition. In referring the matters of Lafayette Lodge to you for final action, I have only to add that, from all the information I can gather, the interests of Masonry will not be advanced by a reorganization of the lodge at present. I would therefore suggest that their charter be cancelled, and that demits be granted to the brethren who are members. Concerning their jewels, etc., I have no recommendation to make.

At our last Annual Communication charters were granted to Thistle Lodge, No. 61, Plum Creek, Keystone Lodge, No. 62, Lincoln Valley, and Riverton Lodge, No. 63, Riverton. I instituted and installed the officers of the first two lodges in person, and appointed W.: Brother James A. Tulleys to act as my proxy and perform a like duty for the brethren of Riverton Lodge, which was done in good order. These lodges, I am informed, are prospering and doing good work.

On the 21st day of October, 1876, I had the pleasure of laying the corner-stone of this new edifice, wherein we to-day have the pleasure of welcoming the craft of this Grand Jurisdiction. I was assisted by R.: W.: Brother George Armstrong, as Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Brother C. F. Goodman, Grand Senior Warden, and R.: W.: Brother E. K. Long, as Grand Junior Warden. The craft were out in grand procession, with the Sir Knights of Mount Calvary Commandery, No. 1, as escort. Brother Ira N. Pardee delivered an interesting and instructive oration. The occasion was one long to be remembered, and for the craft in this city it was an event of peculiar pleasure, and we congratulate them on the completion of so suitable a building, and almost envy them in their enjoyment of it. Within these walls may their children's children celebrate with joy and gratitude the motives which prompted the construction of so pleasant and commodious a building.

Numerous changes in the by-laws of constituent lodges have been presented for approval, all of which I have been pleased to approve, being first fully satisfied that they were in accordance with our Grand Lodge regulations.

August 5th, 1876, I received a letter from the Master of Washington Lodge, No. 21, enclosing a letter from Charles R. Critchell, a Master Mason in good standing, but entered on the records of the lodge under the assumed name of "James R. Redfield," asking that his real name be substituted in lieu of "Redfield," and stating that he ran away from home, being a minor, and enlisted in the volunteer service during the

late war, after the close of which he went into the regular army, and during all this time he passed under the name of "Redfield," and that his parents knew nothing of his whereabouts. He was made a Mason while in the army, and the officers of Washington Lodge bear testimony as to his uniform good conduct, and the Worshipful Master desired information as to whether or not any offense had been committed by Brother Redfield in thus imposing on the craft. I hand you herewith letters, etc., received from different members of the Critchell family, one of which, from a brother of the wayward boy (and a Mason), states that Charles ran away from home on account of difficulty with an insurance company, which his family at once adjusted, and that they knew nothing of his whereabouts until last fall. After a full investigation of the matter, I can only think that he was guilty of a boyish indiscretion, foolishly prolonged after he became of age, and I therefore recommend that Washington Lodge be permitted to substitute on their books the name of Charles R. Critchell in place of James R. Redfield.

I also hand you the petition, papers, and letters in the matter of the application of Frank Sanderson, a suspended Master Mason of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, asking for reinstatement. Eureka Lodge having surrendered its charter, it will be necessary for this Grand Lodge to take some action in the premises. From a careful examination of the papers presented I am satisfied that the brother has reformed, and, if so, is entitled to restoration at our hands. I therefore recommend the granting of his request.

In January last I received the resignation of M. W. Brother Robert W. Furnas, Past Grand Master, as Custodian of the Seventh District, which I accepted. On an examination, I could find nothing in our by-laws fixing the term of office of these Custodians, and I therefore came to the conclusion that, as they were appointed by the Grand Master, the term of office was one year, or until their successors were appointed. I therefore, on January 22d, 1877, appointed Custodians for the several districts, as follows:—

*First District*—Brother GEORGE W. LININGER, Omaha.

*Second District*—Brother E. K. VALENTINE, West Point. Brother Valentine declining, I subsequently, on February 14th, appointed Brother L. S. Moe, of Fremont.

*Third District*—Brother N. R. PERSINGER, Central City.

*Fourth District*—Brother F. N. DICK, M. D., North Platte.

*Fifth District*—Brother H. C. RIDER, Crete.

*Sixth District*—Brother R. H. OAKLEY, Lincoln.

*Seventh District*—Brother JAMES R. CAIN, Falls City.

On the 15th day of May I received information of the trial and expulsion of our Grand Chaplain by Salem Lodge, No. 47. I forbear making any comments on this sad affair, as I am advised that the matter will be before this Grand Body on appeal, which I trust will receive due consideration at your hands. The vacancy thus caused I at once filled by the appointment of W. Brother Ira N. Pardee as Grand Chaplain.

I have received many letters during the past year, asking official information on matters pertaining to the interests of the craft. These have been answered, and without a single exception, by a simple reference to our Grand Lodge by-laws, rules and regulations, and the dicta of the several Grand Masters. I have nothing, therefore, I am happy to state, to present for your considerations in the way of official decisions.

Our constitution, by-laws, etc., have not been published since 1872, and since then much important legislation has been had; and many of our brethren, knowing that they must examine the proceedings of 1872-3-4-5-6, in order to get a given question, will at once write the Grand Master for the information sought; and, in many instances, the lodges are in doubt as to just what the law is, and therefore often go wrong. I would therefore most earnestly recommend that with the proceedings of the present session there be published the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations, and the official decisions of the several Grand Masters, and that they be also printed in pamphlet form for the more convenient use of the fraternity. I am fully satisfied that, if this is done, much confusion will be avoided, and very much of information be disseminated among the lodges.

At the last session the question as to "How many Masons, members of the lodge, constitute a lodge for the transaction of the business affairs thereof," was submitted and referred to the judiciary committee, who I presume will report at this session, as many letters of inquiry have been received in regard to this question. I trust that it will be settled by this Grand Lodge at its present sitting, as much difference of opinion is entertained in regard to this, and it is highly important that a uniform rule be adopted and adhered to.

The question of the recognition of colored lodges will also claim your attention, and I ask of you that careful consideration which the gravity of the subject demands; and as the report of your committee should be thoroughly considered by the members on this floor, it may, perhaps



be wisdom on our part to receive the report and delay discussion thereon until our next Annual Communication. I make this only as a suggestion, feeling satisfied that your own good judgment will decide what is best.

I desire to invite your attention to the rule now in force in this jurisdiction in regard to the paying of three representatives from each subordinate lodge. If this is continued, more revenue must be provided or expenses cut down—we are certainly too poor to stand the outlay of so much money at present. I am of the opinion it would be wisdom to return to our former custom of paying one representative from each constituent lodge.

And now, my brethren, I have finished the work you assigned, and the record is before you. When one year ago I was, by your kindness, elevated to the high and honorable position of Grand Master, I assure you I appreciated the high honor conferred, and a sense of the grave responsibility of the important station has ever nerved me to do my duty, and my whole duty. I then promised many of you that I would, ere the year had passed, visit you in your several lodges, and renew old acquaintances, and form new ties; and it was my fixed purpose to visit each and every lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. I had promised myself the pleasure, and looked forward to it with much satisfaction; but as we stand to-day on the last mile-stone of the year, we know and feel that we have missed much that we had anticipated, and that no one has felt the disappointment as keenly as myself. And this expression of regret comes not from the lips only, but from a deep conviction that, as your Grand Master, I have, in this regard, failed in that which is one of the important duties which should devolve upon each Grand Master. The time of the visitation of Grand Officers was not postponed from time to time, until postponement was no longer possible, and thus, by procrastination defeated,—this was not, in any sense, the case. You are all aware that the presidential campaign opened immediately after we had said “good-bye” last June, and the hard, earnest work of the fall months, which we had every reason to believe would have ended with the early November days, was, by the uncertainty of events, the excitement of the hour, and the great interest at stake, continued until the old year had gone and the new well advanced, and these weeks and months seemed not a fitting time for Grand Visitations, had the time been ours to have thus bestowed. The months of January and February were spent in Lincoln, as many of you know, and when the

legislature adjourned I found that my office demanded my entire time, and the spring months passed, and thus I greet many of you to-day for the first time since we last convened. In January, when it became apparent to me that I would be compelled to give up my intended visitations, I instructed our Grand Secretary to write the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens, advising them that, in consequence of my inability so to visit the several lodges, of my wish that they visit as many of the lodges as possible in their parts of the state. This has, I am advised, been done, as you will observe by their several reports.

From each and every one I have ever been treated with that courtesy and consideration which is ever due your Grand Master; and for the many acts of kindness I assure you one and all I feel deeply grateful, and I should be false to myself should I fail to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered the craft of this jurisdiction, and to your Grand Master in particular, by our R. W. Grand Secretary. He has been instant in season and out of season, ever working for the good of our loved fraternity; and, with the added convenience of a commodious office, his present zeal will only be more increased. One year ago, by your justice, his salary was increased four hundred dollars, which sum he has expended in fitting up and furnishing his office of Grand Secretary, and the keeping of an open office—which acts on his part are certainly deserving of our warmest thanks.

And now, in surrendering to you the gavel of this Grand Jurisdiction, permit me to indulge in the hope that it may be our pleasure to often gather around the altar of our ancient and honorable institution; and that we may ever labor to extend its benefits, and strive for its advancement, is the sincere wish of your Grand Master.

GEORGE H. THUMMEL,  
*Grand Master.*

On motion of Brother George B. France, the address was referred to a special committee—Brothers George B. France, Daniel H. Wheeler, and Benjamin Crabb—for recommendation as to mode of consideration.

The Grand Treasurer submitted the following report, which was referred to the committee on Accounts:—

TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Treasurer herewith submits his annual report of receipts and expenditures:—

JAMES W. MOORE, *Grand Treasurer,*

*In account with the Grand Lodge of Nebraska:*

	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
5876-77.		
To cash on hand, as per last report.....	\$3,980 07	
5876-77.		
By cash paid, voucher No. 78.....	\$ 400 00	
" " " " " 80.....	5 00	
" " " " " 81.....	107 85	
" " " " " 82.....	7 00	
" " " " pay-roll of '76.....	991 72	
" " " " voucher No. 83.....	153 55	
" " " " " 84.....	1,128 00	
" " " " " 85.....	24 00	
" " " " " 86.....	55 00	
" " " " " 87.....	50 00	
" " " " " 88.....	10 00	
" " " " " 89.....	861 42	
" balance.....	186 53	
	<hr/>	
	\$3,980 07	
June 19, '77.		
To balance.....	<i>Dr.</i>	
" Charity Fund.....	\$ 186 53	
	152 30	
Total.....	<hr/>	
	\$ 338 83	

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. MOORE,

*Grand Treasurer.*

The following report of the Grand Secretary was referred to the special committee on the Grand Master's address:—

TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA:—

Your Secretary reports,—

That during the year he has performed *all* the duties imposed on him by the Grand Lodge, so far as practicable; some things have not been done for want of funds; others, because one year could not complete the labor,—still, in general terms, all the work of the office has been performed, and there has been a great deal of it.

Since October your Secretary has employed an assistant about all the time, and since April his office has been open from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M. every day, Sundays excepted. His furniture cost over one-half of his salary, and the balance has been expended for assistance.

To the fraternity of Omaha the thanks of the Grand Lodge are due for the well-arranged office room, for which no rent is asked or paid.

He further reports,—

That about January 16, 1877, the representative of the Grand Lodge of Vermont near Nebraska, Brother Phineas D. Ballou, died at Deadwood, Dakota. By the craft at Burlington, Vermont, and at Omaha, his remains were forwarded to Troy, New York, and were there interred by the fraternity, at the request of this office.

That he has fully presented to the Grand Lodge of Michigan the views of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, with reference to the certificates required of Michigan Masons visiting Nebraska, and has received no official response.

That he has endeavored to obtain one or two copies of the by-laws of each constituent lodge, in order that they might be examined by a committee, as ordered by the Grand Lodge; but up to this time but few over one-half of the lodges have forwarded the by-laws. It is presumed there is some good, although unknown, reason for non-compliance with the order of the Grand Lodge.

He submits—

The following matters which have been placed in the hands of the committees which met yesterday, viz:—

*Hamilton Lodge.*—Dispensation, petition for charter, record book, and one demit.

*Blue Valley Lodge.*—Dispensation, statement of work, record book, by-laws, petition for charter, with seven demits, etc.

*Osceola Lodge.*—Dispensation, statement of work, by-laws, record book, petition for charter, and eight demits.

*Firth Lodge.*—Dispensation, statement of work, record book, ledger, by-laws, petition for charter, with four demits.

*Edgar Lodge.*—Dispensation, statement of work, petition for charter, by-laws, record book, ledger, etc.

*Fortitude Lodge.*—Dispensation, statement of work, by-laws and petition for continuance, with three demits, minutes, etc.

The appeal of Brother Frank H. Young, from the acquittal of Brother C. J. Freese, by Thistle Lodge, No. 61.

The appeal of Brother Lewis Dunn from the sentence of reprimand imposed by Lafayette Lodge, No. 24.

The appeal of Brother A. N. Potter from the action of Ashlar Lodge, No. 33, in relation to his petition for affiliation therein.

The case of Fidelity Lodge, No. 51, against Brother Henry C. Barnes.

The appeal of Brother Richard Burge from his expulsion by Salem Lodge, No. 47.

The appeal of the Junior Warden of Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, from the acquittal of Brother A. S. Godfrey by said lodge.

The votes of constituent lodges on the proposed amendment to article ii. of the constitution (see page 36 of '76), showing that seventeen lodges have voted in the affirmative, thirty-two lodges in the negative, and ten have not reported their action, if any, to this office.

The by-laws of the following lodges for approval, viz: Macoy, No. 22; St. John's, No. 25; Thistle, No. 61.

Communications from the Grand Lodges of Maine, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois, and New Brunswick, with reference to the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

A statement of balances due June 20, '76, to and from the lodges of this jurisdiction. The ledger promises to be an excellent investment for the Grand Lodge.

He submits for consideration of the Grand Lodge, or the constituent lodges, whether it would not be to the best interests of the craft to require of each one who hereafter becomes a member of our lodges the deposit of a sum of money, the interest of which, at six or seven per centum, will pay the annual dues against such member; this sum, with any surplus interest accrued, to be returned to such member when he leaves the lodge. The result of this system would be to diminish the number of suspensions, and to rid the institution somewhat of that pecuniary characteristic toward which it is tending.

He *invites attention*—

To the numerous criticisms on our manner of opening the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary is thereon the target for many crack shots, although he merely records the proceedings as they occur.

To the fact that frequent requests have been made upon him during the year for blank demits, petitions, receipts for dues, etc., thus indicating an expectation that this office would have a supply of such blanks on hands for distribution at cost; and in this connection attention is invited to the order given your Grand Secretary to supply the lodges with uniform demits, similar to the uniform diplomas, an order which would have been obeyed, had an appropriation for funds been given with the order.

To the fact that the only new additions that are being made to the Grand Lodge Library are the current proceedings of the Grand Lodges,

together with a few masonic periodicals. To secure other additions, funds are necessary. No appropriation for this purpose is urged, lest the treasury should not bear the draft; but the matter is presented, that in future years the present Secretary may not be censured for neglect of this important subject. A small expenditure each year would soon make a considerable showing.

To the considerable amount of postage that is expended in supplying proceedings to applicants all over the country. In the absence of any rule on the subject, proceedings are sent to all respectable parties who ask for them, postage prepaid. On the other hand, herewith is enclosed a request for proceedings, accompanied by funds, from one whom the Grand Lodge, at its last session saw fit to censure. The instructions of the Grand Lodge are asked.

To the recent, and in one case entire, destruction by fire of two or more Grand Lodge offices. Does the Grand Lodge desire to consider or act on the question of guarding our records, etc., from like destruction? Measures have been taken to preserve a few full sets of our proceedings by placing them in fire-proof vaults under control of six or seven of our largest lodges.

He recommends—

That measures be taken to have the annual dues and fees forwarded to this office during May, instead of waiting until the Grand Lodge meets. In this way the financial condition of the Grand Lodge could be known fully and in detail when the Grand Lodge met, instead of being hurriedly approximated during the Annual Communication.

That each petition for initiation in our lodges shall contain the statement that the petitioner is free born, and shall further declare the petitioner's belief in a Supreme Being.

To conclude:—

The members of the Grand Lodge will remember the action taken in the last few years regarding funds claimed by some of our lodges, as a *reimbursement* for expenses incurred in the *care and burial of sojourning Masons*. Thinking that perhaps the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, remote from the older and more powerful Grand Lodges of America, and perhaps thus unacquainted with their rules and customs in such cases—also being situated on the continental thoroughfare, and thus subject to many demands for aid—your Secretary entered into correspondence on the subject with R. W.: Brother George Frank Gouley, Grand Secre-

tary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri (recently deceased). Brother Gouley, with his experience in Masonry and his usual activity, set systematically to work to ascertain from the Grand Secretaries of American Grand Lodges the customs and views of each jurisdiction. The result is herewith submitted. Appreciating the peculiar interest of Nebraska in the subject, as evinced by its proceedings, the data herewith submitted was obtained in May last from the Assistant Grand Secretary of Missouri, who expressed the hope that the Grand Lodge of Nebraska might take action in the right direction; in which hope your Secretary concurs.

*First.* Is it the custom of lodges in your jurisdiction to go to extra expense in caring for the sick or burial of the dead (of sojourning Masons) without the expectation of reimbursement from their lodges at home?

*Alabama.*—Yes, to the first part of the question; to the second part—they sometimes ask for reimbursement, but very seldom get it.

*California.*—It is the custom of our lodges to go to any *necessary* expense in caring for the sick or in the burial of the dead (sojourning Masons), if known or believed to be in good standing; and it is expected that their lodges should pay such expense, if able to do so.

*Connecticut.*—It is not.

*Iowa.*—The custom is not uniform. I have known many lodges in Iowa to do so, and others again, not so imbued with the spirit of charity, as knowing their duty, did it not.

*Louisiana.*—It is. It is left to the lodges to exercise their own judgment.

*Maine.*—Yes, when in the exercise of a proper discretion aid is needed.

*Maryland.*—It is.

*Massachusetts.*—The lodge to which the brother belongs is usually notified, but no expense against such lodge is incurred, unless authorized by the lodge to which the brother belongs.

*Minnesota.*—First part, no. The lodges in this jurisdiction have buried a number of sojourning Masons, but I have never known of a bill having been sent to the home lodge, or heard of a dollar having been reimbursed.

*Nebraska.*—It is the custom to care for the sick, and bury the dead; that being done reimbursement is sought.

*New Brunswick.*—Our Board of Relief, in their expenditures for sick and deceased Masons, make no distinction between strangers and members. I have no recollection of any case where application has been made for reimbursement from the lodges of sojourners.

*New York.*—Our lodges are entitled to the credit of caring for the sick and burying the dead (sojourners), without expectation of reimbursement, except where the deceased is known to be affiliated. If they get paid, well and good; if not, so much for the cause.

*North Carolina.*—Practice not uniform. Some lodges have asked reimbursement, others have not.

*Pennsylvania.*—I do not know of any custom in the matter; some lodges do take great care of sick and deceased brethren, others contribute for such purpose.

*South Carolina.*—It is the custom of our lodges, as far as their means and ability permit, to do all that they can in caring for sick brethren, or in providing for the decent masonic interment of such as may die in their midst; and this irrespective of whether they belong to this state or come from abroad, and the question of reimbursement does not enter into the case at all.

*Tennessee (Board of Relief).*—It is. We have never asked for remuneration, or to be reimbursed for taking care of the sick or burying the dead of other jurisdictions.

*Utah.*—Lodges in Utah faithfully care for sick Masons, and bury deceased brothers, but expect that all expenses are refunded by the lodges they hail from, or claim to be contributing members of.

*Virginia.*—Not extra. We take care of them, bury them, and take the risk of being reimbursed. If payment is tendered by the family or lodge it is not declined.

*Wisconsin.*—Our lodges go to all necessary expense, and expect reimbursement from the lodge of which the brother is a member.

*Wyoming.*—It is our custom to care for the sick or burial of the dead, regardless of the question of reimbursement, although the latter is expected to be made; our subordinates reimburse each other without question.

*Second.* Is it the custom of your lodges to report (if possible) a case of sickness or death of a stranger, asking instructions as to expense to be incurred?

*Alabama.*—I believe it is, in cases of protracted illness.

*California.*—I do not know that it is. In most cases the expense of sickness or burial must be incurred at once, leaving no time for inquiry.

*Connecticut.*—It is, I think, a general custom here.

*Iowa.*—I have never known such a request to have been made, or expenses asked regarding.

*Louisiana.*—Left to the lodge. Is sometimes done in special cases.

*Maine.*—Sometimes, but rarely; but always, if requested by him.

*Maryland.*—Not unless he requests it.

*Massachusetts.*—No, not generally: governed in such cases as the circumstance seem to demand.

*Minnesota.*—It is not. If a sojourning brother dies, he is buried decently, and the fact reported. No bill is rendered.

*Nebraska.*—Proper care is given, and instructions then asked as to further action, as time and circumstances may permit.

*New Brunswick.*—No; I have no knowledge of any such.

*New York.*—Yes.

*North Carolina.*—Same as in No. 1, as to uniformity of practice.

*Pennsylvania.*—Whenever it can be done, it is.

*South Carolina.*—Yes.

*Tennessee (Board of Relief).*—We notify the lodge a brother may belong to, that they may give such instructions as they desire.

*Utah.*—If it is claimed the sick or deceased is a Mason, and no one can vouch for him, we use the telegraph inquiring as to his standing.

*Virginia.*—No; there is no custom. We try to do whatever is required of us as Masons.

*Wisconsin.*—It is.

*Wyoming.*—Yes, it is, if possible to be done, both as to lodges and also the family of the stranger.



*Third.* If no reimbursement is asked or expected by your lodges, do they expect to pay such bills, when presented by other jurisdictions, for your absent members?

*Alabama.*—No.

*California.*—Reimbursement is expected by our lodges, but it often happens that the expectation is futile. I have never heard of a case where such a claim upon a lodge in this jurisdiction has not been honored.

*Connecticut.*—We do not expect to pay for absent members, although many lodges do so when asked.

*Iowa.*—I have often known our lodges, and the Grand Lodge, too, to pay such bills, and I have known other cases refused.

*Louisiana.*—They are not required to do so, but, of course, may use their own judgment.

*Maine.*—No, not as a matter of right. In some cases they do pay, but where it is done it is regarded as a courtesy.

*Maryland.*—They do not.

*Massachusetts.*—No reimbursement is expected, unless first authorized by the lodge. Our lodges do not deem they are responsible for any expenses incurred for them, unless authorized.

*Minnesota.*—No such cases have occurred; but I should strongly urge upon brethren to reimburse a lodge for expenses incurred under such circumstances, as a matter of home pride.

*Nebraska.*—Reimbursement is expected and asked by our lodges, and they expect to reimburse other jurisdictions for care bestowed on Nebraska Masons.

*New Brunswick.*—I have known several cases where reimbursement has been asked, and has been given by the lodge in this jurisdiction to which the sick or deceased brother belonged. Such applications have been very rare.

*New York.*—No general rules prevail; some lodges would promptly pay such bills—others would demur. In general, however, the lodges in this state pay more such bills than they get paid themselves.

*North Carolina.*—There have been cases where lodges have been paid such bills.

*Pennsylvania.*—Reimbursement is expected when authorized, or the lodge of the brother is able to respond; and, so far as I know, our lodges will pay under similar circumstances.

*South Carolina.*—While they do not demand reimbursement, they are of opinion that, where it can be done, it should be done, and so considering they cheerfully pay such bills, as debts of honor, when presented from other jurisdictions.

*Tennessee (Board of Relief).*—We have had bills presented from other jurisdictions, and have paid many of them, but have thought it wrong.

*Utah.*—Lodges in Utah pay all bills presented by lodges in sister jurisdictions for any such purposes.

*Virginia.*—Yes; it is frequently done, and no questions asked.

*Wisconsin.*—We always expect to pay the bills.

*Wyoming.*—Yes.

*Fourth.* Has your Grand Lodge any regulation on this subject? and if so, please give the points briefly.

*Alabama.*—The Grand Lodge has enacted no regulation.

*California.*—It has no regulation upon the subject, so far as I have any recollection. How can it regulate matters concerning other Grand Lodges?

*Connecticut.*—We have no regulation on the subject.

*Iowa.*—It has no regulation, but its older and more intelligent Masons hold that, when asked, all proper and needful (not extravagant) expenses should be refunded.

*Louisiana.*—None special.

*Maine.*—No. It has been decided that no claim for reimbursement arises from acts of masonic charity.

*Maryland.*—Has none.

*Massachusetts.*—No. We, in Grand Lodge and subordinate lodge charities, seek to be governed in each case that may arise by the great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

*Minnesota.*—No regulation on the subject. The subject has never been presented to the Grand Lodge in any shape.

*Nebraska.*—No regulations; but in several cases our Grand Lodge has demanded of other Grand Lodges that our Nebraska lodges be reimbursed.

*New Brunswick.*—The constitution of our Grand Lodge contains provisions for a fund of benevolence, to be dispensed solely to members of our own lodges, their widows and orphans. Such fund, however, has not yet been established. In St. John we have a Board of Relief, composed of representatives from all the lodges in the city, and this board dispenses relief from a general fund subscribed by the lodges.

*New York.*—We have no regulation.

*North Carolina.*—There is no regulation on the subject in this jurisdiction.

*Pennsylvania.*—None except the "Golden Rule."

*South Carolina.*—It has not, and I hope never will.

*Tennessee (Board of Relief).*—No definite regulation; left with the individual lodges to act.

*Utah.*—No. Utah lodges act on these points without a Grand Lodge regulation, because it is right and just that it should be so.

*Virginia.*—None.

*Wisconsin.*—No special regulation. It has always been the practice of this jurisdiction, the principle having been recognized by the Grand Lodge in several instances.

*Wyoming.*—No, nothing on that point; but, as far as obtaining pecuniary aid by members of the order is concerned, it is provided that in case they fail to return the money obtained when time of loan has expired, and no explanation of the failure is made, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master to prefer charges of unmasonic conduct against the delinquent brother, and forward them to the lodge of which he is a member.

*Fifth.* Does the same usage which governs your lodges in this matter as between them and those in sister jurisdictions, govern as between each other in your own jurisdiction?

*Alabama.*—I think it does.

*California.*—Answer same as to No. 4.

*Connecticut.*—Yes.

*Iowa.*—Yes, the usage is the same.

*Louisiana.*—Yes.

*Maine.*—Yes.

*Maryland.*—They do.

*Massachusetts.*—Each lodge, as far as possible, gives relief to its distressed members

*Minnesota.*—Can't tell; never heard of a case in the jurisdiction.

*Nebraska.*—Yes, generally.

*New Brunswick.*—Our lodges never ask reimbursement of each other.

*New York.*—Yes.

*North Carolina.*—It does.

*Pennsylvania.*—Answer same as to No. 4.

*South Carolina.*—Yes.

*Tennessee (Board of Relief).*—It does.

*Utah.*—Yes.

*Virginia.*—Yes, except that we should confidently expect reimbursement between Virginia lodges.

*Wisconsin.*—Yes.

*Wyoming.*—Yes.

*Sixth.* If your Grand Lodge has no definite law upon the subject, and your subordinate lodges are left to their own volition in the matter, thereby sometimes causing unpleasant feelings between them, do you not think some general understanding should be arrived at? and if so, please suggest a resolution that would cover the case.

*Alabama.*—It is hard for one to suggest a plan that would be worth much, without more reflection than I have had time to give to the subject. What do you say to a convention of delegates from all the Grand Lodges? Or, let your Grand Lodge devise the plan, and the rest will probably follow and adopt it.

*California.*—I do think that some general understanding upon this subject among the Grand Lodges would be useful, and I know no one better qualified, or more likely to be successful, than yourself, for the introduction of such a proposition.

*Connecticut.*—I think there ought to be some general understanding in this matter, but will decline to submit any resolution at present. It is a question that requires some thought—there are a good many sides to it.

*Iowa.*—Yes, I do think that we should, for the sake of peace and harmony, and, if possible, to give general understanding. My own idea is that the lodge with which the indigent or sick brother is affiliated should be held responsible for all needful outlays in behalf of its members; but I also believe that, were it possible, communication should first be had with it upon the subject.

*Louisiana.*—“*Similia similibus curantur.*” Never was a good hand at drafting plans to please everybody. If a plan could be adopted that would cause all the craft to recognize and perform their several duties of charity, it doubtless would be a very good thing—yea, a very good thing.

*Maryland.*—No suggestions.

*Massachusetts.*—Our present custom seems to work well, and I have no suggestions to make.

*Nebraska.*—Yes, some general understanding on this and other subjects is desirable; but I have not the especial experience necessary to suggest a resolution covering the case.

*New Brunswick.*—As no unpleasantness has yet arisen, no steps have been taken to legislate upon the question.

*New York.*—We think the matter had better be let alone. We are constantly giving when worthy cases are presented, whether from our own or other jurisdictions, and we are of opinion that what may be done for our brethren in other jurisdictions only balances the account. We do not believe our Grand Lodge would agree to any specific regulation on the subject.

*North Carolina.*—There should be a general law regulating the matter between lodges of the same as well as in different Grand Jurisdictions.

*Pennsylvania.*—If such an arrangement could be made as would be binding on all Grand Lodges, and through them their subordinates, it would doubtless save unpleasant feelings at times, but it is doubtful if such could be effected. Our Grand Lodge

would have to change its organic law to compel the payment of expenses of that character, as we never interfere in the monetary affairs of a lodge, except for its protection, or to prevent the squandering of its funds for purposes not masonic—believing that the true Mason will always act upon the "Golden Rule."

*South Carolina.*—I can suggest no legislation on the subject; on the contrary, should regret to see any, because of my unwillingness to see masonic duty measured by dollars and cents. My observation is that there is a growing tendency to convert Masonry into a mutual assurance or benefit society. Such associations are very good things, but do not come within the definition of "a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." I think Masonry occupies a far higher position than any life insurance company, and believe that the pressing duty of masonic writers and thinkers is to check this evil, and point out to the craft what true and genuine Masonry really is.

*Tennessee.*—Most decidedly there should be some general regulation or understanding among the lodges of the United States and the Canadas.

*Utah.*—A general understanding is not only desirable, but needed. The undersigned would respectfully suggest that each Grand Lodge on the North American continent be requested to adopt a regulation governing the subject, in accordance with the usage practiced in the lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Utah.

*Wisconsin.*—Ordered by the Grand Lodge,—

*First.*—That the subordinate lodges of this jurisdiction shall, upon proper voucher being produced, pay the expense incurred by lodges of this or any other jurisdiction in taking care of sick members sojourning away from home, and also the burial expenses of absent deceased members.

*Second.*—In cases where the expenses are incurred for the relief or burial of a brother, member of a lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, properly certified vouchers, under the seal of the lodge, shall be sent to the lodge of which the brother is or was a member, and the amount therein vouched for shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the reception of such voucher.

*Third.*—In cases where the expenses are incurred for the relief or burial of a brother, member in some other jurisdiction, all the facts in the case shall be transmitted, under seal of the lodge, to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, whose duty it shall be to forward, without delay, a certified copy, under seal of the Grand Lodge, to the Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction wherein the brother's lodge is located.

*Wyoming.*—*Resolved, 1st.* That hereafter all subordinate lodges in this jurisdiction shall provide for the care of sick and the burial of dead members of sister lodges in this state, and defray all necessary and reasonable expenses, as the case may require.

*Resolved, 2d.* That in case a subordinate lodge shall have expended any of its funds in caring for a sick or burying a deceased member of any of her sister lodges in this state, and such expenditure shall be certified to by the Worshipful Master, Secretary, and chairman of the relief committee, under the seal of their lodge, to have been necessarily, reasonably, and actually made, then such lodge shall be reimbursed for the amount expended aforesaid by the lodge with which such sick or deceased brother held membership at the time of his sickness or decease.

*Resolved, 3d.* That in case any subordinate lodge shall fail, refuse, or neglect to reimburse any sister lodge in this jurisdiction for expenses certified (as provided in section 2) to have been incurred for any of the members of such subordinate lodge in cases of sickness or death, the subordinate lodge guilty of such failure, refusal, or neglect shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit her charter and property to this Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

WM. R. BOWEN,  
Grand Secretary.

Bro.: Eben K. Long presented a report from the committee on Credentials, which was adopted, subject to amendment during the session. The report, as amended, was as follows:

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.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL, Grand Master;  
 R.: W.: HIRAM C. RIDER, Deputy Grand Master;  
 R.: W.: CHARLES F. GOODMAN, Grand Senior Warden;  
 R.: W.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE, Grand Junior Warden;  
 R.: W.: JAMES W. MOORE, Grand Treasurer;  
 R.: W.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Secretary;  
 V.: W.: IRA N. PARDEE, Grand Chaplain;  
     W.: MARK W. WILCOX, Grand Orator;  
 M.: W.: WILLIAM E. HILL, P.: G.: M.:, Grand Lecturer;  
     W.: SIDNEY L. F. WARD, Grand Marshal;  
     W.: JAMES A. TULLEYS, Grand Senior Deacon;  
     W.: H. R. PLATT, *as* Grand Junior Deacon;  
 Bro.: JACOB KING, Grand Tiler.

CUSTODIANS.

Bro.: GEORGE W. LININGER, First District;  
 Bro.: L. S. MOE, Second District;  
 Bro.: NEWTON R. PERSINGER, Third District;  
 Bro.: FREDERICK N. DICK, Fourth District;  
 Bro.: HIRAM C. RIDER, Fifth District;  
 Bro.: ROLLAND H. OAKLEY, Sixth District;  
 Bro.: JAMES R. CAIN, Seventh District.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

M.: W.: ROBERT C. JORDAN, Past Grand Master;  
 M.: W.: GEORGE ARMSTRONG, Past Grand Master;  
 M.: W.: DANIEL H. WHEELER, Past Grand Master;  
 M.: W.: ROBERT W. FURNAS, Past Grand Master;  
 M.: W.: HARRY P. DEUEL, 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;  
 M.: W.: ALFRED G. HASTINGS, Past Grand Master.

## REPRESENTATIVES.

NAME OF LODGE.	NO.	MASTER.	SENIOR WARDEN.	JUNIOR WARDEN.
Nebraska.....	1	Wm. Robinson, proxy	F. E. Caldwell.....	F. E. Caldwell, proxy.
Western Star.....	2	E. F. Thorpe.....	E. F. Warren.....	Wm. E. Hill, proxy...
Capitol.....	3	George W. Lininger...	S. K. Jackson.....	Seth T. Cole.....
Nemaha Valley.....	4	R. W. Furnas [3 votes]	.....	.....
Omad.....	5	Wm. Adair [3 votes]...	.....	.....
Plattsmouth.....	6	Francis E. White.....	D. H. Wheeler, proxy	J. W. Marshall, proxy
Falls City.....	9	James R. Cain.....	E. E. Metz, proxy.....	R. A. Wherry, proxy.
Solomon.....	10	J. B. Kuony.....	E. N. Grenell.....	.....
Covert.....	11	Washington I. Baker..	Eben K. Long, proxy..	John Steffen.....
Nebraska City.....	12	E. R. Richardson.....	J. B. Northcutt.....	J. W. Chadduck, prox
Orient.....	13	Tyler C. Hoyt.....	.....	M. D. Simpson.....
Peru.....	14	D. C. Cole.....	B. W. Knott, proxy....	B. W. Knott, proxy....
Fremont.....	15	A. C. Hull.....	.....	C. A. Fried.....
Tecumseh.....	17	S. L. F. Ward, proxy..	C. T. Haskins, proxy..	S. L. F. Ward proxy..
Ashland.....	18	.....	S. H. Nichols.....	E. M. Park.....
Lincoln.....	19	Rolland H. Oakley.....	J. H. Foxworthy.....	James McConnell.....
Rock Bluffs.....	20	S. C. Patterson.....	J. M. Patterson, proxy	.....
Washington.....	21	William H. Palmer.....	Richard Albery.....	Chas. H. Willard.....
Macoy.....	22	.....	H. E. Palmer [2 votes]	J. A. McMurphy, prox
Pawnee.....	23	J. L. Edwards.....	.....	S. H. Cummins, proxy
St. Johns.....	25	John G. Taylor.....	James E. Bruner.....	Gus. Stevenson, proxy
Beatrice.....	26	Hiram P. Webb.....	Chas. B. Palmer.....	L. W. Colby, proxy....
Jordan.....	27	E. N. Sweet.....	E. N. Sweet, proxy....	P. Schwenk, proxy....
Hope.....	29	.....	V. Griffin.....	.....
Blue River.....	30	George B. France.....	J. H. Culver, proxy..	.....
Tekamah.....	31	M. R. Hopewell.....	G. W. Green, proxy....	J. R. Sutherland, prox
Platte Valley.....	32	Thad J. Foley, proxy	Thaddeus J. Foley....	F. N. Dick, proxy....
Ashlar.....	33	W. H. Platt.....	B. C. Howard.....	C.P.R. Williams, prox
Acacia.....	34	John H. Wheeler.....	W. H. Sumner.....	John Muller.....
Fairbury.....	35	.....	.....	.....
Lone Tree.....	36	N. R. Persinger.....	J. B. White.....	J. E. Wilder.....
Crete.....	37	R. L. Cornwell.....	Jacob Bigler.....	George H. Hastings....
Oliver.....	38	William Leese.....	Horace A. Scott.....	William Clemmons..
Papillion.....	39	H. R. Platt, proxy....	.....	H. R. Platt.....
Humboldt.....	40	S. N. Hillebert.....	W. W. Turk.....	E. S. Morton.....
Northern Light.....	41	C. L. Lamb, proxy....	Lewis Ley, proxy....	C. L. Lamb.....
Juniata.....	42	B. E. Swift.....	H. A. Guild.....	E. J. Hanchett.....
Hebron.....	43	Wm. J. Hand.....	E. B. Applegate.....	.....
Harvard.....	44	Ezra Brown.....	Levi B. Munger.....	Wm. J. Turner, proxy
Palmyra.....	45	J. W. Moore, proxy..	J. Oscar Moore.....	.....
Gibbon.....	46	E. B. Carter.....	S. S. St. John.....	D. A. Dorsey.....
Salem.....	47	G. W. Pampel.....	.....	.....
Fairmont.....	48	C. B. Webber.....	C. C. Chapin.....	V. A. Stewart.....
Evening Star.....	49	A. K. Marsh [3 votes]	.....	.....
Hastings.....	50	E. Steinau.....	G. W. Mowery, proxy	F. J. Benedict, proxy.
Fidelity.....	51	F. E. Wilson.....	C. C. Cook.....	W. M. Bunting, proxy
Hiram.....	52	J. A. Unthank, proxy.	S. G. Glover, proxy....	Wm. E. Turner.....
Charity.....	53	I. B. Hampton.....	S. H. Kaley.....	J. A. Tulleys, proxy..
Lancaster.....	54	J. M. Creamer.....	D. H. Andrews, proxy	B. Crabb, proxy.....
Mosaic.....	55	L. F. Taylor.....	C. P. Mathewson.....	.....
York.....	56	W. M. Knapp.....	Lee Love.....	Chas. LeCount, proxy
Mount Moriah.....	57	Chas. B. Page, proxy.	.....	A. H. Johnson.....
Lebanon.....	58	Marshall Smith, prox.	H. P. Coolidge, proxy	John W. Early.....
Wahoo.....	59	J. C. Polsley.....	M. L. Ellsworth.....	J. N. Davis.....
Melrose.....	60	Albert C. Robbins.....	.....	.....
Thistle.....	61	F. H. Young, proxy..	Frank H. Young.....	H. O. Smith, proxy....
Keystone.....	62	Martin Ennis.....	.....	.....
Riverton.....	63	James R. McDonald..	William E. Hatch.....	George W. Sheppard..

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

## REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND LODGES:

*Alabama*—Bro.: JAMES W. CHADDUCK;  
*British Columbia*—Bro.: WILLIAM ADAIR  
*Canada*—Bro.: ROBERT C. JORDAN;  
*Connecticut*—Bro.: ALFRED G. HASTINGS;

*Delaware*—Bro.: EDWIN A. ALLEN;  
*District of Columbia*—Bro.: CHARLES F. CATLIN;  
*Illinois*—Bro.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL;  
*Indiana*—Bro.: HARRY P. DEUEL;  
*Iowa*—Bro.: ROBERT W. FURNAS;  
*Michigan*—Bro.: DANIEL H. WHEELER;  
*Minnesota*—Bro.: ROBERT C. JORDAN;  
*Montana*—Bro.: CHARLES F. GOODMAN;  
*New Brunswick*—Bro.: EDWIN A. ALLEN;  
*New York*—Bro.: ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON;  
*North Carolina*—Bro.: ROBERT W. FURNAS;  
*Nova Scotia*—Bro.: CHARLES F. CATLIN;  
*Ohio*—Bro.: ROBERT W. FURNAS.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

EBEN K. LONG,  
 JOHN G. TAYLOR,  
*Of Committee on Credentials.*

The Grand Master now announced the following standing committees:

*On Accounts*—Bros.: WILLIAM M. KNAPP, WILLIAM H. PLATT, THADDEUS J. FOLEY, JOHN H. FOXWORTHY, and HENRY E. PALMER.

*On Charters and Dispensations*—Bros.: WILLIAM H. MORRIS, NEWTON R. PERSINGER, JAMES R. CAIN, EDWIN R. RICHARDSON, and J. M. CREAMER.

*On By-Laws*—Bros.: ROBERT W. FURNAS, JOHN R. McDONALD, ALFRED G. HASTINGS, EZRA BROWN, and ARUNDEL C. HULL.

*On Ways and Means*—Bros.: ROLLAND H. OAKLEY, HIRAM P. WEBB, GEORGE B. FRANCE, H. P. COOLIDGE, and S. H. NICHOLS.

*On Charity*—Bros.: WASHINGTON I. BAKER, RUFUS L. CORNWALL, MARTIN ENNIS, S. L. F. WARD, and ALFRED G. HASTINGS.

*On Grievances*—Bros.: GEORGE W. LININGER, PETER SCHWENK, WILLIAM ADAIR, E. F. THORPE, and TYLER C. HOYT.

*On Unfinished Business*—Bros.: EDWIN F. WARREN, BARNABAS E. SWIFT, MELVIN R. HOPEWELL, HOMER HOLCOMB, and LEONARD W. COLBY.

*On Pay Roll*—Bros.: FRANCIS E. WHITE, ALBERT K. MARSH, and GEORGE W. PAMPEL.

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

*On Returns*—Bros.: EBEN K. LONG, E. N. SWEET, JOHN G. TAYLOR, BLAKE C. HOWARD, and LEWIS LEY.

*On Foreign Correspondence*—Bro.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN, and two Brothers to be hereafter named.

*On Credentials*—Bros.: EBEN K. LONG, W. S. WHITE, and JOHN G. TAYLOR.

*On Visiting Brethren*—Bros.: J. B. BRUNER, JOHN STEFFEN, and SETH T. COLE.

Bro.: Bowen submitted the following report, which was referred to a special committee, consisting of Bros.: Oakley, Colby, Stevenson, Grenell, and Early :

Having been appointed to codify the existing law, regulations, etc., of the Grand Lodge, I have taken the *constitution* and *by-laws* as printed in the proceedings of '72 as the law at that time, it being so certified to me by my predecessor in office; I have taken the *resolutions* and *decisions* from '57 so far as they seem to be for the guidance of the craft; I submit *all* such resolutions and decisions, pages numbered from 1 to 118, inclusive.

I also submit an interleaved copy of the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations, standing resolutions, and approved decisions as *printed in '72*; and have indicated all subsequent enactments. In this connection, I invite attention to certain resolutions and decisions which I have *not* included, and recommend that the question of their incorporation with existing law be referred to the committee on Jurisprudence.

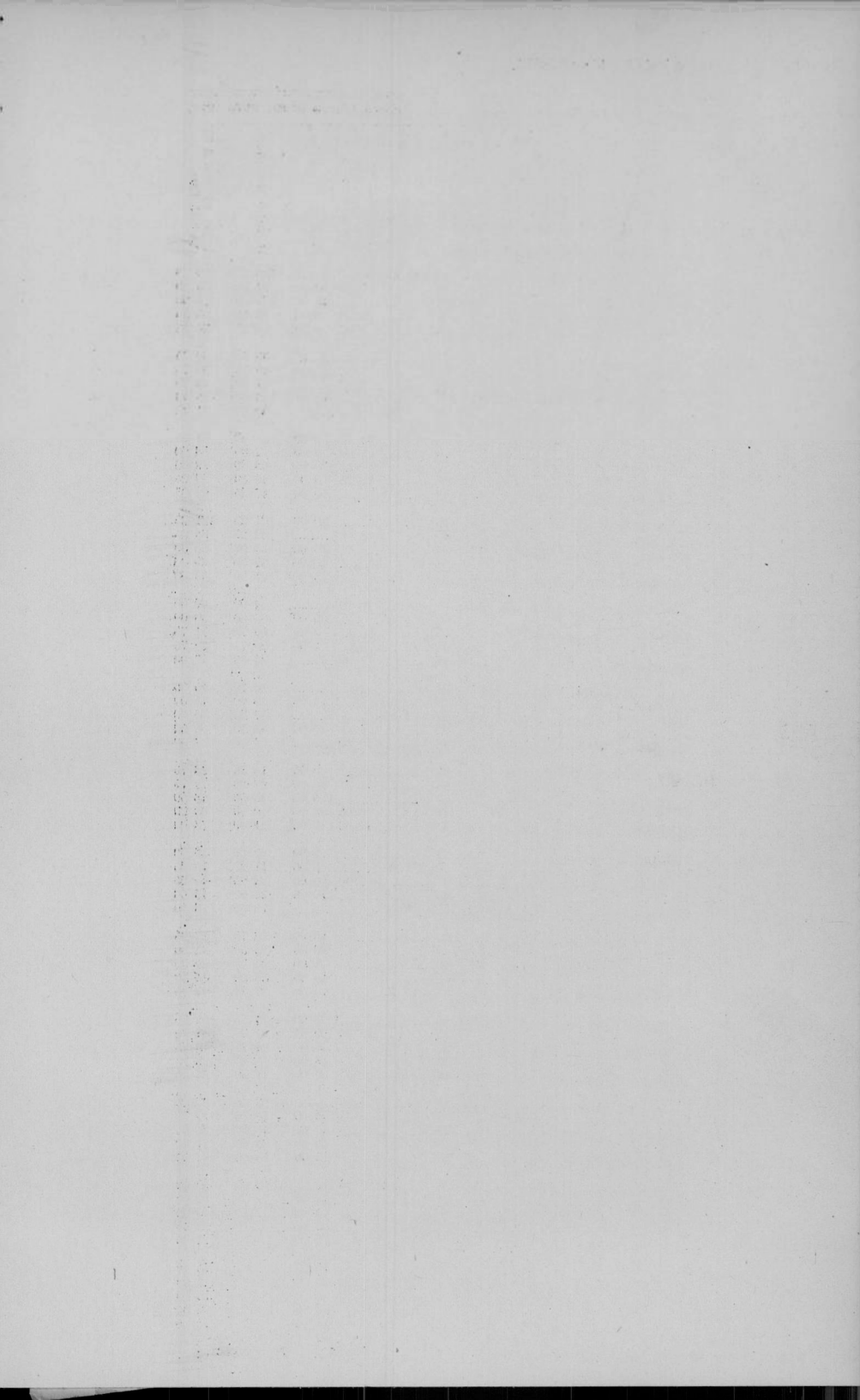
I have omitted all resolutions referring to *our work*, deeming that matter to rest with the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer.

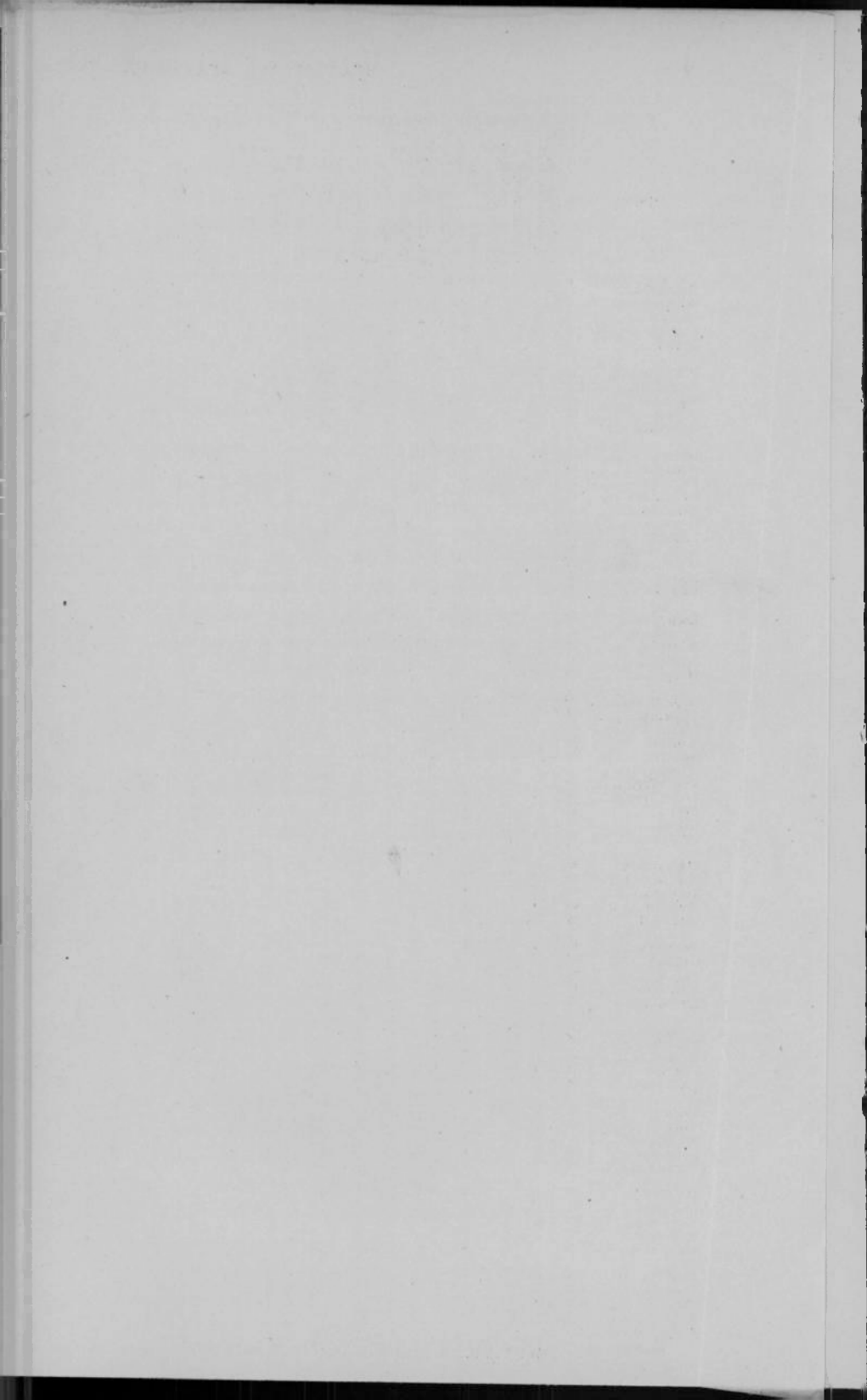
I have also omitted most of the law governing the Orphans' Educational Fund, as not needed for the guidance of the craft.

In the law as it unquestionably exists, serious contradictions will be found; and some of the resolutions and decisions that I have left for consideration will, if incorporated in the law, materially modify previous rulings.

I recommend that wherever the word *subordinate* is used as descriptive of a chartered Lodge, the word *constituent* be substituted; that speedy action be taken on pending legislation; that careful consideration be given, and conservative action taken, on all points I have left open; that no attempt be made to remodel the law, but too little rather than too







much change be made; that the law be published with this year's proceedings, and that a number of extra copies be printed; that the Grand Lodge declare that the law so printed be *all* the Grand Lodge legislation the Masters and workmen need refer to for their guidance.

I suggest the propriety of annually referring all resolutions and decisions to the committee on Jurisprudence, that they may be put in shape for incorporation into the by-laws or constitution.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM R. BOWEN,  
*Special Committee.*

Bro.: Long, chairman of the committee on Returns, submitted the following report; which the Grand Lodge adopted and ordered published in full:

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 April 30th, 5877, and the present status of the craft as shown by the accompanying tabular statement:

Number Initiated during the year.....	165
"    Passed.....	141
"    Raised.....	139 — 139
"    Admitted.....	188
"    Reinstated.....	76
"    Other causes.....	25
	<hr/>
"    Demitted.....	80
"    Died.....	16
"    Suspended.....	57
"    Expelled.....	5
"    Other causes.....	35 — 193
	<hr/>
Gain, Master Masons.....	235
Number Chartered Lodges, 5876.....	56
"    Chartered Lodges, 5877.....	58
Fees on initiation.....	\$ 825 00
Dues on members.....	2,065 50
Debits less credits, 5876.....	232 50
	<hr/>
Total amount due.....	\$3,123 00

Your committee have earnestly labored to make these crooked things straight, and to mete even-handed justice to all; and while there is manifestly a great improvement over previous years, there is room for much larger in the year to come. We trust the brethren of this Grand Body will consider the difficulties under which the committee

have been placed while seeking to make their report as complete as possible. We now have a larger number of Lodges, rapidly increasing, and if the officers of the constituent Lodges would be careful to make their reports *absolutely correct*—which can be done by *all*, provided their *compendiums* are properly prepared, and the Secretaries would READ the headings of the returns, and strictly comply with the requirements thereof, and be sure to have the returns completed so as to send them to the Grand Secretary within ten days from April 30th in each year, as required by the rule adopted in Grand Lodge, session of 1876—the labors of future committees would be much lessened, and all would be benefited thereby.

A majority of this committee have spent time amounting to nearly six days on these returns, and yet have been obliged to neglect some of the safeguards necessary to assure them of the certainty of the correctness of the report now submitted. Some Secretaries, who are generally correct in their returns, write to the Grand Secretary asking if they are to continue the lists of Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and suspended Masons from year to year. The rule in these cases seems to the committee to be very clear, viz: When a name is once entered on the returns (except in case of demissions, expulsions, or death), it should continually remain therein until disposed of by some of the methods described in the printed headings of the returns.

The following returns were received on or before May 15th: Nos. 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 25, 31, 36, 40, 41, 44, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59—17.

May 15th to 31st, twenty-nine returns were received.

May 31st to June 15th, eleven returns were received.

Returns from Jordan Lodge, No. 27, not in June 15th.

The following returns were correctly made, as appears to the committee: Nos. 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 24, 25, 26, 30, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 63—29.

The following is a list of errors and omissions noticed by the committee:

NEBRASKA, No. 1.—The names of Wilcox, Stevenson, Leach, Chase, and Pettit, demitted during the year, were dropped from the rolls one year too soon. James E. Campbell was suspended June 10th, 1873, and has been continued on the rolls ever since.

WESTERN STAR, No. 2.—J. Lynn and S. S. Moorehouse, dropped from the rolls of Entered Apprentices, and George L. Bittinger, Master Mason, omitted from the rolls without explanation.

NEMAHA VALLEY, No. 4.—H. J. Snyder, Master Mason, on rolls of 1876, does not appear on present returns. Edward Lyanna, Thomas B. Skein, and Samuel Till appear on returns of 1877, but not on 1876. Arrears of 1872, to the amount of \$20, still unpaid.

OMADI, No. 5.—Names of suspended Masons omitted from the rolls.

FALLS CITY, No. 9.—Return dues at 67½ cents, instead of 75 cents.

SOLOMON, No. 10.—The proceedings of 1876 show the number of Master Masons as twenty-eight, June 1st, 1876. The Secretary reports on thirty-three, claiming that two names were left off the rolls last year and three restored to good standing by action of Grand Lodge. The committee, in taking the course that has prevailed for the past five years, could only make the number as appears in proceedings of 1876, and add the two gained by "other causes," and adding the dues for those restored by action of Grand Lodge. This shows the necessity of having the returns sent in promptly, so that the committee would have time to check each and every name, thus preventing the Grand Lodge being defrauded of dues, in consequence of neglect of incompetent Secretaries.

FREMONT, No. 15.—M. W. Stone omitted from roll of members. Secretary reports eighty-three members on rolls of 1876—should be sixty-four only.

TECUMSEH, No. 17.—Charles M. Smith, Entered Apprentice, dropped from rolls; Julius L. Young passed, but does not appear on Entered Apprentice rolls of 1876 or 1877. On page 12 are entered the names of *twelve* reinstatements; on page 15, report *nine*; on page 19, sixteen reinstatements. The committee, on examining these diverse statements, came to the conclusion that there should be *twenty-one*; making present number of Master Masons eighty-nine, which number agrees with the roll of members. The committee also added dues for the twenty-one restored by order of the Grand Lodge.

ASHLAND, No. 18.—Reports A. Richards, B. F. Parker, W. B. Martin, and Joseph Long as suspended, January 12th, 1877. These were previously suspended, and had not been reinstated—Richards, June, 1872; Parker and Long, July, 1874, and Martin, June, 1875.

LINCOLN, No. 19.—Reports nine Entered Apprentices on the rolls, but omit names; report five Fellow Crafts on the rolls, but omit names; report nine suspended May 1st, 1877, one day after date of report. Secretary reports one hundred and fifty-one members on June 1st, 1876, thus showing that he made the entry without reading the heading of the column. Correct number should be one hundred and thirty-five.

ROCK BLUFF, No. 20.—Drops C. A. Kimball, Master Mason, from the rolls.

WASHINGTON, No. 21.—Bernhard Dolan raised ten days after demission; James S. Stewart raised, but not appearing previously.

PAWNEE, No. 23.—Has a seal with No. 24 on it. Ephraim Dewey is a Master Mason on rolls, but report says that William Dewey has demitted during the year. The query of the committee is: Does "Ephraim" stand for "William," or is there another omission? John L. Columbia, G. W. Hackenburg, Benj. Jacobs, Elijah Prouty, and Lewis S. Smith, five Master Masons, were suspended in 1872, and, *without reinstatement*, were again suspended in 1877, except Elijah Prouty, who was granted a demit in 1876, and G. W. Hackenburg, the present Junior Warden. The names of Elias Cooper and David C. Stitt are borne on the rolls, but former records of this Lodge do not show when they came in. The name of Samuel S. Shannon, the Treasurer, does not appear on the rolls.

HOPE, No. 29.—L. M. Weddle is reported an Entered Apprentice on the returns of 1876. There is no record of his having been passed and raised, yet he now holds the position of Junior Warden, and consequently of representative in this Grand Lodge. The name of William Linn is omitted from the Entered Apprentice rolls. The name of H. A. Brand, Junior Steward, is not on rolls. H. C. Fitzgerald, Master Mason, dropped from rolls; names of suspended Masons on rolls; omitted George B. Andrews, reported demitted in 1876 and 1877. The committee have added two members, and dues for same, to report.

TEKAMAH, No. 31.—J. F. Mason, Master Mason, reported 1876, omitted 1877. Secretary reports thirty-nine members instead of forty, as shown in proceedings of 1876.

PLATTE VALLEY, No. 32.—Drops Joseph Maynard, Master Mason, from rolls, and John B. Stevens from suspended list.

ASHLAR, No. 33.—Reports H. T. Bowers, C. P. R. Williams, D. J. Ackerman, W. H. West, and E. B. Hirst, as still on Entered Apprentice rolls; also, the same five, with S. H. Wolbach, on Fellow Craft rolls; reports E. B. Hirst as raised during the year, and enters the six above named as Master Masons and members on the rolls; drops W. R. McAllister and W. J. Holliday from Entered Apprentice rolls; drops H. P. Handy from Fellow Craft rolls; omits the name of H. N. Chapman from list of members one year too soon, as he is reported as died during the year.

The report for 1876 from this Lodge was one of the neatest and most correct of the returns for that year, which teaches us this important lesson: that when we can obtain the services of a competent and efficient Secretary, we should not make a change for any light or insufficient cause.

ACACIA, No. 34.—Reports eleven of the fourteen ordered restored by action of the Grand Lodge, as still suspended. The committee transfer these, making number of members May 1st, 1876, forty-eight, and add dues for same to the account.

FAIRBURY, No. 35.—Drops from the rolls T. F. Warden and C. F. Letzinger, demitted during the year. The Secretary reports the number of

Master Masons, June 1st, 5876, as thirty-two, thus showing that *he* did not read the heading of the page.

LONE TREE, No. 36.—Drops one Fellow Craft, unknown; drops J. H. Miller and James Sullivan, Master Masons. The committee have added dues on seventeen Master Masons restored by action of Grand Lodge.

CRETE, No. 37.—C. W. Mallory borne on rolls, demitted May 5th, 5876, reported last year.

JUNIATA, No. 42.—Drops from the rolls R. M. Crane, reported as suspended, but reinstated September 21st, 5875; also drops Wm. White, and two others, unknown.

HARVARD, No. 44.—Reports thirty Master Masons as members June 1st, 5876—should be twenty-six.

SALEM, No. 47.—Initiated and raised, without passing, Adam Snyder.

FAIRMONT, No. 48.—Reports W. P. Connor as Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft, and drops M. C. Fitzer, Master Mason.

CHARITY, No. 53.—Drops John Hutchinson and E. H. Douglass from the rolls, reported demitted June 2d, no year given.

LANCASTER, No. 54.—Drops J. J. Cook and F. Pierce from the rolls of Master Masons.

MELROSE, No. 60.—Drops Reuben Andrews, suspended during the year.

KEYSTONE, No. 62.—Drops Edward Dearing, present Treasurer, from the list of members.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EBEN K. LONG,  
E. N. SWEET,  
JOHN G. TAYLOR,  
LEWIS LEY,

*Of the Committee on Returns.*

Bro.: Warren, chairman of the committee on Unfinished Business, submitted the following report, on which action was taken as indicated:

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

Your committee on Unfinished Business would respectfully report that we have examined the proceedings of 5876, and desire to call the attention of this body to the following:

1. On page 8, proceedings of '76, we find a recommendation of Past Grand Master Hastings relative to some steps being taken to provide a "suitable mausoleum" for Washington, and on page 46 the recommendation of the committee thereon; also, on page 8, a notice of

the proposed meeting of the Grand Masters of the several states to secure uniformity in the work of the several jurisdictions. Some action thereon may be advisable at your hands. [Referred to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary, for consideration and action.]

2. The sixth decision of Past Grand Master Hastings, page 15, was recommitted to the committee on Jurisprudence, page 25, and no further action seems to have been taken. [Referred to the committee on Jurisprudence.]

3. The proposed amendment, of Past Grand Master Wheeler, to section XIII. of the by-laws, page 27, having been laid over under the rules, is proper to be considered at this session. [A motion to refer the matter to a committee was lost. On motion, section XIII. of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge was amended by inserting after the word "suspended," in the line of said by-laws as printed on page 107, proceedings of '72, the words "after due trial and conviction."]

4. Any action that may be deemed fitting with regard to the differences between this Grand Lodge and that of Indiana, growing out of the demand of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, for reimbursement of expenses in the death and burial of a member of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Union City, Indiana, see pages 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38. [Referred to the same committee as that portion of the Grand Master's address on the same subject.]

5. The proposed amendment of Bro.: Lininger to Article II. of the constitution of this Grand Lodge, page 36. [The votes of the Lodges on the proposed amendment were canvassed, and a majority were in the negative. The amendment was not agreed to.]

6. Also, query upon same page, of Bro.: Robbins, of Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, referred to the committee on Jurisprudence, but no report seems to have been made. [No action.]

7. Proposed amendment of Bro.: Davis to the by-laws, page 39. [On motion, and without a dissenting vote, section II. of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge was amended by adding the following words to said section, to-wit: "*Provided,* No brother shall be entitled to cast more than one vote, except as a representative of a subordinate Lodge."]

8. A report should be forthcoming from the special committee appointed under resolution of Bro.: Kelley, page 47, in reference to a criminal code. [The special committee stated that the report would be made to-morrow.]



9. Attention is called to the matter of credentials required of Masons hailing from the jurisdiction of Michigan, and the action of this Grand Lodge in reference thereto, as shown by the report of Grand Representative Wheeler, page 50. [Referred to Past Grand Master Wheeler, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.]

10. What has been done by our Grand Secretary under resolution of Bro.: France to copyright our compendiums and diplomas, page 52?

11. By resolution, page 56, the committee on Jurisprudence were instructed to prepare and submit enactments necessary to carry into effect the regulations therein referred to. [The committee on Jurisprudence stated that the report would be made at an early hour.]

12. A report from the special committee of five to examine the by-laws of constituent Lodges during the year and report at this communication, page 56.

13. An answer to the query of Bro.: Gibson, from the committee on Jurisprudence, found on page 58.

[The following report was submitted; Bro.: Lininger moved to recommit the report; Bro.: Guild moved to lay on the table, which was agreed to:

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the query of Bro.: Gibson, propounded at the last communication of this Grand Body, found on page 58, proceedings of '76, to-wit: "How many Master Masons, members of the Lodge, constitute a Lodge for the transaction of the business affairs thereof?" have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report that, as by our laws, rules, and regulations, no dispensation or charter can be granted to a less number than eight Master Masons, therefore, not less than eight Master Masons, members of the Lodge, can form a quorum for the transaction of business or the conferring of the degrees.

ALFRED G. HASTINGS,  
WM. E. HILL,  
D. H. WHEELER,  
R. W. FURNAS,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG,  
ROBERT C. JORDAN,

*Of the Committee on Jurisprudence.*

14. Some action upon the report of the last named committee, found on page 59. [Laid upon the table.]

15. The report of the special committee upon the subject of colored Lodges, page 61. [The special committee was ready to report, but, on motion, the reception of the report was made the special order for the hour at which labor should be resumed to-morrow morning.]

As your committee understand their duties, it is merely to call the attention of this M.: W.: Grand Lodge to the various subjects requiring consideration, without recommendation or comment on their part.

Respectfully submitted.

E. F. WARREN,  
M. R. HOPEWELL,  
H. HOLCOMB,

*Of the Committee on Unfinished Business.*

Whereupon the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until eight o'clock this evening.

---

## FIRST DAY—EVENING SESSION.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH, 5877.

On assembling at eight o'clock, the craft were called to labor by M.: W.: George H. Thummel, Grand Master.

Bro.: Warren submitted the following queries, which were referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:

1. Is it the duty of a constituent Lodge under this jurisdiction, in the event of a member thereof requiring and receiving pecuniary assistance at the hands of a Lodge in a sister jurisdiction, to reimburse the Lodge so rendering assistance the amount thus advanced?

2. Is it the duty of a constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction to reimburse a Lodge of this or a sister jurisdiction for the expenses incurred in the care and burial of sojourning Masons, members in good standing of such other Lodge?

The committee reported:

1. It is, so far as his actual necessities may require.
2. It is, if the deceased brother was in indigent circumstances.

Which report was adopted by the Grand Lodge.

Past Grand Master Furnas submitted the following report, which was referred to the committee on Accounts:

## ANNUAL REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF ORPHANS' SCHOOL FUND, JUNE 1, 1877.

Amount due from Grand Lodge, as per report, June 1, 1876.....	\$ 267 25	
Interest on same to June 1, 1877.....	26 72	
		\$ 293 97
Amount loaned, as per report, June 1, 1877.....	\$ 888 30	
Interest on same to June 1, 1877.....	88 33	
		971 63
Amount loaned, as per report, June 1, 1877.....	\$4000 00	
Interest on same to June 1, 1877.....	1162 00	
		5162 00
Amount loaned, as per report, June 1, 1875.....	1506 65	
Interest on same to June 1, 1877.....	401 60	
		1908 25
Total fund to June 1, 1877.....		\$ 8335 85
Cash on hand -- interest paid.....		289 92

The investment and whereabouts of the fund is as follows:

The item \$293.97 is borrowed money, due from the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to the fund.

The item \$971.63 is the principal and interest to June 1st, '77, of a loan made by ex-Grand Treasurer George B. Graff to B. F. Lushbaugh. It is secured by a note of hand given by Bro. Graff in the sum of \$786.93, and an assignment of his entire claim on the Lushbaugh estate, in the sum of \$1,192.76. The administrator has accepted the transaction, and paid certain dividends, as shown in reports heretofore. The sums paid are included in the loans to Masonic Temple Craft and Wm. R. Bowen. The interest on this loan, by stipulation, compounds.

The item of \$5,162.00 is loaned to the Masonic Temple Craft of Omaha, and is secured by mortgage upon lots on which the building stands in which we meet to-day (Freemasons' Hall). The interest compounds on this loan. No interest has been paid.

The item of \$1,908.25 is a loan to Wm. R. Bowen, secured by mortgage on real estate in the city of Omaha. The interest has been paid on this loan from October 17th, '74, to October 17th, '76.

All loans bear ten per cent interest.

The item \$289.92 is the interest on the Bowen loan, less \$11.28 overpaid by trustees in report June, 1875, as shown. This sum is in bank, subject to call.

Interest on all the loans is calculated to June 1st, '77, although the larger proportion is not due until October, '77.

There were inaccuracies in the report of '76, which have been corrected in the present report, and will account for seeming discrepancies

in the two reports. For instance, the interest item \$273.76 on \$4,000.00, as shown in report of '76, should have been \$293.76; the total fund, \$7,715.10, as shown in report of '76, should have been \$7,584.50.

ROBERT W. FURNAS,	} Trustees.
HARRY P. DEUEL,	
ALFRED G. HASTINGS,	

On motion of Bro.: Warren, the election of office-bearers was made the special order for eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

The by-laws of Solomon Lodge, No. 10, Peru Lodge, No. 14, and Gibbon Lodge, No. 46, were referred to the committee on By-Laws.

The following query was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:

"Can an actual Past Master open a subordinate Lodge and transact business in the absence of the Master and the Wardens?"

D. A. DORSEY,  
*J.: W.: Gibbon Lodge, No. 46.*

On which the committee reported that "he cannot under any circumstances, except the Lodge be first congregated by one of its principal officers;" which was approved by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was now called to refreshment until half-past eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

---

## SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH, 5877.

The Grand Lodge resumed labor at 8:30 A. M.

The Grand Secretary submitted a proposed form of charter, which was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence.

The Grand Lecturer, Past Grand Master Hill, submitted the following reports:

TO THE M. W. GRAND MASTER AND BRETHREN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA :

Herewith I submit my report as Grand Lecturer, also the reports of the several Custodians. I accepted the appointment as Grand Lecturer one year ago only at the special request of the Grand Master, with the promise and understanding that I should be relieved in a short time by the appointment of some other brother to fill the position. I have not realized the fulfilment of that promise; therefore I still find myself occupying the honorable position of Grand Lecturer, although I have performed but few of its duties, not having visited, officially, any Lodges during the year.

The Grand Lecturer, in connection with the Custodians, ought to visit each Lodge once a year; inspect their work and examine their Lodgerooms, giving each Lodge such instructions as they most need. Gladly would I have visited all the Lodges in the jurisdiction, could I have done so without neglecting my business.

It seems to me the time is near at hand when the Grand Lecturer, or some other officer, could, with profit to the Lodges, spend nearly all his time visiting and giving instructions.

I would recommend, so far as is possible, that the appointment of Custodians be made during the sessions of the Grand Lodge. This would afford the Grand Lecturer an opportunity to examine them as to their ability to teach, and, if found in possession of the work of this jurisdiction, to grant them a certificate in accordance with the requirements of the by-laws. It is quite embarrassing to the Grand Lecturer, as well as to others concerned, to receive letters from brethren whom he hardly knows, much less ever having seen them work, asking for certificates as to their ability to confer the several degrees according to the work of this jurisdiction. Some system ought to be adopted whereby the Grand Lecturer can have an opportunity to examine each Custodian, and it seems to me that if they were appointed during the sessions of the Grand Lodge, it would afford a favorable opportunity for such examination.

Brethren, it will be impossible for me to serve you longer as Grand Lecturer. The duties of that office require more time, in my judgment, than I can possibly devote to it.

I desire to express my grateful appreciation for the many honors I have received at your hands.

WM. E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer.*

OMAHA, June 11th, 1877.

WM. E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M. of Nebraska.*

DEAR BROTHER:—In accordance with the requirements of the Grand Lodge, I submit my report as Custodian of the first district:

My appointment dates January 22d, and my certificate February 3d. Late in the year as it was, I had determined, and in fact arranged, to visit all the Lodges in the district (ten in number), seven of which I visited, but failed to meet my engagement with the eighth in consequence of a miscalculation of the running of trains. If my appointment had been made three months earlier, I could have visited all the Lodges in the district without any expense to them, and with less inconvenience to myself, as my business calls me over the territory. My visits have been very pleasant indeed, and I think quite profitable to the Lodges—in most cases they were with our Grand Senior Warden.

At Papillion, No. 39, we found them in a very comfortable room, well furnished with all the necessary paraphernalia, and a fair attendance of members and plenty of work on hand, but I preferred to recite rather than exemplify.

At Bellevue we met the members of Nebraska, No. 1. They are doing no work, although in good shape for doing work when proper material is presented. We found it necessary to encourage and work up a revival rather than exemplify. No fears need be entertained of No. 1 surrendering. There are plenty of good and true brethren there to keep it up.

My visits to Washington Lodge, No. 21, and Tekamah, No. 31, were particularly agreeable and pleasant. At the former place I met our Past Grand Master, Frank Welch, who assisted in the work, aided by five or six Past Masters of the Lodge. The work of the third degree was rendered in a very fine and impressive manner, seldom equalled. Would that all our Lodges could do as good work as was witnessed that night by over fifty Master Masons. At this meeting there were representatives present from Tekamah, Bell Creek, Fort Calhoun, and several other points. After the work was completed, comments made, questions asked, etc., the Lodge was closed, and in less time than I can tell it, over fifty ladies entered the hall with baskets—the brethren assisting in spreading a banquet, well fitted for kings, in which all participated until low twelve, when we separated, all agreeing that it was good to be there.

Meetings of this character have a good effect, and I am convinced that if every Lodge in the state could be visited every year officially, by some one of the Grand Officers, a great amount of good feeling and perfect work would be the result. I am under special obligations to W. H. Palmer, Master, and Brother Jesse T. Davis, for courtesies extended. The Senior Grand Warden accompanied me to Blair, but owing to sickness in his family, could not remain for the meeting.

At Tekamah, No. 31, I had arranged for one day and evening meeting only, but finding that I could not reach Bell Creek to meet my appointment, I remained over another day. I found this Lodge in a very healthy state indeed, well officered, and enough of them well posted to do good work, particularly the Master, M. R. Hopewell, and Senior Warden, J. S. Reed. The brethren own their building, and have their hall well furnished with all the necessary paraphernalia for doing good work. The second night we conferred the third degree upon two candidates in a very creditable manner, Worshipful Master W. H. Palmer, from Blair, assisting. I left them satisfied that a good work had been done. The accompanying preamble and resolution speak for themselves.

I might say right here, that I have made no charges for expenses to either of the Lodges or Grand Lodge, neither would I accept anything.

Of the Lodges at Omaha I have but little to say, except that they are all in a flourishing condition, and doing good work. Much of their time has been occupied in procuring a hall of their own well adapted for working the different grades of Masonry. The hall is a credit to the fraternity of Omaha. Bro.: Taylor, Master of St. John's Lodge, has taken particular pains in posting himself in the Nebraska work, and has his officers and Lodge under good discipline.

Covert Lodge has always had a good record in work, and is still maintaining her reputation, under the Mastership of Bro.: Baker.

In closing this report, I have this suggestion to make: That, at or soon after the close of the Grand Lodge, the Custodians be appointed, so as to give them the entire year to work with the Lodges, and that our best dramatic workers be selected for that office. I find that all, or mostly all, of our Lodges are in possession of the work and ritual, but not the floor work, and those beautiful dramatic parts, which always draw out a large attendance when well rendered. In too many cases the Master and Wardens are the only well posted brethren in the Lodge, and to them alone is left the entire work of the third degree,

instead of calling to their assistance ten or more brethren, and fitting them for the different parts. The order has plenty of good workers; only give them a chance.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. W. LININGER,  
*Custodian First District.*

WHEREAS, Our worthy brother, G. W. Lininger, Custodian of this district, has rendered the officers and brethren of Tekamah Lodge valuable assistance and instruction in perfecting the workings of our Lodge; and,

WHEREAS, The by-laws of our Grand Lodge provide that each subordinate Lodge shall pay for such services, and as our esteemed brother has seen fit, in his love for the order, and our Lodge in particular, to donate such instructions to our Lodge; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we tender to our esteemed brother, G. W. Lininger, the sincere thanks of Tekamah Lodge, No. 31, for such kindness; and that the Secretary be instructed to embody this resolution in the minutes of this meeting, and send a copy to Bro.: Lininger.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. S. REED, *Senior Warden.*

CENTRAL CITY, June 10, 1877.

R.: W.: WM. E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer, A.: F.: and A.: M.: :*

MY DEAR BROTHER:—In compliance with the provision of our by-laws, I report to you that owing to long-continued sickness in my family, and other unavoidable causes, I have not been able to perform the duties of my office as is required by our by-laws, expected by my brethren, or desired by myself. I have made no visits, organized no new Lodges, given no exemplification of the work except in my own Lodge, which, I am pleased to say, is in a healthy condition.

Regretting my unintentional neglect of duty,

I am, fraternally,

N. R. PERSINGER,  
*Custodian Third District.*

NORTH PLATTE, June 15th, 1877.

WM. E. HILL, *M.: W.: Grand Lecturer :*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I have the honor to hereby submit to you a report of my work as Custodian of the fourth district. During the past year I have visited and exemplified the work, on several occasions, in Platte Valley Lodge, No. 32. This is the only Lodge at present in my district, there being no Lodges in the counties west and south of me



which constitute my district. The Lodge here is doing good, square work. The Lodge-room has been recently papered, painted, and otherwise repaired, so that the brethren have now a very pleasant and comfortable Lodge-room. This Lodge has done very little work during the past six months. Several petitions for membership have been presented during that time, but have all been rejected. This seems to indicate that the Lodge prefers to do no work rather than to work on unworthy material. There is a considerable degree of interest taken by the members in the work of the Lodge, though this interest is not so general and wide-spread among the members of the Lodge as I could wish.

I would have sent in this report somewhat earlier, but I wished to wait until after the regular communication of the Lodge this month, thinking I might get something of importance or interest to report.

Very respectfully and fraternally yours,

F. N. DICK,  
*Custodian Fourth District.*

CRETE, NEBRASKA, June 13th, 1877.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In accordance with Article II., Chapter 8, of the by-laws of this Grand Lodge, I herewith submit a report of my proceedings as Custodian of the fifth district:

August 7th, 1876, I visited Wilber, Saline county, and examined the proposed officers for a Lodge under dispensation, and, after a thorough and satisfactory examination, granted a certificate to Edward J. Weaver, Worshipful Master, William Mann, Senior Warden, and Henry Clark, Junior Warden.

February 22d, 1877, I visited Edgar, Clay county, and examined the proposed officers for a Lodge under dispensation, and, after a thorough examination, granted a certificate to Milton J. Hull, Worshipful Master, Ezra E. Howard, Senior Warden, and Charles H. Kettridge, Junior Warden.

I think all the Lodges within my jurisdiction are in good working condition.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

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

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, June 6th, 1877.

WM. E. HILL, *Grand Lecturer* :

M.: W.: BROTHER:—As Custodian of the sixth district, I desire to report that I have been unable to visit any considerable number of the Lodges in the district, and those visited have been with a regular routine of private business, and without expense to the Grand Lodge. My inability to visit every Lodge in the district I very much regret. I have reason, however, for believing that all Lodges are growing, and closely approximate the work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Fraternally submitted,

R. H. OAKLEY,  
*Custodian Sixth District.*

FALLS CITY, NEB., May 23d, 1877.

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

DEAR BROTHER:—In accordance with Article II., Chapter 8, of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, I herewith submit a report of my official acts.

On February 24th, 1877, I visited the brethren of Hope Lodge, No. 29, at Hillsdale, Nebraska, and gave them such instructions as I could. I found them active, energetic, and fully alive to the best interests of our ancient fraternity, and, so far as I am able to judge, using strictly the Nebraska work. The landmarks of Masonry are safe when entrusted to such Masons as compose Hope Lodge, No. 29.

On February 27th, 1877, I visited the brethren of Salem Lodge, No. 47, at Salem, Nebraska; saw them work in the third degree, and, from specimens of their skill then exhibited, what has been said of the craft at Hillsdale may, with propriety, be repeated with regard to the brethren at Salem. They are doing good square Nebraska work.

Owing to a multiplicity of causes, prominent among which was the continued illness of my family, and my inability to leave my business, have been unable to visit any other of the Lodges in the seventh district, much as I desired to do so. I have, however, frequently met the brethren of Orient Lodge, No. 13, and Humboldt Lodge, No. 40, in my own Lodge, and am fully satisfied that they are doing good Nebraska work. Hoping that the other Lodges in the seventh district have not suffered from my seeming neglect of duty, I am, dear brother,

Fraternally yours,

J. R. CAIN,  
*Custodian of the Seventh District.*

The Grand Senior Warden, R.: W.: Bro.: Charles F. Goodman, made report as follows :

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, June 19th, 1877.

GEORGE H. THUMMEL, ESQ., *Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska:*

M.: W.: SIR:—In accordance with your request, transmitted to me by the Grand Secretary, January 22d, 1877, to officially visit certain Lodges in Nebraska, and to report to you the condition in which I might find them, I hereby respectfully report that I have so visited the following Lodges :

February 8th, I visited St. John's Lodge, No. 25, with Bro.: G. W. Lininger, Custodian of the first district, and it affords me pleasure to state that the work of the new officers of that Lodge compared well with older and more experienced Lodges.

February 12th, I visited, in the same manner, with Bro.: G. W. Lininger, Capitol Lodge, No. 3, and modesty forbids to say anything in praise of the largest Lodge in this jurisdiction, both myself and Bro.: Lininger being members of the same.

February 20th, I visited the brethren of Washington Lodge, No. 21, at Blair, according to previous appointment, but sickness in my family compelled me to return home before the meeting of the Lodge that evening. Bro.: Lininger, however, remained, and has informed me that the brethren at Blair are well posted, and that the meeting was large and interesting, as I knew from experience on former occasions it would be.

February 24th, I visited, in the same manner, with Bro.: G. W. Lininger, Papillion Lodge, No. 39, and I think that our visit was duly appreciated.

February 27th, I visited, in the same manner, with Bro.: Lininger, Nebraska Lodge, No. 1, the oldest in the state, as the number designates, and while, from the surroundings, there may not be much, if any, available new work, yet the old members keep well posted in the work. One thing the brethren of No. 1 ought to make it their duty to do, and that is to write up the compendium, for that will be of incalculable value in after years as a part of the early history of Masonry in Nebraska.

March 22d I visited Ashlar Lodge No. 33, with yourself, and I desire here to state that it afforded me much pleasure to see the officers of your Lodge so well perform their duties, more particularly your acting Senior Deacon, who, I understand, was the youngest Mason of your Lodge at that time.

March 28th I visited Covert Lodge, No. 11, with Bro.: Lininger, and was glad to notice that the new officers were endeavoring to infuse new life into their meetings.

April 3d I visited Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, with yourself and most of the officers of the Grand Lodge, and it is needless to make any report, as we all know that their work is always done well.

I have, as you requested, made nearly all of my visits in company with the Custodian, who is really the one whose visits are most desirable, as all the brethren look to him and the Grand Lecturer for the correct work; but I think that all the Grand Officers should visit the subordinate Lodges more than they are in the habit of doing, as it not only stimulates the members of the Lodges so visited, but it will give the Grand Officers an opportunity to ascertain the wants and necessities of the different Lodges in the jurisdiction.

C. F. GOODMAN,  
*Grand Senior Warden.*

Past Grand Master Furnas submitted the following report from the special committee of which he was chairman. The report, with the accompanying resolutions, was adopted, and, on motion of Bro.: Bowen, it was ordered that the second and third resolutions be referred to the appropriate committee, to be incorporated in the laws of the Grand Lodge:

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

Your special committee, appointed at the session of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska held June 20th, 5876, to which was referred that portion of the Grand Master's annual address relating to the so-called African or colored masonic Lodges or organizations, particularly in this jurisdiction, has had the matter under careful consideration, and, in making up this report, availed itself of all the light and information possible to obtain.

The question involved, while just now being considered by nearly all the jurisdictions in the United States—in fact in the world—is not, by any means, a new one. It has been discussed and treated by the ablest and best informed masonic writers, historians, and jurists, of both the past and present.

Your committee will preface by declaring its intention, in discharge of duty, to adhere unswervingly to the question at issue—to rec-

ognize, maintain, and revere the doctrine or principle of the universality of Freemasonry—that it matters not where a Mason hails from, what be his nativity or color, be he from whatsoever portion of the globe he may—even from the African jungles—if he proves himself, he must, and of right, be recognized as a brother, entitled to equal and all rights, benefits, and privileges in the great brotherhood. There is nothing in masonic law, usage, custom, rule or regulation, to bar or forbid a negro, Chinaman, Hottentot, or one of any nationality, tongue, or clime under the broad canopy of Heaven, from applying for admission into the fraternity, who, if in due form, worthy and well qualified, passes successfully the ordeal of ballot, from being admitted a member. The points, real or imaginary, of prejudice, caste, or color, do not, and cannot, legitimately, enter into the real question now under consideration.

Grand Lodges, and the law concerning their character, rights, powers, duties, and jurisdiction, have become so generally recognized throughout the world as to become equal in force with universally observed “landmarks.” The only safe and prudent line of division for jurisdiction is territorial, in accordance with which the masonic fraternity is organized, exists, and has been elevated to a high standard.

The question of jurisdiction was settled in the cases of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg invading that of New York, and the Grand Orient of France invading Louisiana. The Grand Bodies of the United States were unanimous in sustaining the protests of our sister jurisdictions in both cases—ours among the number. Many European Grand Lodges recognized the propriety of this claim of non-interference, or non-invasion of jurisdiction. The forms of our government, habits, and customs are different from those in the Old World. A rule was adopted suited to the condition of affairs in the United States. It is recognized—*fixed*.

European Masons, in instances, claim this to be an American law, doctrine, or idea. Be it so. It is with American Freemasonry, law and usage, in the matter of jurisprudence, we have to deal, especially that now under consideration.

Freemasonry knows no higher power than that of a Grand Lodge, with its jurisdiction of territorial boundaries. This conceded, there can be no invasion of jurisdiction. There can be no “legally constituted” masonic Lodges within the jurisdiction, other than those authorized and instituted by the Grand Lodge exercising power and authority, to whom of right they belong. A Mason, not made in a “legally consti-

tuted Lodge," is unlawful—*clandestine*—and cannot in any manner be recognized. This principle is universal—not applicable alone to colored persons or colored organizations. Are the colored organizations in this state, so-called masonic, "legally constituted" masonic bodies? If they are, then there can be no difference of opinion, or doubts as to their recognition—they must be recognized! If they are not, then the reverse is equally plain and obligatory! Were any of the colored organizations in Nebraska in existence before the legal creation and formation of this Grand Body? None! Has the Grand Lodge granted them dispensation or charter, or in any manner whatever given them existence, or consented to their existence as masonic bodies? It has not. Further: We have no official knowledge of their existence; we do not know them to be Masons, legally speaking, nor can we.

To your committee, the question at issue in this jurisdiction is a plain one—one easily to be understood and disposed of. This Grand Lodge cannot recognize the so-called colored masonic Lodges, or their members, in this state.

Thus far the committee has confined itself to, and treated the question of, African or colored Freemasonry solely as applicable to our own jurisdiction. However, as it is being extensively agitated and discussed, and thus becoming a general masonic question, in which the fraternity at large is interested, and that the craft in Nebraska may understand it, we present, as a portion of our report, the status of the whole question: What is proposed in some jurisdictions, what has been done, what attempted, and the animus of agitation.

As is well known to all informed Masons, there has been what is known and called African or colored Freemasons in the United States since 1775, and Lodges since 1778. All agree substantially as to their origin, progress, and present status. The advocates of recognition claim that the colored fraternity received its Masonry originally from the same source as we; that they practice the same rites and ceremonies, and have, substantially, the same esoteric, or secret modes of recognition, as practiced by ourselves, and therefore are entitled to recognition in full, and in all respects. The opposition to this theory claim that the negroes, originally made Masons in this country, were so made in and by a British army traveling Lodge, which had no power or authority to make Masons in this country outside the regiment. Further: That when these colored men were organized as a Lodge, for wise reasons it was separate and distinct from the white Lodges; that such distinction

has continued to the present, with better results to both races than could otherwise have been accomplished; that the jurisdictions and jurisprudence have assumed quite different characteristics, one of which is a national head or organization for the colored, to which state Grand Bodies are subordinate; that there are now colored state Grand Bodies in nearly every state in the Union; that it is desirable on the part of the masses of both parties, and really for the best interests of both, that the whole matter should remain as began, always has been, and now is.

Perhaps the larger proportion of colored Masons in this country, to-day, will fail to meet an essential requirement for admission into the fraternity—that of being “*free born*”—at least, so far as the generally accepted application or meaning of the term is used and understood. Your committee is aware that in some, at least, of the old countries, the term “*free man*” has long since been substituted for that of “*free born*,” and with which, without here entering into discussion, we agree.

Again: There are existing irreconcilable schisms in the colored order, which they themselves should adjust, before asking so important a favor at our hands as recognition, or mergerment. There are two wings or branches of the colored order in the United States, known as “*Nationals*” and “*Independents*.”

Still another obstacle: The “*unanimous ballot*” is of universal application in the matter of admission with us. No one can become a member of our fraternity without successfully passing this ordeal. To recognize those known as colored Masons, or Lodges, or any other illegitimate or illegally constituted members or bodies, through usual legislative mediums or instrumentalities, would be a gross violation of this fixed law, and could not otherwise than result in the total destruction of our present organization.

Your committee is of the opinion, from all the light before it, that the colored fraternity, as an organization, even if all other points were mutually and satisfactorily disposed of and adjusted, are not themselves prepared, nor do they, as a body, desire fusion or mergerment. Only in a few instances have they asked it, and then only representing a particular few, or locality to which the petitioners belong.

The present agitation of this question has grown out of the fact that colored Freemasonry in the United States has obtained, or been accorded recognition by the United Grand Lodges of Masons of Germany, at their meeting in May, 1865, in the adoption of 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 declare that those 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.”

This recognition, we presume, has been brought about, in a measure, through the instrumentality of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, which has, and yet claims, the right to establish Lodges anywhere in the world where there are Germans, even though there be existing Grand Lodges there; and in endeavoring to prevent European Grand Lodges from adopting the American doctrine, now progressing and gaining strong foothold with the foreign Grand Bodies. The best masonic minds in Europe are with us, believing that the efficiency of the fraternity will be enhanced by the universal adoption of our position. This recognition of the colored Grand Lodges in America may reasonably be construed as an opening wedge, hoping to gain sufficient acquisition from other directions to retard, if not destroy, the progressive movement in behalf of the American doctrine as to jurisdiction.

Your committee has devoted much time in examining the proceedings and reports in the various other jurisdictions in the United States upon this subject, and find but few giving favor to the project of either recognition, fusing, or merging. In instances where favor is shown, the legal features, and effect upon the fraternity, are entirely ignored and lost sight of, and only a sympathetic or humanitarian idea presented.

Ohio seems to be leading the advance in the matter of recognition; and that jurisdiction only proposes a half-way measure, simply drawing a color line in the fraternity, and thus virtually destroying the time-honored universality feature of Freemasonry. The plan proposed in that state is to recognize an “African Grand Lodge of Ohio”—another Grand Lodge, with its subordinates, in their jurisdiction! The matter was brought up on recommendation of the Grand Master, and referred to a select or special committee, which reported, in substance, as above indicated. Brother John D. Caldwell, chairman of the committee on Foreign Correspondence for that state, presents an elaborate report on this question, in favor of recognition. We have perused it with care, and lay it aside, feeling that he has entirely lost sight of the question at issue. The Grand Lodge of Ohio, as yet, has taken no definite action.

The Grand Masters of several other jurisdictions recommend recognition. But, thus far, no action looking in that direction has been taken.



For the further information of the craft in this jurisdiction, we present extracts as follows, from what similar committees to this, in other jurisdictions, and acknowledged masonic authors, have to say upon this important subject.

As both white and colored orders in this country originated in Massachusetts (Boston), both sides from that state are presented.

*First.*—The petition of the colored order to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, December 8th, 1869, as their version of the matter :

We, the undersigned, represent that, in the year 1776, the rites of Masonry were conferred in an army Lodge attached to the British army, then stationed at this port upon Prince Hall, Thomas Sanderson, Boston Smith, John Main, John Hartfield, William H. Gregory, Charles Spooner, John Carter, and others, who were soon after organized as and dispensed into, a Lodge. Being thus organized, they made application to Major-General Warren for a charter, from whom it appears encouragement was received, but after his fall no more was heard of it.

In 1779 the petition was again renewed. We do not know that an official answer was ever returned, but tradition informs us that it was made sport of in the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, which fact being made known to them, they said : " This shall never discourage us, nor move us from our purpose we have undertaken, and we will accomplish our design. We will petition for foreigners for what is denied us at home."

Laboring under these disadvantages, the love of Masonry prompted, and necessity forced them, to petition the Grand Lodge of England for a charter, and in the year 1784 (up to which time no official answer was given their petition by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge), it resulted in the granting of charter 459, dated September 29, 1784, which is now in our possession, a true copy of which is here annexed :

[The seal of the Grand Lodge of Masons, London.]

"EFFINGHAM, A. G. M. To all and every our Right Worshipful and loving Brethren, we, Thomas Howard, etc., etc., Earl of Effingham, Lord Howard, Acting Grand Master under the authority of His Royal Highness, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, etc., etc., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, sends Greeting :

" Know ye, that we, at the humble petition of our right trusty and well-beloved brethren, Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson, and several other brethren residing in Boston, New England, in North America, do hereby constitute the said brethren into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the title or denomination of the African Lodge, to be opened in Boston aforesaid ; and do further, at their said petition, hereby appoint the said Prince Hall to be Master, Boston Smith, Senior Warden, and Thomas Sanderson, Junior Warden, for opening the said Lodge, and for such further time only as shall be thought proper by the brethren thereof, it being our will that this our appointment of the above officers shall in no wise affect any future election of officers of the Lodge, but that such election shall be regulated agreeable to such by-laws of said Lodge as shall be consistent with the general laws of the society, contained in the Book of Constitutions ; and we hereby will and require you, the said Prince Hall, to take special care that all and every the said brethren are, or have been regularly made Masons, and that they do observe, perform, and keep all the rules and orders contained in the Book of Constitutions ; and, further, that you do from time to time cause to be entered in a book kept for that purpose an account of your proceedings in the Lodge, together with all such rules, orders, and regulations as shall be made for the good government of the same ; that in no wise you omit once in every year to send to us, our successors, Grand Masters, or to Rowland Holt, Esq., our Deputy Grand Master for the time being, an account in writing of your said proceedings, and copies of all such rules, orders, and regulations as shall be made as aforesaid, together with a list of the members of the Lodge, and such a sum of money as may suit the circumstances of the Lodge,

and reasonably be expected towards the Grand Charity. Moreover, we hereby will and require you, the said Prince Hall, as soon as conveniently may be, to send an account in writing, of what may be done by virtue of these presents.

"Given at London, under our hand and seal of Masonry, this 29th day of September, A. L. 5784, A. D. 1784.

"By the Grand Master's command.

ROWLAND HOLT, D. G. M.

"Witness: WILLIAM WHITE, *Grand Secretary.*"

By the authority of this charter they opened a regular and perfect Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the town of Boston, in which they initiated, passed, and raised Master Masons. This they continued to do as a subordinate Lodge until the year 1808, at which time there being three Lodges among us—one in Boston, one in Philadelphia and one in Providence—they, under Prince Hall, organized a Grand Lodge in this town aforesaid, which Grand Lodge granted charters to the several subordinates now existing under the titles and denominations of "Rising Sons of St. Johns, No. 3," "Union, No. 2," and "Celestial Lodge, No. 4." It also granted charters in several other states, which have organized themselves into Grand Lodges. The three first remaining continued their existence under their old charters until 1847, in which year the National Grand Lodge was formed.

The African Grand Lodge of Boston becoming a part of that body, surrendered its charter, and received its present charter, dated December 11, 1847, under the title of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and by which authority we this day exist as a masonic body, and subordinate to it are the following named Lodges, with their respective locality and membership:

Union Lodge, No. 2.....	Boston .....	40 members.
Rising Sons of St. Johns, No. 3.....	Boston.....	43 members.
Celestial Lodge, No. 4.....	Boston.....	52 members.
Union, No. 7.....	New Bedford.....	38 members.
Eureka, No. 11.....	Savannah, Ga.....	19 members.
Summer, No. 12.....	Springfield .....	29 members.
Hilton, No. 13.....	Savannah, Ga.....	21 members.

Hayden Lodge, No. 8, Charleston, S. C., withdrew October, 1868, and with other Lodges formed a Grand Lodge for the state of South Carolina. The requisite number of Lodges out of which to form a Grand Lodge are already in existence in Georgia, and we doubt not will soon organize a Grand Lodge for that state.

This petition was referred to a select committee, which reported as follows:

Your committee have examined the charter, and believe it is authentic; but as they do not deem it to be necessary at this time to investigate the historical statement contained in the petition, they have not inquired into its legal masonic effect, nor whether any proper organization under it ever took place. The petitioners include only a portion of the persons who claim to derive privileges from this instrument, when it is obvious that the granting of their prayer, for the reasons they advance, would equally benefit their associates, who have not joined in the petition, and over whom therefore this Grand Lodge would have no control. Under these circumstances it is not necessary to inquire into the validity of the proceedings of the persons named in the charter, or whether the petitioners have any just claim to be considered their successors.

Lodges professing to be masonic, existing in this commonwealth without the sanction of this Grand Lodge, are irregular and spurious, and the members of them are, of course, denied masonic intercourse with members of regular Lodges. The Lodges named in the petition stand in this relation to regular Lodges, and they and their members, including the petitioners, are not recognized by the craft.

Our constitutions make no distinction on account of the color of persons who desire the benefits of Freemasonry; and there are no rules or regulations whereby the petitioners, if "worthy and well qualified," are excluded from our fraternity, if they seek admission through duly organized Lodges.

Your committee recommend that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

In 1876 the question was again before the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and a select committee reported as follows:

Your committee are not unmindful of the existence of clandestine bodies, professing to have the privileges of Masonry, in various parts of the United States, composed mainly or exclusively of men of African descent. The origin of these bodies was in this jurisdiction, where their claims to possess regular or genuine Masonry, frequently presented to this Grand Lodge, and carefully examined, have never been found consistent with masonic law.

There is no distinction in this Grand Lodge grounded upon color. Masonry is a social institution, and the Lodges regulate the admissions they severally make. We know of a good many men of African descent who have received regular masonic degrees in Lodges under this jurisdiction, and who do obtain thereby all the benefits thereof. At this time, in this Grand Lodge, there sits a brother of this descent, who has been a respected member for several years, in virtue of his rank as Warden of one of our most respectable subordinate Lodges. We have had and received in our subordinate Lodges visiting Masons, of regular standing in their own jurisdictions, who were of African descent. We state these things merely that our position may not be misconceived, and our objections to masonic irregularities be scoffed down, on the pretense that we are opposing a class on account of their color.

True it is, that in 1787 three colored men of Boston received from England a charter for a subordinate Lodge at Boston, to be called African Lodge, which had been granted in 1784, but not forwarded to them until three years afterwards. The chief of them, Prince Hall, died December 2, 1807.

The date of this charter was after the treaty of peace with England in 1783, by which the independence and sovereignty of these states were recognized. It was also eight years after the Massachusetts Grand Lodge was formed (March 8th, 1777), and had declared the masonic independence of the Masons of this commonwealth, whereby the duties of self-government were assumed by the Masons of this commonwealth, which they have continued to exercise to the present time. Thus this charter proceeded from a foreign source, which had no political authority in the country where alone it was directed to be used, and which had no masonic right there, for the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts had been for years in the possession of the Masons of the commonwealth. It is admitted that this charter was never recognized by any Lodge in Massachusetts; certainly, after the evacuation of Boston, March 17th, 1776, there is no pretense that England had any control in Massachusetts.

It is probable that some persons may have worked as clandestine Masons under this charter for some years after its arrival, but in 1813 it was struck from the rolls of the Grand Lodge of England, and no returns to England had been made under it for many years previously to this action. Thus ended the charter of African Lodge and its history. In 1808, an organization called the Prince Hall Grand Lodge was started in Boston, but by whom is not known. It professed to grant charters, and did make some clandestine bodies in other places. No masonic power, domestic or foreign, stood its sponsor, and no known Mason belonged to it, against whom the penalty of expulsion could be hurled by the Grand Lodge of this state. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts never authorized any Lodge, or recognized any person claiming masonic rights from this source.

The next in order of succession we have heard of was the National Grand Lodge, professing to have been established by these counterfeits about the year 1847. It is understood that this body claims jurisdiction in and over Masonry in all the states of this Union, but no official intercourse has ever been sought by that body with this Grand Lodge, or those who pertain to it, and we are ignorant of all that concerns it. No Mason is known to have belonged to it.

Your committee find it difficult to trace these organizations further. Existing without masonic authority, anarchy seems crowned supreme among rival bodies of mushroom growth, fully conscious of each other's illegitimate aspirations.

The existing Prince Hall Grand Lodge organization is supposed to draw its powers from this National Grand Lodge.

In 1827, some persons calling themselves African Lodge, No. 459, repudiated the Grand Lodge of England. The petitions of these pretended Masons have been considered by the New York Grand Lodge in 1846, and by this Grand Lodge in 1869. Your committee deem it best to append, as part of this report, that of Brother Herring, of New York, made in 1846, the petition of Lewis Hayden and others, and the report thereon to this Grand Lodge, 1869, and Grand Master Gardner's address, 1870, for a fuller statement of the history of the organizations of these bogus Masons of the National Grand Lodge, so-called.

It will be noticed that the petition of 1869 pretends, that in 1775 Prince Hall and others were made Masons in an army traveling Lodge at Boston. It is somewhat singular that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, October 1, 1773, passed a vote that "no traveling Lodge had the right in this jurisdiction to make Masons of any citizens," and that General Joseph Warren was the Provincial Grand Master at the time of this vote. The name of the army Lodge is not given where Prince Hall got his Masonry. Why Hall should apply to General Warren prior to his death, June 17, 1775, for recognition, is hard to perceive. The sharp social division between the patriots who constituted the members of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge and the army Lodges of the English invaders, from the attack on Fort William and Mary, at Portsmouth, in December, 1774, to Lexington, in the following April, and Bunker Hill, in June, does not favor the idea suggested by the petitioners that he did so. Hall, himself, in a letter dated March 1, 1784, says they had been working as a Lodge almost eight years. The evacuation of Boston, March 17, 1776, was almost eight years previous to the date of his letter. Probably, before the evacuation he and his associates sat in the army Lodge that made them, if there was any such. No pretense is made that any of them ever sat in a local Lodge; and were they citizens of Massachusetts, as the petition would infer, no British army Lodge had the right to make them. Consequently, if made at all, as individuals they were irregular and clandestine, under the Provincial Grand Lodge rule, and remained so when this Grand Lodge had declared its independence from British masonic rule.

Prince Hall's letter of 1784 admits that there was neither British nor American authority for the Lodge he professes to have held from the date of the evacuation. True it is, the petition to this Grand Lodge states they had a dispensation, but does not say from whom. In a publication of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of 1865, a citation occurs from the address of J. V. DeGrasse, June 30, 1858, who says he has in Hall's own handwriting, that in 1776 he "organized and opened, under dispensation granted by this British traveling Lodge, the first Lodge of Masons composed of colored men in America."

The power "to grant dispensations to form Lodges" is a Grand Lodge power, and never was delegated by the English Grand Lodge to any traveling Lodge. This pretense of authority in 1776 falls, leaving their legitimacy to depend on the charter received by them from England in 1787. Now, however doubtful the masonic jurisdiction in Massachusetts during the revolutionary struggle may seem to some, none, we think, will claim that the Grand Lodge of England had authority to charter Lodges in Massachusetts after our independence was acknowledged by Great Britain, on November 30, 1782.

We recapitulate these facts, because they point to inevitable conclusions as to Prince Hall and his associates:

1. No evidence that they were made Masons in any masonic Lodge.
2. If made, they were irregularly made.
3. They never had any American authority for constituting a Lodge.
4. Their charter from England was granted at a time when all American masonic authority agrees that the Grand Lodge of England had no power to make Lodges in the United States, after the acknowledgment of our independence, November 30th, 1782, and the treaty of peace made November 3d, 1783.
5. The Grand Lodge of England dropped African Lodge from their list in 1813; said Lodge does not appear to have worked since Prince Hall's death, in 1807, except this, that in 1827 parties calling themselves African Lodge, No. 459, repudiated the Grand Lodge of England.
6. The Grand Lodge of England did not delegate to African Lodge any power to constitute other Lodges, or to work elsewhere than in Boston.

7. No masonic authority exists for any of the organizations since 1807, whether pseudo Lodges or Grand Lodges; and no evidence of the Masonry of any of their members has come to our knowledge.

8. Neither English nor any other masonic authority exists, nor has at any time existed, for these colored Lodges, located out of Boston, to make Masons or practise Freemasonry. Each of them began its existence in defiance of the masonic community of the state where located, and continues unrecognized by the regular Masons of the state.

Your committee entertain a deep solicitude for the preservation of the jurisprudence of Freemasonry as the best security for the permanency of the ancient landmarks of the art. The only masonic distinction among men depends on a masonic investigation of the candidate's claim to be worthy and well qualified. If these are found in a competent masonic way, his right to receive the privileges of Masonry is perfect. We conceive distinctions founded upon race to be as inadmissible as they would be if founded on the candidate's sectarian creed or political party.

The object of the institution is to bring good men of various races, creeds, and politics together, and make them better acquainted, and more tolerant of differences, so long as they agree on being good, reverential, and charitable citizens, which are the essentials of Freemasonry.

The policy which would make masonic distinctions of these accidents which Masonry seeks to disregard, must overthrow the very toleration which makes Masonry universal, and gives it the aroma of the mission of peace and good-will on earth. Shall a visiting Mason be told at the door: this is a Presbyterian Lodge, you cannot enter; or, this is a native American Lodge, all of foreign birth are excluded? It is by adhering to the landmarks that Masonry has had its great social success; a contrary course would soon wreck the institution.

Possibly the great principles of toleration are not as closely adhered to in some Lodges as they should be; but that is a fault which more masonic light will cure. Surely it does not justify overthrowing our common altars, and legalizing departures from the landmarks. If Masonry had ever sought popularity or power, it would have sacrificed its generous spirit and broad platform, the purest exalted social philosophy, in catering to local prejudices.

If the individual Lodges of Ohio or of Massachusetts are capable of proving a colored man by masonic tests, why should such a man not gain admission by the same strait and narrow door other men use? If fit and worthy men exist among the race, as doubtless they do, why should they not ask to kneel at your altars, rather than at a separate one? Your committee know the tension of the race feeling in this country, and the generous sympathy which, in the desire to vindicate its humanity and equality, tends to overstep the limits of prudence, and extend to all privileges which should be restricted only to the best of each race.

The African Grand Lodges do not show regular and genuine descent. The quality of their members, like that of their founders, is unknown to the masonic community. We do not know whether they are more cognate to our requirements than the Sons of Temperance, the Odd Fellows, or the Grangers — independent institutions, patronized by many very reputable citizens.

Grand Master William S. Gardner, in his annual address, 1870, referred to this question, from which we extract:

With a national Grand Lodge, state Grand Lodges, and subordinate Lodges, they have so complicated the primitive difficulty that it will not be easy for them to escape from the triple bonds with which they have bound themselves, although many of them may be dissatisfied — some with their form of government, and some with their associates. This is simply a question of Grand Lodge jurisdiction, a question which was settled and determined by this Grand Lodge, September 17, 1797.

The institution of Freemasonry is universal. It stretches from East to West, from North to South, and embraces within itself the representatives of every branch of the human family. Its carefully tyled doors swing open, not at the knock of every man, but at the demand of every true and worthy man, duly accepted — whatever his religion,

his race, or his country may be. This Grand Lodge stands upon the high vantage ground of this catholic society, and recognizes the great principles which must necessarily underlie an institution which has a home on the continents and on the islands of the seas.

Bro.: Wm. B. Langridge, chairman of committee on Foreign Correspondence of Iowa, says:

We desire to see all the members of the masonic family united into one fold, and here in Iowa, where we have but four colored Lodges, numbering in all but about sixty members, we could probably find as little evil in amalgamating, if amalgamating be an evil, as anywhere, except, perhaps, in Minnesota, where there are only about half as many. But sentiment aside, there are difficulties in the way of this consummation. The Grand Lodge to which these bodies belong is located in Missouri, the field occupied by our mother Grand Lodge, from whom the Grand Lodge of Iowa sprang. We cannot treat with these through their Grand Lodge, without making war on her, and reversing all our action upholding the "American doctrine." We cannot deal with them individually, because, if they leave their Grand Lodge, they must surrender their charters, and then they become simply sixty gentlemen of whose status we are ignorant, and of whom we can learn nothing, and under our Grand Lodge laws, we can neither have notice or take cognizance, unless they apply to our individual Lodges, which they have always heretofore refused to do. Or, if they establish a Grand Lodge in our borders, we cannot recognize them as regular, without reversing our action hitherto, and resigning the American ideas which have always obtained where the English and American systems of Masonry have prevailed, to take up the notions held by the continental Masons of the French or Scottish Rite in Europe; and we, individually, must confess to a far greater repugnance to doing this latter, than to recognizing colored people anywhere.

It is a good rule in Masonry to demand the unanimous ballot, and a reason for this is that less than unanimity will destroy harmony, and it is considered better not to admit an outsider when, by so doing, a member will be displaced. The proposition of this committee proposes to reverse all this, and to admit, by a simple majority vote of Grand Lodge, to all the privileges of Masonry, including Lodge membership, at least one thousand men who are now practically profanes; or, admitting them to be Masons, non-affiliates in bad standing, so far as the Grand Lodge of Ohio is concerned. It proposes to do this contrary to its own constitution, without the form of law, and, indeed, against its own laws. It is to do it by a simple majority vote, when, if one of its own members were to become non-affiliated, even though he were the oldest, ablest, and best member in its jurisdiction, he could not again be admitted, except according to its laws, by petition, examination, report, and clear ballot, all of which it proposes to do away with in the case of these one thousand colored men. If one of its own members should join one of these colored Lodges and afterward be admitted, without healing into one of her own Lodges, by her laws that Lodge would be subject to arrest of charter; and yet she proposes to introduce all the members of all these clandestine Lodges, unhealed, into the body, not only of Ohio Masonry, but of that of the whole world. Can she do this? Possibly, into her own fold, she can; but, in doing it, she brings herself, as to every Grand Lodge disagreeing with her and refusing to countenance her act, into the same clandestine condition in which the body with which she fraternizes is placed—since no Mason or masonic body can fraternize or unite with an irregular one, until it shall have been regularly healed, without receiving its taint; nor can any Grand Lodge, with any respect for consistency, continue to fellowship her after she shall have done that for which they both have denounced and definitely sundered friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Hamburg and the Grand Orient of France. The result will be, that with a large number of the Grand Lodges, among whose members and her own the most intimate social and business relations exist and must continue, she will by this action at once destroy that fraternity which not even political differences or sectional war could weaken; and every Ohio Mason, from Entered Apprentice to Knight Templar, must occupy, in the states disagreeing, exactly the same position as do the members of the bodies with which she fraternizes. Already we hear

the advance notes of this. Every masonic periodical we know of, with the exception of one, which devotes a column weekly to the subject, is opposed to the proposition, and the fires of crimination and hate are beginning to burn. And we fear that even worse things may happen. We doubt if, as yet, in any Grand Lodge, there would not be, in case of the recognition of colored Masonry, or of any other irregular organization not sufficiently strong and aggressive to make itself a source of great discomfort, danger of disruption and secession, with all its terrible following of strife and discord and masonic war, the mere thought of which is sickening. Heart-burnings and hatred would spring up, and all the bickerings of past years would be sweet music, compared with the harsh janglings that would then be heard.

Bro.: T. S. Gathright, chairman of committee on Foreign Correspondence of Mississippi, says:

Freemasonry being universal, any discrimination against a *man* who has the necessary qualifications and passes the scrutiny of the secret ballot, is wrong, no matter what may be his color or race. Any discrimination in favor of one man above another, merely on account of the color of his skin, is wrong. There are corollaries growing out of the general proposition of universality. No man has any claims on the institution of Freemasonry: no man has any right to demand admission into its mysteries; but his qualities of head and heart, and not the color of his skin, should commend him to the favorable consideration of the craft. This being granted, this committee can see no propriety in establishing or recognizing Grand or subordinate Lodges for the special benefit of any race or color of men.

We fear that the action, foreshadowed by the disposition of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, may beget strife, which shall distract our counsels, estrange our brethren, and mar that harmony which now obtains from the Lakes to the Gulf—from ocean to ocean. Once unsettle the integrity of Grand Lodge jurisdiction, as it is now recognized, in the United States, and an iliad of woes will fall upon our beloved fraternity, that admit of no distinctions among men, from which can, legitimately, spring one particle of discord. We conclude these observations by repeating that Masonry is universal, and cannot and must not so divide its jurisdiction as to recognize a necessity for one Lodge for a white man, another for a red man, and another for a black man. Masonry is for manhood. So let it be, and let it march along in the dignity of its glorious past, accomplishing, gradually but surely, its grand destiny of uniting in one great common brotherhood all the colors and races of men, and in that shape and fullness to constitute the new Temple.

Bro.: John W. Simons, chairman of committee on Foreign Correspondence of New York, says:

The object of the promoters of this precious scheme seems to us to ignore all the laws and usages of Masonry, to break down the only possible safeguard for our continued existence, and to substitute chaos and confusion for the symmetry and order we have hitherto known. And this, too, not because their porteges are better men and better Masons than we are, not because they can do anything for the fraternity or its advancement we cannot do, but simply because they are colored men, as if that had anything possible to do with the question. Masonry has no color line: makes no distinction of rank, caste, nationality, religion, politics, or color; its doors are open to every respectable man possessing the needed qualifications and who can successfully pass the scrutiny of the ballot, and that failing him, we know of no legal way by which he can be "resolved" into the fraternity.

We cannot consent, because we should by that act legalize the buccaneering of Hamburg and France, and practically relinquish our right to govern our own families in our own homes. Having at one swallow taken in our share of these twelve thousand clandestines, we should in all fairness be forever estopped from complaining of an occasional invasion from abroad, and so in a few years our respective territories would have as many conflicting jurisdictions to teach as there might be found outside parties willing to grant a semblance of authority to applicants.

Bro.: J. H. Drummond, chairman of committee on Foreign Correspondence of Maine, says:

To recognize them as independent Grand Lodges is the death of the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction. If Ohio recognizes the African Grand Lodge, she must repeal the ban of non-intercourse with Hamburg and the Grand Orient of France, and recognize these bodies in New York, New Jersey, and Louisiana, which she has for so many years declared to be clandestine, and the planting of which was a masonic offense of so grave a character that it put the perpetrators outside the pale of Masonry, in her judgment, as well as that of all her sisters.

Again, it introduces into Masonry a distinction founded upon race and color, which is contrary to its fundamental principles. But it is said that a distinction founded upon *nationality* has already been introduced, and that it is no more an innovation upon masonic usage and law to grant a charter to men of color, than to grant one to Germans and Frenchmen. We have never believed it right to issue a charter with any stipulation as to the language in which the work was to be done: still, the granting of a charter to men of color, leaving them free to admit whom they please, and placing them under the same government as other Lodges, is a very different thing from recognizing an *African* Grand Lodge, and thus saying, "the whites will come with us, the blacks will go with you."

No, the only terms upon which recognition can be granted is the consolidation of the two Grand Organizations into one as the supreme authority over all the subordinates. If these organizations are regular, or merely technically illegal, they should be invited to unite and fuse with the white organizations, as masonic history affords many precedents for doing.

But it is said that they maintain the same principles, have the same forms and ceremonies, and practice the same Masonry that we practice, and in the same manner in which we practice it; and why not then heal them, as has been done in other cases, in which the parties healed were held to be equally clandestine? To this (if it is true) one answer is, that *they are not ready*. Should we heal the "Nationals" or the "Independents?" Although there may be some states in which this question does not arise, yet no policy must be adopted in this matter which is not a general one, and while there are two rival organizations they are not ready to present this question.

But beyond this there is another difficulty, which another generation will remove: many of the members of the colored Lodges are not *free born*. It is true that in 1813, the Grand Lodge of England struck out "free born" and inserted "free man." But in America, it is a landmark that no one can be made a Mason unless he is *free born*; there may be no reason whatever why a *free man*, though not *free born*, may not be made a Mason; but that does not signify, as long as the law is otherwise, and we do not see how this difficulty can be removed, save by time.

We cannot see, therefore, that the Masons of to-day can do anything of the character proposed by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, or that they are called upon to recognize, or that they *can* recognize, without a violation of the landmarks of Masonry, the organizations to which the resolutions of that Grand Lodge relate. But one thing can be done: the question can be discussed *masonically*, if it is discussed at all. We regret very much to have seen already the words "falsehood" and "fanatics" used in a discussion of this matter. The time has gone by when an argument can be answered by denunciation, or men can be scared by the fear of being called "fanatics." Recourse to such terms implies a want of material for argument, or a want of ability to use materials.

The following letter is from Bro.: Albert Pike, written to Bro.: John D. Caldwell, of Ohio:

ALEXANDRIA, VA., 13th September, 1875.

MY DEAR FRIEND AND BROTHER:—I can see as plainly as you that the negro question is going to make trouble. There are plenty of *regular* negro Masons and negro Lodges in South America and the West Indies, and our folks only *stave off* the question by saying that negro Masons here are clandestine. Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a Lodge as any Lodge created by competent authority, and had a perfect right (as other Lodges



in Europe did) to establish other Lodges, making itself a mother Lodge. That's the way the Berlin Lodges, Three Globes, and Royal York, became *Grand* Lodges.

The Grand Orient of Hayti is as regular as any other. So is the Grand Orient of the Dominican Republic, which, I dare say, has negroes in it and negro Lodges under it.

Again, if the negro Lodges are *not* regular, they can easily get regularized. If our Grand Lodges won't recognize negro Lodges, they have the right to go elsewhere. The Grand Lodge can't say to eight or more Masons, black or white, we will not give you a charter because you are negroes, or because you wish to work the Scottish Rite, and you shall not go elsewhere to get one. That latter part is *bosh*.

Hamburg recognizes the Grand Lodges. Yes, and so the German Grand Lodge Confederation is going to do, and so will the Grand Orient of France before long.

Of course, if negrophily continues to be the religion established by law of your states, there will be, before long, *somewhere* a beginning of recognition of negro Lodges. Then the Royal Arch and Templar bodies of negroes must be taken in, and Masonry go down to their level. Will your plan work? I think not. I think there is no middle ground between rigid exclusion of negroes or recognition and affiliation with the whole mass.

If they are not Masons, how protect them as such, or at all? If they *are* Masons, how deny them affiliation, or have two supreme powers in one jurisdiction?

I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligations to white men, not to negroes. When I have to accept negroes as *brothers* or leave Masonry, I shall leave it.

I am interested to keep the Ancient and Accepted Rite uncontaminated, in *our* country at least, by the leprosy of negro association. Our Supreme Council can defend its jurisdiction, and it is the law-maker. There cannot be a legal body of that Rite in our jurisdiction unless it is created by us.

I am not so sure but that, what with immensity of numbers, want of a purpose worth laboring for, general indifference to anything above mere routine, general indifference to obligations, pitiful charity and large expenses, fuss, feathers, and fandango, big temples and large debts, Masonry is become a great helpless, inert mass that will some day, before long, topple over, and go under. If you wish it should, I think you can hasten the catastrophe by urging a protectorate of the negroes. Better let the thing drift. *Après nous le déluge.*

Ill. Comp.: JOHN D. CALDWELL.

Yours truly,

ALBERT PIKE.

Your committee repeat, it has given care, attention, and investigation to this important matter; and, in addition to its expressions, has endeavored to present the whole question, that this Grand Lodge might act understandingly.

We recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge does not recognize the so-called African or colored masonic organizations, or membership, as existing in this state, or the United States of America.

*Resolved*, That, regarding initiation, each subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction must be governed by the landmarks of the fraternity, and the regulations of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

*Resolved*, That, regarding admission to membership, subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction cannot elect a brother who does not last hail from a Lodge chartered by a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska.

Fraternally submitted.

ROBERT W. FURNAS.  
D. H. WHEELER.  
WILLIAM R. BOWEN.  
G. STEVENSON.

Bro.: Oakley introduced the following report :

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

Your committee to whom was referred the report of the special committee (R.: W.: Brother Bowen) appointed at the preceding annual communication of this Grand Lodge, on the collection and codification of the by-laws, rules, and regulations, submit this, their report in that behalf, as follows :

1. We find that the work of said committee has been carefully, thoroughly, and systematically performed; and the report contains a complete and accurate compilation of all the laws and decisions of said Grand Lodge, excepting such as are omitted for masonic reasons.

2. Your committee find that the laws and decisions so codified and collected are, in many instances, vague, indefinite, and conflicting, and contain many repetitions, inaccuracies, and complexities, and are in such a state as to need a thorough revision, which would require more labor, time, and consideration than is possible to be given by your committee at the present communication of the Grand Lodge; and, therefore, we recommend and advise that a special commission be appointed to prepare a thorough and systematic revision of the statutes and regulations of the Grand Lodge, to be submitted for adoption at its next annual communication.

3. Your committee concur in the recommendation that the resolutions and decisions omitted in the report for masonic reasons, be referred to the regular committee on Jurisprudence.

4. Your committee also unite in recommending that wherever the word "*subordinate*" is used in the laws of the Grand Lodge, as descriptive of a chartered lodge, the word "*constituent*" be substituted in place thereof; and that the word "*reinstate*" be stricken out of section 17, on page 108 of the constitution and by-laws of the Grand Lodge, and the word "*resuscitate*" be inserted in lieu thereof.

R. H. OAKLEY,	} <i>Special Committee.</i>
L. W. COLBY,	
G. STEVENSON,	
E. N. GRENELL,	
JOHN EARLEY,	

On motion of Past Grand Master Wheeler, the Grand Lodge did not concur in the recommendation of the committee as to substituting the word *constituent* instead of *subordinate*; and, on motion of Past Grand Master Armstrong, the Grand Lodge did

not concur in the recommendation of the committee as to substituting the word *resuscitate* instead of *reinstate*, as applied to expelled Masons. Except in these particulars, the report of the committee was adopted.

Bro.: Carter, Master of Gibbon Lodge, No. 46, submitted the following queries, which were referred to the committee on Jurisprudence :

1. When do the fees accompanying a petition for membership or initiation become the property of the Lodge?
2. Must a Lodge, at its stated communications, open as Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons?
3. Can a less number than eight Master Masons, members of the Lodge, open a Lodge under our present constitution?

On the queries the committee on Jurisprudence made the following report, which was adopted :

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the queries of Bro.: E. B. Carter, Master of Gibbon Lodge, No. 46, which are herewith enclosed, have had the same under consideration, and would report that in the opinion of your committee they should be answered as follows, viz :

1. After a favorable ballot. (See decision of Grand Master Welch, page 10, proceedings of '75.)
2. Your committee is of the opinion it is not *necessary*, but would recommend that it be so opened at all stated meetings, for the purpose of instruction.

ALFRED G. HASTINGS,  
R. C. JORDAN,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG,  
D. H. WHEELER,

*Of the Committee on Jurisprudence.*

Bro. France submitted the following report from the committee on the address of the Grand Master, and the reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. The report was adopted, and reference made as therein recommended.

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

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

1. That so much of the Grand Master's address as refers to the Grand Lodge in the Province of Ontario; also that portion of the address referring to the M.: W.: Symbolic Grand Lodge of Colon, for Cuba and other Spanish West India islands; also that portion of the address referring to our last annual communication, and found on page 38, proceedings of 1876, in regard to the matter of difference between Western Star Lodge, No. 2, and Turpin Lodge, No. 401, Union City, state of Indiana, be referred to the committee on *Jurisprudence*.
2. That so much thereof as refers to the granting of dispensations for the formation of new Lodges, be referred to the committee on *Charters and Dispensations*.
3. That so much thereof as refers to Mt. Zion Lodge, No. 6, of Springfield, Dakota Territory, desiring permission to receive the petitions of three persons, over whom Mosaic Lodge, No. 55, of Norfolk, Nebraska, had jurisdiction, be referred to the committee on *Jurisprudence*.
4. That so much thereof as refers to the appointment of Bro. Benjamin Crabb to act as Master of Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, during the absence of the Master and Wardens of said Lodge, be referred to the committee on *Jurisprudence*.
5. That so much thereof as refers to Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, be referred to the committee on *Charters and Dispensations*.
6. That so much thereof as refers to a letter of the Master of Washington Lodge, No. 21, as to the matter of changing the name of James R. Redfield to that of Charles R. Critchfield, be referred to a *special committee*, consisting of Brothers Jordan, Armstrong, and Furnas.
7. That so much thereof as refers to the application of Frank Sanderson, a suspended Master Mason, of Eureka Lodge, No. 16, asking for reinstatement, be referred to the committee on *Grievance*.
8. That so much thereof as refers to the publishing of the constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations of this Grand Lodge, and also the official decisions of the several Grand Masters, with the proceedings of the present session; also so much thereof as refers to the paying of one representative, instead of three, from each subordinate Lodge, be referred to the committee on *Ways and Means*.

8a. That so much thereof as refers to the death of Brothers Bruns and Gouley, be referred to the committee on *Foreign Correspondence*.

8b. That so much thereof as refers to the term of office of the Custodians, be referred to the committee on *Jurisprudence*.

8c. That so much thereof as refers to the fitting up of the Grand Secretary's office, be referred to a *special committee*, consisting of Bros.: Persinger, Foley, and Sweet.

9. That the Grand Treasurer's report be referred to the standing committee on *Accounts*.

10. That so much of the Grand Secretary's report as refers to the certificates required of Masons hailing from the Grand Jurisdiction of Michigan, be referred to the *Grand Secretary*, that he may secure an official response.

11. That so much as relates to obtaining one or two copies of the by-laws of subordinate Lodges, be referred to the standing committee on *By-Laws of Chartered Lodges*.

12. That so much as relates to the appeal of Bros.: Frank H. Young, Lewis Dunn, A. N. Potter; Fidelity Lodge, No. 51; Bro.: Richard Burge, and the Junior Warden of Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, be referred to the standing committee on *Grievances*.

13. That so much as refers to vote on amendment to Article II. of Constitution, be referred to the *Grand Lodge*.

14. That so much as refers to the communication from the Grand Lodge of Maine, etc., be referred to the committee on *Jurisprudence*.

15. That so much as relates to the deposit of money by each initiate, be referred to the committee on *Ways and Means*.

16. That so much as refers to furnishing uniform demits, etc., be referred to the committee on *Ways and Means*.

17. That so much as refers to the Grand Lodge library, be referred to the committee on *Ways and Means*.

18. That so much as refers to the question of guarding records, be referred to the *Grand Secretary*, with instructions to take the necessary precautions in the premises.

19. That so much as refers to the date for payment of annual fees and dues, be referred to the committee on *Ways and Means*, with instructions to report a necessary amendment to the regulation on that subject.

20. That so much as refers to the qualifications of a petitioner, be referred to the committee on *Jurisprudence*.

21. That so much as refers to the Indiana controversy, be referred to a *special committee*, consisting of M.: W.: Past Grand Masters Jordan, Armstrong, Furnas, Hill, and Deuel.

GEORGE B. FRANCE,  
DANIEL H. WHEELER, } *Committee.*  
BENJAMIN CRABB,

Past Grand Master Furnas, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the recent decease of two eminent Masons of Ohio, Past Grand Master Lucius V. Bierce, and Grand Tiler Joseph B. Covert.

Past Grand Masters Furnas, Jordan, and Armstrong, being appointed a special committee, made the following report, which, on motion of Bro.: Long, from Covert Lodge, No. 11, was adopted :

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

We, your committee to whom was referred the matter relating to the death of two eminent brethren of the fraternity in our sister jurisdiction of Ohio, beg leave to report the following:

WHEREAS, Our representative of the Grand Lodge of Ohio near this Grand Lodge has brought to our notice the lamentable fact that, since our last Grand Communication, two well known and highly esteemed members of the craft in that state, M.: W.: Lucius V. Bierce, Past Grand Master, and Bro.: Joseph B. Covert, Past Grand Tiler, have obeyed the call of Divine Providence, and bid adieu to the cares and pleasures of this life; and,

WHEREAS, It was the pleasure of your committee to obey the masonic laws and heed the advice of the one while wielding the gavel in the Grand Lodge of Ohio, in 1853, and of the other, to enjoy many years of an acquaintance remarkable for its courtesy, kindness, and sympathy, we beg to offer the following:

*Resolved*, That in the decease of these two brethren the fraternity has sustained a loss that can only be appreciated by those who enjoyed their society and acquaintance, and that this Grand Lodge deeply sympathizes with the Grand Lodge of Ohio in the great loss this affliction brings upon them.

*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary be directed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

R. W. FURNAS, }  
R. C. JORDAN, } *Committee.*  
GEO. ARMSTRONG,

Past Grand Master Hastings submitted the following report from the committee on Jurisprudence, which was adopted:

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the M.: W.: Grand Master's address relative to the granting of a special dispensation to Brother Benjamin Crabb to act as Master of Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, in the absence of the Master and Wardens of said Lodge, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report that, as the officers of said Lodge have returned, no further action is necessary, and would recommend that the action of the M.: W.: Grand Master be approved.

ALFRED G. HASTINGS,  
R. C. JORDAN,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG,  
ROBERT W. FURNAS,

*Of the Committee on Jurisprudence.*

Bro. Cain, chairman of the committee on Charters and Dispensations, submitted a report, which was adopted, recommending the issuance of charters to, and the approval of the by-laws of, the following Lodges, viz: Blue Valley Lodge, at Wilber, Saline county; Osceola Lodge, at Osceola, Polk county; Livingston Lodge, at Firth, Lancaster county; and Edgar Lodge, at Edgar, Clay county; also, that Hamilton Lodge be continued under dispensation; that Fortitude Lodge be continued under dispensation, with instructions as to its future government. In the case of Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, the committee made the following report, which 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 arrest of the charter of Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, have had the same under careful consideration, and would recommend that the M.: W.: Grand Master's action therein be sustained by this Grand Lodge, and that the R.: W.: Grand Secretary issue demits to such Masons, members of said Lodge, as shall appear from the records thereof to be entitled thereto.

N. R. PERSINGER,  
J. R. CAIN,  
E. R. RICHARDS, JR.,

*Of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations.*

Past Grand Master Armstrong submitted the following report from a special committee, which was adopted :

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

The special committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the case of Charles R. Critchell, respectfully report that the recommendation of the Grand Master, in the absence of any masonic precedent as a guide, seems to be the best way of disposing of the case; they, therefore, submit the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That Washington Lodge, No. 21, be authorized to substitute on their books the name of Charles R. Critchell, in place of that of James R. Redfield, assumed by him in his minority.

R. C. JORDAN,  
ROBERT W. FURNAS,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG, } *Special  
Committee.*

The Grand Lodge now proceeded to the election of office-bearers. Bros.: Williams, Oakley, Warren, and Love were appointed tellers, the report of the committee on Credentials was read, and the following were chosen :

*Grand Master*—Bro.: GEORGE W. LININGER;  
*Deputy Grand Master*—Bro.: ROLLAND H. OAKLEY.

Whereupon the Grand Lodge was called to refreshment until two o'clock.

---

## SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH, 5877.

The Grand Lodge resumed labor at 2:10 P. M., with M.: W.: George H. Thummel, Grand Master, in the East.

On continuing the election of office-bearers, the following were chosen :

*Grand Senior Warden*—Bro.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE;  
*Grand Junior Warden*—Bro.: JAMES A. TULLEYS;  
*Grand Treasurer*—Bro.: JAMES W. MOORE;  
*Grand Secretary*—Bro.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN.



Bro.: White moved that section 9 of the by-laws be amended as follows: Strike out all after the words "*Grand Lodge*," in the second line. The proposed amendment was seconded by Bros.: Wheeler, Oakley, Platt, Sutherland, Chadduck, Rider, and Long.

Bro.: Warren was added to the special committee on the Indiana controversy.

The following report of the special committee appointed at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge, was adopted:

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

Your committee to whom was referred the matter of the assembling of the Grand Masters of the several jurisdictions, would report that they have had the same under consideration, and that an assembling of the several Grand Masters seems desirable, and your committee therefore recommend that the Grand Master and Grand Secretary to be elected at this communication, be instructed to invite, in behalf of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of the several jurisdictions to be present, either in person or by proxy, at such time and place as may be hereafter agreed upon, and then and there take such action as may seem advisable.

GEORGE H. THUMMEL, *Grand Master*, }  
 H. C. RIDER, *Deputy Grand Master*, } *Committee.*  
 WM. R. BOWEN, *Grand Secretary*, }

Bro.: Schwenk submitted the following report from the committee on Grievances, which was adopted:

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

Your committee on Grievances, to whom was referred the matter of Fidelity Lodge, No. 51, *vs.* Henry C. Barnes, would respectfully report that they have examined the evidence in the said case, and find that it fully sustains the action of said Lodge in expelling said Henry C. Barnes, and, therefore, your committee respectfully recommend that the action of said Fidelity Lodge, No. 51, be sustained by this Grand Lodge.

In the matter of Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, *vs.* Brother A. S. Godfrey, your committee have examined the evidence in said case, and find that

it sustains the charges, and we therefore recommend that Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, be censured by this Grand Lodge for the action they have taken in this matter, but, as your committee have been assured by the Master of Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, that said Godfrey has fully reformed, we therefore recommend that no further action be taken in this matter.

In the case of the appeal of Bro.: Lewis Dunn from the decision of Lafayette Lodge, No. 24, your committee find that, from the evidence, the charges have been established, and recommend that the decision of said Lodge be sustained; and they further find that, while the Lodge acted in conformity with its by-laws in arriving at its decision, Section 5 of Article X. of its by-laws, which have been approved by this Grand Lodge, are in conflict with masonic law, and recommend that said section be referred to the committee on Jurisprudence for amendment.

In the case of Frank Sanderson, who was suspended by Eureka Lodge, No. 16, for drunkenness, and who now asks to be reinstated, your committee would report that from the evidence that comes before us, we are satisfied that said Sanderson has reformed, and is leading a temperate life, and we recommend that the Grand Lodge restore him to his rights as a Mason, and that the Grand Secretary issue him a demit.

In the case of the appeal of Bro.: A. V. Potter from the action of Ashlar Lodge, No. 33, at Grand Island, wherein said Lodge rejected the petition of said A. V. Potter to become a member by demit, your committee recommend that the action of said Lodge be sustained. In regard to the charges brought by said unaffiliated brother, for defacing his demit by writing thereon "*balloted for and blacked,*" your committee deems such action unnecessary, and deserving of censure from this Grand Lodge.

In the matter of the appeal of Bro.: R. Burge from the action of Salem Lodge, No. 47, your committee would report that the proceedings of the Lodge in the case are incomplete, there being no record of what action the Lodge took in the matter after the trial, and recommend that said Lodge be required to furnish a complete record of the case.

In the matter of the appeal of Frank H. Young from the acquittal of Bro.: C. J. Freese by Thistle Lodge, No. 61, your committee would recommend that the judgment of said Thistle Lodge, No. 61, be reversed, and the case remanded to said Lodge for a new trial.

GEORGE W. LININGER,  
P. W. SCHWENK,  
WILLIAM ADAIR,  
T. C. HOYT,

*For the Committee on Grievances.*

The following report, introduced by Bro. Oakley, 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 which relates to blank demits, petitions, receipts for dues, etc., beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the subject matter, and deem it of importance that such blanks be furnished to subordinate Lodges at cost, and recommend the adoption of the following :

*Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred dollars not otherwise appropriated, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated to pay for blank demits, petitions, receipts for dues, etc.

As to that part of the Grand Secretary's report relating to the deposit of a sum of money, the interest of which at seven or eight per cent would pay the Lodge dues, your committee would report that, however commendable such a course might be, under certain circumstances, your committee, believing such a course to be impracticable at this time, do not concur in the recommendation.

As to that part of the Grand Secretary's report recommending that subordinate Lodges be required to forward their annual dues and fees to the Grand Secretary's office during the month of May each year, your committee would report that Rule 30 be so amended as to read as follows :

"The masonic year shall commence on the first day of May and end on the thirtieth day of the succeeding April, and each subordinate Lodge shall make its annual report, and remit the amount of funds due the Grand Lodge for fees and dues, within ten days thereafter, to the Grand Secretary."

As to that part of the M. W. Grand Master's address referring to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for '72, '73, '74, '75, and '76, your committee would report that the subject has been covered by a special committee, and we have no recommendation to make.

R. H. OAKLEY,	} Committee on Ways and Means.
G. B. FRANCE,	
H. P. WEBB,	
H. P. COOLIDGE,	
S. H. NICHOLS,	

Past Grand Master Wheeler moved to amend section 9 of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge so that it shall read as follows :

"Each subordinate Lodge is required to be represented at the stated communications of the Grand Lodge.

"One representative from each subordinate Lodge (the Master or his proxy, and in case the Master or his proxy fail to attend, the Lodge may select a delegate to represent the Lodge), if present, shall be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, ten cents per mile for each mile traveled going to the Grand Lodge, to be estimated by the most direct route, and two dollars per day for each day's attendance; also, that no delegate, or representative, or proxy, who leaves said Grand Lodge before it is closed, shall receive any mileage or *per diem* for attendance, unless he be excused by the Grand Lodge."

Unanimous consent having been given for consideration of the proposed amendment, it was adopted without dissent.

Bro.: Crabb offered the following amendment to section 10 of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, which, being seconded by Bros.: Jackson, Andrews, Goodman, and Jordan, was laid over under the rules:

"That the fee of five dollars for each initiation be stricken out, and the annual dues reduced to fifty cents for each member."

Bro.: Warren submitted the following report from the special committee on "the Indiana controversy;" which report was adopted:

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

Your special committee to whom was referred that portion of the address of the M.: W.: Grand Master relating to the differences which have arisen between us and the Grand Lodge of Indiana in respect to the claims for reimbursement of Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, and Western Star Lodge, No. 2, for expenses incurred in the care and burial of sojourning brethren hailing from the jurisdiction of Indiana, would report that we have had the matter under advisement, and find the facts to be substantially as follows:

That in 1871 Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, expended the sum of eighty-three dollars in the care and burial of a brother of Noblesville Lodge, No. 15, of Indiana; that in 1875 Western Star Lodge, No. 2, of Nebraska City, expended the sum of fifty dollars and fifty cents, over and above

contributions, in the burial of a member of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Indiana; that requests in due season were made upon the Indiana Lodges to reimburse the several Lodges the amounts by them expended, respectively; that no compliance was made, except that Western Star Lodge received a remittance of ten dollars; that by resolution of this Grand Lodge, upon petition of Lincoln Lodge, No. 19, our Grand Secretary was directed to call the attention of the Grand Lodge of Indiana to the matter (see page 45, proceedings of '72); that no attention, beyond the acknowledgment of the receipt of his letter, has been received by our Grand Secretary. In 1875 the matter was again before this Grand Lodge (see page 54, proceedings of '75), but action was deferred. At the last communication of this Grand Lodge the question received a new impetus from a petition of Western Star Lodge, No. 2, to be reimbursed by this Grand Lodge for expenses incurred by it in the care of a brother of Turpin Lodge, No. 401, of Union City, Indiana (see page 29, *et. seq.*, proceedings of '76).

That, notwithstanding the fact that the respective subordinate Lodges, as well as the Grand Lodge of Indiana, have been notified of the premises, and requested to take some action in the matter, nothing has been done, and no attention given it; that, because of the resolution found on page 38, proceedings of '76, Bro.: Martin H. Rice, the representative of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska near the Grand Lodge of Indiana, has tendered his resignation as such representative, and that the breach between the two jurisdictions, thus beginning, threatens to become serious.

Your committee believe that, while an honest difference of opinion may exist between us and the Grand Lodge of Indiana upon the subject now before us, we feel that had the representations of this Grand Lodge and its requests in that behalf been heeded, or at least disagreed to, and we informed of the fact, this matter would never have attained such prominence; that because our brethren of Indiana do not agree with us as to what masonic courtesy, not to say obligations, may require, there can scarcely be a difference of opinion; that the way to secure fraternal feeling and harmonious action is not to treat a protest, or a request couched in respectful terms, with silent contempt.

Your committee are strongly averse to taking any steps that will tend to widen the breach or create discord; that it is better to suffer injustice than to sever fraternal intercourse, and this, especially, when we consider that there is no uniformity in practice among the several Grand Jurisdictions.

We deem the matter of sufficient importance to receive serious consideration, and would suggest that steps be taken to bring the matter before the several Grand Lodges for action. A settlement, no matter how it may be decided, is infinitely preferable to the present uncertainty, which is productive only of dissatisfaction, disappointment, and, not unfrequently, sharp correspondence. It is of more consequence to the Lodges in the western than in the eastern states, because there is a much greater call for charitable contributions in the west than elsewhere, arising from the general course of emigration, and, also, because the western communities are not so well situated financially, and can ill afford to incur even a moderate expense, and one or two visitations of the kind would bankrupt a constituent Lodge.

Until such time, or at least a reasonable time hereafter, as some uniformity can be attained, we think no further action should be taken in the premises by us, trusting that the views of this Grand Lodge herein will receive some attention elsewhere, and, if erroneous, that our errors will be pointed out in a spirit of brotherly love and forbearance.

We recommend the adoption of the following:

*Resolved*, That further consideration of the matter of the difference of opinion between us and the Grand Lodge of Indiana, be postponed until the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*, That we request Bro.: Martin H. Rice, representative of this Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Indiana to withdraw the resignation of his commission, that there may be no severance or interruption of fraternal intercourse between the respective jurisdictions.

R. C. JORDAN, GEORGE ARMSTRONG, ROBERT W. FURNAS, WM. E. HILL, E. F. WARREN,	} Committee.
--	--------------

Bro.: Sweet submitted the following report, which the Grand Lodge adopted, and the Grand Secretary declined the proffered reimbursement:

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

The special committee to whom was referred that portion of the M.: W.: Grand Master's address and R.: W.: Grand Secretary's report relating to the office of R.: W.: Grand Secretary, have had the same under careful consideration, and after an examination of the R.: W.: Grand Secretary's office, are satisfied that the encomiums of our M.: W.: Grand

Master are well merited and justly bestowed, and would recommend that the M.: W.: the Grand Lodge of Nebraska reimburse the R.: W.: Grand Secretary for the expense incurred in the fitting and furnishing of his office.

N. R. PERSINGER,	} Committee.
T. J. FOLEY,	
E. N. SWEET,	

Bros.: Colby and White were excused from further attendance.

On motion of Bro.: Warren, it was

*Resolved*, That the M.: W.: Grand Master and Grand Secretary be authorized to take such steps as in their judgment may be proper, towards securing uniformity in the matter of reimbursing subordinate Lodges for expenses incurred in the care and burial of sick or deceased sojourning brethren; that they, or either of them, be authorized to attend any meeting that may be called of the several Grand Masters for such purpose, and represent the Grand Lodge in the premises; or, in case that neither of them can attend, that they be authorized to appoint some suitable brethren to represent us.

Bro.: Knapp, chairman of the committee on Accounts, made the following report, which was adopted:

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

Your committee on Accounts beg leave to report that they have examined the report of the Trustees of the Orphans' School Fund, which was referred to us, and find the same correct.

Also, that we have examined the Lodge accounts of the several subordinate Lodges composing this Grand Jurisdiction, and find the following Lodges in arrears on June 20th, 1876:

Nemaha Valley, No. 4.....	\$20 00
Omadi, No. 5.....	2 00
Orient, No. 13.....	8 00
Peru, No. 14.....	1 00
Rock Bluff, No. 20.....	56 00
Lafayette, No. 24.....	25 00
Oliver, No. 38.....	5 00
Papillion, No. 39.....	42 00
Juniata, No. 42.....	2 00
Fidelity, No. 51.....	20 00
Mosaic, No. 55.....	5 00
York, No. 56.....	35 00
Melrose, No. 60.....	35 00
Total.....	<u>\$256 00</u>

We recommend that the Grand Secretary be directed to notify the Lodges above mentioned of the amounts of their arrearages, and ask that the same be liquidated at once.

We also find that the following Lodges had amounts standing to their credit on June 20th, 1876, as follows :

Nebraska, No. 1.....	\$1 00
Nebraska City, No. 12.....	8 00
Eureka, No. 16.....	7 65
St. Johns, No. 25.....	1 00
Platte Valley, No. 32.....	1 00
Northern Light, No. 41.....	1 00
Harvard, No. 44.....	6 00
Evening Star, No. 49.....	15 00
Hiram, No. 52.....	5 00
Charity, No. 53.....	9 00
Lebanon, No. 58.....	27 00
Total.....	<u>\$81 65</u>

We recommend that the Grand Secretary be instructed to notify said Lodges of the amounts with which they severally stand credited, on forwarding the blank returns for the year ending April 30th, 1878.

We would further report that we have examined the account of the Grand Secretary with the Grand Lodge, and find that he has received from subordinate Lodges the sum of three thousand one hundred and seventy-seven dollars and seventy cents (\$3,177.70), for which he holds vouchers from the Grand Treasurer.

We further report that we have examined the report of the Grand Treasurer, and find the same correct; also that he had on hand, as per last report :

Balance.....	\$ 186 53
That he received at the hands of the Grand Secretary .....	3177 70
	<u>\$3364 23</u>
Also on hand, Charity Fund.....	152 30
Grand total.....	<u>\$3516 53</u>

W. M. KNAPP,  
W. H. PLATT,  
T. J. FOLEY,  
H. E. PALMER,  
J. H. FOXWORTHY,

Committee  
on  
Accounts.

On motion of Past Grand Master Wheeler, it was

*Resolved,* That the Grand Secretary be and he is hereby instructed to strike out the word "constituent" as applied to Lodge, and insert in lieu thereof the word "subordinate" as applied to Lodge, wherever it occurs in the reports and proceedings of this session of the Grand Lodge.



On motion of Bro.: Warren, it was

*Resolved*, That the next communication of this Grand Lodge be held in the city of Omaha, on the Tuesday next preceding St. John's day, June 24th, 5878.

On motion of Bro.: Foxworthy, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due and are hereby tendered to Most Worshipful Grand Master Geo. H. Thummel, for his unceasing efforts and untiring zeal in laboring for the building up and elevation of the craft throughout this Grand Jurisdiction during the past year.

On motion of Bro.: Baker, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be and are hereby extended to the officers of the several railroads that have furnished reduced rates of fare to the representatives to this Grand Body.

Bros.: Patterson and Past Grand Master Wheeler were at this time excused from further attendance.

Bro.: Knapp submitted the following report, which was adopted :

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

Your committee on Accounts, to whom was referred the several accounts of the Grand Treasurer (postage and stationery), \$9.50; James R. Cain, Custodian 7th District, \$6.90; George H. Thummel M.: W.: Grand Master, for expenses R.: W.: Deputy Grand Master Rider, \$14.50, find the same correct, and recommend that the same be allowed by this Grand Lodge, and orders drawn on the Grand Treasurer for the several amounts.

W. M. KNAPP,  
W. H. PLATT,  
T. J. FOLEY,  
J. H. FOXWORTHY,

*Of the Committee on Accounts.*

Past Grand Master Hastings offered the following, which was adopted :

WHEREAS, The Masonic Temple Craft of Omaha have offered to the Grand Secretary a commodious and elegant office in their Freemason's Hall, free of rent, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the hearty thanks of this Grand Lodge are due and are hereby tendered to the Masonic Temple Craft of Omaha, for their courtesy and kindness in thus promoting the interests of this Grand Lodge, and affording the craft such accommodations in this city.

*Resolved*, That the R. W. Grand Secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Temple Craft.

Past Grand Master Armstrong submitted the following report from the committee on Jurisprudence, which was adopted:

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence, to which was referred that portion of the M. W. Grand Master's address relating to the application of Mt. Zion Lodge, in Dakota Territory, for permission to receive petitions of three persons living in Nebraska, desiring initiation, report that, in their opinion, the application of Mt. Zion Lodge, and all similar cases, should receive the sanction of the Grand Masters of both jurisdictions, as well as the consent of the nearest Lodge where the petitioners reside.

ROBERT C. JORDAN,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG,  
D. H. WHEELER,  
ROBERT W. FURNAS,  
WM. E. HILL,  
ALFRED G. HASTINGS,

} Committee on  
Jurisprudence.

The following report from the committee on Ways and Means was agreed to:

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

Your Committee on Ways and Means beg leave to recommend that the following appropriations be and the same are hereby made, to-wit:

For Grand Lodge Library.....	25 00
Reprint (the amount voted in 1876 not having been used).....	150 00
Incidental expenses of Grand Secretary's office.....	300 00

\$475 00

R. H. OAKLEY,  
GEO. B. FRANCE,  
H. P. WEBB,  
H. P. COOLIDGE,  
S. H. NICHOLS,

} Committee on  
Ways and Means.

The representatives from Humboldt Lodge, No. 40, were excused from further attendance.

On motion of Bro. Robbins, and for reasons given, the Grand Lodge ordered that the name of Morris J. Ruben be dropped from the rolls of Melrose Lodge, No. 60.

Bro.: Long made the following inquiry, which was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:

QUERY.—What is the status of Bro.: Morris J. Ruben, whose demit is in possession of the Grand Secretary, and whose name is ordered to be dropped from the rolls of Melrose Lodge, No. 60?

Whereupon the committee made the following report, which was adopted:

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence report that the demit of Morris J. Ruben shows that he is a Master Mason in good standing; and they would recommend that, if the brother makes application therefor, the Grand Secretary be authorized to return said demit to him, so that Bro.: Ruben may be able to fix his own status.

ROBERT C. JORDAN,  
GEO. ARMSTRONG,  
ROBERT W. FURNAS,  
ALFRED G. HASTINGS,

*Of the Committee on Jurisprudence.*

The Grand Lodge was now called to refreshment until half-past seven o'clock this evening.

---

## SECOND DAY—EVENING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1877.

The Grand Lodge resumed its labors at 7:45 o'clock, Grand Master Thummel in the East.

Bro.: Edwards submitted the following query, which was referred to the committee on Jurisprudence:

John S. Davenport, in the year 1869, at the granting of a charter to Pawnee Lodge, No. 23, at Pawnee City, joined in the petition for said

charter. From that time to 1876 he regarded himself as a charter member of said Lodge, and as such has regularly paid his dues.

In preparing the compendium of said Lodge, it appears that Bro.: Davenport is not a charter member of said Lodge, and consequently not a member at all.

He, as well as the charter members of said Lodge, who prepared and forwarded the petition for said charter, still persist in claiming that Bro.: Davenport's demit was forwarded with said petition; the Grand Secretary claims that said demit was never received, and is not now in his possession, or within his knowledge.

The question is, how can Bro.: Davenport be righted in this matter, and be placed upon the roll of said Lodge, with all the rights of membership?

Whereupon the following report was adopted:

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence, to which was referred the query of Bro.: J. L. Edwards, Master of Pawnee Lodge, No. 23, respecting the omission of the name of Bro.: John S. Davenport from the charter of said Lodge, respectfully report the following for adoption:

*Resolved*, That Bro.: J. L. Edwards, Master of Pawnee Lodge, No. 23, upon fully satisfying himself that the demit of Bro.: John S. Davenport was regular, and that it cannot be found, be authorized to return the said charter of Pawnee Lodge to the Grand Secretary, and that he insert the name of Bro.: John S. Davenport in the charter of said Lodge, and that the compendium of said Lodge be corrected accordingly. And, further, that a full copy of this report be placed upon the minutes of Pawnee Lodge, No. 23.

ROBERT C. JORDAN,  
GEORGE ARMSTRONG,  
ROBERT W. FURNAS,  
M. DUNHAM,  
ALFRED G. HASTINGS,

} *Committee on  
Jurisprudence.*

On motion of Bro.: Long, it was

*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary be authorized to prepare a demit for Bro.: John S. Davenport, and place it in the archives of the Grand Lodge, to make the record straight.

Bro.: White submitted the following report from the committee on Pay-Roll, which was adopted, and ordered published with the proceedings:

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

Your committee submit the following Pay-Roll of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. and A. M., June, 5877:

NAME OF LODGE.	No.	NAMES OF REPRESENTATIVES.	No. OF MILES.	No. OF DAYS.	AMOUNT.
Nebraska.....	1	Wm. Robinson, proxy.....	10	2	3 60
.....	1	F. E. Caldwell.....	10	2	3 60
Western Star.....	2	E. F. Thorpe.....	50	3	7 50
.....	2	E. F. Warren.....	50	3	7 50
.....	2	W. E. Hill, proxy.....	50	3	7 50
Capitol.....	3	George W. Lininger.....	.....	3	4 50
.....	3	S. K. Jackson.....	.....	2	3 00
.....	3	Seth T. Cole.....	.....	2	3 00
Nemaha Valley.....	4	R. W. Furnas.....	75	3	9 00
Omaha.....	5	Wm. Adair.....	95	3	10 20
Plattsmouth.....	6	F. E. White.....	20	3	5 70
.....	6	D. H. Wheeler, proxy.....	20	3	5 70
.....	6	J. W. Marshall, proxy.....	20	2	4 20
Falls City.....	9	J. R. Cain.....	160	3	15 10
.....	9	E. E. Metz, proxy.....	160	2	12 60
.....	9	R. A. Wherry.....	160	2	12 60
Solomon.....	10	J. B. Kuony.....	15	2	3 90
.....	10	E. N. Grenell.....	15	2	3 90
Covert.....	11	W. I. Baker.....	.....	2	3 00
.....	11	E. K. Long, proxy.....	.....	3	4 50
.....	11	John Stellen.....	.....	2	3 00
Nebraska City.....	12	E. R. Richardson.....	50	3	7 50
.....	12	J. B. Northcutt.....	50	2	6 00
.....	12	J. W. Chaddock, proxy.....	50	2	6 00
Orient.....	13	Tyler C. Hoyt.....	170	3	14 70
.....	13	M. D. Simpson.....	170	2	13 20
Peru.....	14	D. C. Cole.....	68	2	7 08
.....	14	B. W. Knott, proxy.....	68	2	7 08
Fremont.....	15	A. C. Hull.....	46	3	7 26
.....	15	C. A. Fried.....	46	2	5 76
Tecumseh.....	17	S. L. F. Ward, proxy.....	115	3	11 40
.....	17	C. T. Haskins, proxy.....	115	2	9 90
Ashland.....	18	S. H. Nichols.....	49	3	7 44
.....	18	E. M. Park.....	49	2	5 94
Lincoln.....	19	Roland H. Oakley.....	68	3	8 58
.....	19	J. H. Foxworthy.....	68	3	8 58
.....	19	James McConnell.....	68	2	7 08
Rock Bluffs.....	20	S. C. Patterson.....	27	2	4 62
.....	20	J. M. Patterson, proxy.....	27	2	4 62
Washington.....	21	William H. Palmer.....	30	2	4 80
.....	21	Richard Alberly.....	30	2	4 80
.....	21	Chas. H. Willard.....	30	2	4 80
Macoy.....	22	H. E. Palmer.....	20	2	4 20
.....	22	J. A. McMurphy, proxy.....	20	2	4 20
Pawnee.....	23	J. L. Edwards.....	138	2	11 28
.....	23	S. H. Cummins, proxy.....	138	2	11 28
St. Johns.....	25	John G. Taylor.....	.....	3	4 50
.....	25	James B. Bruner.....	.....	2	3 00
.....	25	Gustavus Stevenson, proxy.....	.....	3	4 50
Beatrice.....	26	Hiram P. Webb.....	124	3	11 94
.....	26	L. W. Colby, proxy.....	124	3	11 94
.....	26	Chas. B. Palmer.....	124	2	10 44
Jordan.....	27	E. N. Sweet.....	70	2	7 20
.....	27	P. Schwenk, proxy.....	70	3	8 70
Hope.....	29	V. S. Griffen.....	90	2	8 40
Blue River.....	30	George B. France.....	95	3	10 20
.....	30	J. H. Culver, proxy.....	95	2	8 70
Tekamah.....	31	M. R. Hopewell.....	50	3	8 70
.....	31	Geo. W. Green, proxy.....	50	2	6 00
.....	31	J. R. Sutherland, proxy.....	50	2	6 00
Platte Valley.....	32	Thaddeus J. Foley.....	291	3	21 90
.....	32	F. N. Dick, proxy.....	291	2	20 40
Ashlar.....	33	W. H. Platt.....	155	3	13 80
.....	33	B. C. Howard.....	155	2	12 30
.....	33	C. P. R. Williams, proxy.....	155	3	13 80
Acacia.....	34	John H. Wheeler.....	72	2	7 32
.....	34	W. H. Sumner.....	72	2	7 32
.....	34	John Muller.....	72	2	7 32
Lone Tree.....	36	N. R. Persinger.....	133	3	12 48
.....	36	J. B. White.....	133	2	10 98
.....	36	J. E. Wilder.....	133	2	10 98

NAME OF LODGE.	No.	NAMES OF REPRESENTATIVES.	No. OF MILES.	No. OF DAYS.	AMOUNT.
Crete	37	R. L. Cornwell	93	3	\$ 10 08
"	37	Jacob Bigler	93	2	8 58
"	37	George H. Hastings	93	2	8 58
Oliver	38	William Leese	94	2	8 64
"	38	Horace A. Scott	94	2	8 64
"	38	William Clemmons, proxy	94	2	8 64
Papillon	39	H. R. Platt	10	2	3 60
Humboldt	40	S. M. Hillebert	138	2	11 28
"	40	W. W. Turk	138	2	11 28
"	40	E. S. Morton	138	2	11 28
Northern Light	41	C. L. Lamb	120	2	10 20
"	41	Lewis Ley, proxy	120	2	10 20
Juniata	42	B. E. Swift	176	3	15 06
"	42	H. A. Guild	176	2	13 56
"	42	E. J. Hanchett	176	2	13 56
Hebron	43	William J. Hanna	212	2	15 72
"	43	N. B. Applegate	212	2	15 72
Harvard	44	Ezra Brown	154	3	13 74
"	44	Levi B. Munger	154	2	12 24
"	44	Wm. J. Turner, proxy	154	2	12 24
Palmyra	45	J. W. Moore, proxy	50	2	6 00
"	45	J. Oscar Moore	95	2	8 70
Gibbon	46	E. B. Carter	195	2	14 82
"	46	S. S. St. John	195	2	14 82
"	46	D. A. Dorsey	195	2	14 82
Salem	47	G. W. Pampel	153	3	13 68
Fairmont	48	C. B. Webber	121	1	8 76
"	48	C. C. Chapin	121	1	8 76
"	48	V. A. Stewart	121	1	8 76
Evening Star	49	A. K. Marsh	136	3	12 66
Hastings	50	E. Steinau	175	2	13 50
"	50	F. J. Benedict, proxy	175	2	13 50
"	50	G. W. Mowery, proxy	175	2	13 50
Fidelity	51	F. E. Wilson	90	2	8 40
"	51	C. C. Cook	90	2	8 40
"	51	W. M. Bunting, proxy	90	2	8 40
Hiram	52	J. A. Unthank, proxy	46	2	5 76
"	52	S. G. Glover, proxy	46	2	5 76
"	52	Wm. R. Turner	46	2	5 76
Charity	53	I. B. Hampton	210	2	15 60
"	53	H. S. Kaley	210	2	15 60
"	53	J. A. Tutleys, proxy	210	2	15 60
Lancaster	54	J. M. Creamer	68	3	8 58
"	54	H. Andrews, proxy	68	2	7 08
"	54	B. Crabb, proxy	68	2	7 08
Mosaic	55	L. F. Taylor	125	2	10 50
"	55	C. P. Mathewson	125	2	10 50
York	56	W. M. Knapp	140	3	12 90
"	56	Lee Love	140	2	11 40
"	56	Chas. LeCount, proxy	140	2	11 40
Mount Moriah	57	Chas. B. Page, proxy	103	2	9 68
"	57	A. H. Johnson	103	2	9 68
Lebanon	58	Marshall Smith, proxy	92	2	8 52
"	58	H. P. Coolidge, proxy	92	3	10 02
"	58	John W. Early	92	2	8 52
Wahoo	59	J. C. Polsley	35	2	5 10
"	59	M. L. Ellsworth	35	2	5 10
"	59	J. N. Davis	35	2	5 10
Melrose	60	Albert C. Robbins	254	2	18 24
Thistle	61	F. H. Young	230	2	16 80
"	61	H. O. Smith, proxy	230	2	16 80
Keystone	62	Martin Ennis	171	3	14 70
Riverton	63	James R. McDonald	224	3	17 94
"	63	William E. Hatch	224	2	16 44
"	63	George W. Sheppard	224	2	16 44
M. W.		Robert C. Jordan, Past Grand Master	154	3	13 74
M. W.		George Armstrong, Past Grand Master		3	4 50
M. W.		Frank Welch, Past Grand Master	70	3	8 70
M. W.		Alfred G. Hastings, Past Grand Master	68	3	8 58
Grand Tiler					10 00

\$1345 26

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. E. WHITE,  
A. K. MARSH,  
G. W. PAMPEL, } *Of the Committee  
on Pay-Roll.*

On motion of Past Grand Master Hastings, the committee on Pay-Roll were instructed to include in their report the representatives from Fairmont Lodge, No. 48.

On motion, it was ordered that an account of the Grand Tiler's—eleven dollars and twenty cents—for repairs on the Grand Lodge jewels, be paid.

On the recommendation of Bro.: Sweet, chairman of special committee, it was

*Resolved*, That one hundred dollars be appropriated by the Grand Lodge for the purpose of procuring a carpet for the office of the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master announced the following special committee to codify the existing law, as ordered by the Grand Lodge, viz: Bros.: Warren, Colby, and Oakley.

On motion of Bro.: Valentine, it was

*Resolved*, That the county of Dawson be added to the Fourth Custodian District.

The following report of the special committee appointed at the last annual communication (page 47 of '76), was submitted. Bro.: France moved its reference to the special committee appointed at this communication to codify the law, which was not agreed to. The report was adopted and ordered published:

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

Your special committee to whom was assigned the duty of reporting by-laws defining masonic offenses, rules for the government of trials, and designating the manner and mode of punishments, submit the following report,\* together with forms to be used in such cases.

Respectfully submitted,

ALFRED KELLY,  
D. H. WHEELER,  
GEORGE W. LININGER, } *Committee.*

\*The by-laws relative to masonic offences, etc., are published in the appendix to these proceedings.

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

*Grand Chaplain*—Bro.: FRANK E. BULLARD;  
*Grand Orator*—Bro.: LEONARD W. COLBY;  
*Grand Lecturer*—Bro.: HIRAM C. RIDER;  
*Grand Marshal*—Bro.: HENRY E. PALMER;  
*Grand Senior Deacon*—Bro.: JAMES R. CAIN;  
*Grand Junior Deacon*—Bro.: ENOCH B. CARTER;  
*Grand Tiler*—Bro.: JACOB KING;  
*Trustee Orphan School Fund*—Bro.: HARRY P. DEUEL.

CUSTODIANS.

*First District*—Bro.: JESSE T. DAVIS;  
*Second District*—Bro.: L. S. MOE;  
*Third District*—Bro.: MARSHALL SMITH;  
*Fourth District*—Bro.: FREDERICK N. DICK;  
*Fifth District*—Bro.: ALBERT K. MARSH;  
*Sixth District*—Bro.: ROLLAND H. OAKLEY  
*Seventh District*—Bro.: JAMES R. CAIN.

Whereupon, M.: W.: Bro.: George H. Thummel surrendered his chair to M.: W.: Bro.: Robert C. Jordan, Past Grand Master, to whom was delivered a plain lambskin or white leather apron, bearing the following inscription:

“Presented to M.: W.: George Hamilton Thummel, October 21st, A. D. 1876, A.: L.: 5876, by the Masonic Temple Craft, of Omaha, Nebraska; worn by the M.: W.: Grand Master at the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of Freemasons’ Hall, Omaha, at that time; also worn by the M.: W.: Grand Master on the 19th day of June, A. D. 1877, A.: L.: 5877, at the dedication of the same edifice, as well as at the opening of the twentieth annual communication of the M.: W.: the Grand Lodge A.: F.: and A.: M.: of Nebraska; also presented by M.: W.: George Hamilton Thummel, G.: M.: of Masons of Nebraska, to the M.: W.: the Grand Lodge A.: F.: and A.: M.: of Nebraska, June 20th, A. D. 1877, A.: L.: 5877, with the wish that it be intrusted to each successive Grand Master, and that it be worn on state occasions, and that a minute thereof be made hereon; and your Grand Master further hopes that as years roll on, it may be prized as an archive of this Grand Lodge.”



Past Grand Master Jordan, assisted by Past Master Gustavus Stevenson, now obligated, instructed, and installed the elected and appointed office-bearers of the Grand Lodge, excepting the Grand Chaplain and Grand Orator, who were not present.

The Grand Orator, W.: Bro.: Mark W. Wilcox, now delivered the following

#### ORATION.

M.: W.: GRAND MASTER, OFFICERS, AND BRETHREN :

We meet to-day in commemoration of the memory of one of the patron saints of our Order. Almost nineteen centuries ago to-day, John the Baptist was born; and though the dust of ages now rests upon his grave, it is meet that we, as Masons, should assemble, as our fathers have done from time immemorial, to mingle a fraternal greeting, and renew our vows of brotherhood. One more year has been checked off the record of time since we last assembled, carrying with it all of the hopes, all of the joys, and all of the sorrows with which it was freighted; once more we are together; once more the gavel in the hands of the Grand Master calls us to labor; how many have gone down into the dark valley in the year that has passed and gone, we know not. The sands of life are dropping one by one; hands that greeted us warmly become cold and pulseless in death. Among a brotherhood so extensive as ours, it is not probable that all have escaped the diseases and casualties incident to humanity. It is a cause of gratitude that while the seeds of death have been sown in other sections, the breezes of life, of health, and happiness have been wafted us; and we again have the privilege of meeting, as the representatives of our Order, to take into consideration those interests so dear to us as Masons. I congratulate you, my brethren, upon this the commencement of another masonic year, upon what has been accomplished in the past, upon the present status of our beloved Order, and upon the bright hopes we all entertain for its future, and I regret my inability to lend that interest which this most important anniversary demands. I am fully aware that my capacity is by no means commensurate with the important subjects that should properly come under consideration. Masonry is almost as extensive and comprehensive as civilization itself; and if my mind was as fertile as the gardens of Paradise, in the short time that I propose to detain you, I

could only hint at a few of its leading features. I need not dwell upon the history and antiquity of our Order; with its history you are as familiar as I am, and know that this, or similar societies, have existed since a very early period—almost since the world was tossed from\*the work-bench of Deity. Mutual dependence was one of the first lessons learned by the human family; association has been necessary at every step of human progress—necessary not only for our development, but for our happiness and protection—in uniting ourselves together we are only obeying an almost universal law of nature. The little rills that trickle from the mountain side unite to form the mighty river; the commerce of nations floats upon united water drops; the world itself is composed of infinite atoms, arranged with infinite skill, and held together with infinite power. There is power in union, and it is power that keeps the world in motion. Individual efforts may do much, but it requires a united effort to wield a mighty power or work a great and lasting good. Our present and our future happiness are the prime objects of human existence; the means of acquiring and maintaining these are as correct as the impulses of the human mind. That wisdom and morality are essential elements none will deny, nor will any one dare assert that societies like ours do not tend to their promotion. That we are all pursuing the same grand object, all drifting to the same grand haven, all guided by the same mysterious power, which, though concealed, is nevertheless present, is a fact that is patent to all. That there should be diversity of opinions among rational and thinking beings, while solving the problems of life, is but natural; nor is this difference necessarily harmful. Rippling eddies purify the currents of life; and purity is essential to man's highest developments—better a little friction than tarnished gold. Masonry is one of the links in the great chain of human existence, binding us together in universal sympathy. Our brotherhood gives us a deeper insight into the inner lives of our fellow beings, and aids us in dividing the cares and responsibilities of life, as well as in adding to all of life's joys. The influence of true Masonry extends from the heart to the heart of its votaries. The fragrant flavors of friendship bloom wherever it is felt, and the gentle deeds of sympathy, and the warm sunlight of affection follow in the train. The hidden mysteries of Masonry are to us so many tributaries of happiness flowing from one heart to the hearth-stone of others. While we do not claim that Masonry is of Divine origin, we do claim that it points out the highest order of moral ethics known; and incul-

etes man's highest duty to his God, to his country, to his fellow, and to himself. The teachings of our Order tend to elevate the mind and bring into action all of the nobler attributes of nature, and, properly exemplified, they pave the way to happiness and to heaven.

The principles of Freemasonry are all drawn from the great book of books, and are illustrated by beautiful ceremonies and instructive lectures. The precepts of morality and virtue are ingeniously veiled in signs, symbols, and hieroglyphics, all speaking to the initiated of the nobler attributes of life. To the contemplative they are useful and instructive lessons, and enable us better to comprehend nature's great designs. The incense that burned upon Jewish altars was typical of that great sacrifice that was to be made for man; the star in the east was the sign of his coming—it was the beacon light that guided the wise in the east to the foot of the cross; the bow set in the heavens is one of the signs given by the Creator to the creatures; God smiles through the rising sun, and gilds the universe with tints of gold at eventide. Nature has thousands of tongueless voices that proclaim her laws. The plan of man's redemption was determined upon in the councils of infinite wisdom, and the Bible, that grand and noble heritage handed down through a long succession of ages, is, much of it, mysterious and incomprehensible, yet from it the enlightened Christian saps his supplies of faith, hope, and happiness. Even so it is to us the great source of light, guiding us in the blind and somewhat devious paths of duty. We permit none to surpass us in fealty to the God who made us. The most grand and sublime principle that underlies our masonic structure is the firm belief in that power that has created and rules all things. This is the central thought of Freemasonry, and around it clusters all that is great and good in the Order. This power is omnipresent, and extends from the east to the west, from the north to the south, and from the center to the circumference; it rules in the starry-decked heavens above, and is wafted to us on the wings of the wind. The moral influence of Masonry is second only to the Christian church, and is more practical in its workings. We harness our votaries to no sectional creeds; uninfluenced by bigotry and superstition, Masonry simply points out our whole duty as rational and intelligent beings. The rapid progress of civilization is due to some extent to the influence of our Order; its early teachings did much to lap up the darkness of the past, and roll back the dark cloud of superstition that at one time threatened to engulf our race.

Masonry was among the first institutions of men to protect architecture and the arts, and to promote literature and science. Even the Christian world is somewhat indebted to our Order for its efforts to protect the Bible from the barbarous hordes of the east that sought to blot it from existence. While always advocating the right, our Order has never depended upon martial achievements to sustain it. All of its achievements have been in the quiet walks of life, appealing to all individually, and seeking only man's moral and intellectual perfection; There is a sleepless Providence that watches over the destinies of man, and may not special agencies be sometimes employed for man's especial good without ever appealing to force?

Masonry has withstood the shock of ages—thrones have crumbled and fallen, dynasties have been overturned, oblivion has been written upon thousands of the plans and schemes of men—yet it has survived. Ecclesiastical and executive power have been brought to bear, and all the engines of a prejudiced public have been hurled against it, and yet it still exists. The attentive ear receives what the instructive tongue imparts, and Masonry still lives in the faithful breasts of its votaries. Think you that an institution not based upon the immutable principles of truth, right, and justice, could so long have withstood the storm of contention and opposition? There must be inherent excellence in an association which has existed so long. Governments that have long resisted the assaults of foreign and domestic violence and remained unshaken, are looked upon with reverence. Is it strange, then, that we should reverence our Order? It requires real merit to bind the changeable mind of man; it is a fearful ordeal to have our actions and principles tried in the crucible of time and experience—few combinations of men stand a test so severe. Masonry is never sectional, and throughout the habitable globe the Order is represented; its language is universal; it is spoken at the equator and answered by the Northman; it is spoken in the east and echoed in the west, and wherever intelligence is found Freemasonry exists. Truth, justice, and morality form the amalgam that unites this vast brotherhood. These are the base of all enlightened moral action; these are the jewels of a Mason; these he should worship as the miser worships his ingots of gold. Friendship, charity, and brotherly love form the triple band that twines and intertwines, and forms a cord so strong that opposition and contention are unavailing. The designs traced upon our trestle-board are to us more sublime than those spread upon canvass, and should impress us more thor-

oughly with man's true mission. It would be a grand and magnificent spectacle could I present to you, all living strictly by its principles, all working to the line drawn by the great architect of the universe for the guidance of his workmen. Then indeed would the halo that surrounds our institution be undivined; then would contention cease, and the world acknowledge the beauties of Freemasonry. But this is not possible; Masons are but men, subject to the same corruptive influences that modify the actions of all. The dereliction of our membership furnishes much of the food that keeps alive the contention that our Order has met at every step in its progress. The defection of a single member, while it finds a ready parallel in the history of all other associations of men, meets, at the hands of a prejudiced public, the most unsparing condemnation. If the actions of men only guided us in judging of the principles of our institution, the condemnation of associations might become much more general. While the fairest fabrics are easiest soiled, dark spots may yet impair without totally obscuring the light of many objects. That men recreant to the principles of manhood, as well as Masonry, find their way into our Order, is no argument against the purity of the principles upon which it is based. The world often expects too much from associations, too much from men as individuals. It is no argument against the Christian church that hypocrisy stalks abroad at noonday. If there was no true coin we could not detect the counterfeit; the race is not always to the swift. Persons of high aspirations and lofty desires find their expectations, like dreams, seldom realized, and, after a season, become willing votaries before the siren charms of vice. The future, painted with all the delusive tints of the kaliedoscope, appears bright and beautiful, but the winnowing winds of time detects chaff in every avenue of life.

The hidden mysteries of Freemasonry, the impenetrable veil that shrouds the Order in secrecy, has, in all ages, given rise to the wildest and most extravagant rumors in regard to it. If secrecy is a crime, then all are criminals, and nature itself should be arraigned. To me the whole world is clouded in mystery. Who can unlock the singular union that binds man to his Creator? Who can roll back the clouds that we may look at the treasures above? Who can gaze into the ocean's depths and not feel that there are mysteries beyond the eye and power of man? Secrets are the keys to all of the treasures of earth, and are necessary for their preservation. The church, the state, the family circle, and every association of men, have their secrets.

“Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth,” shadows forth the divine will. It is well that all of the thoughts and actions of men are not promulgated to the world. The holiest thoughts, the purest affections, the richest of all our treasures, are concealed under the closest locks, shut out from the prying eyes of the multitude. Even the silent and sacred bonds of friendship become weakened by publicity. A well-formed confidence cements and binds all lasting human relations. To guard well the secrets of a friend is one of the noblest traits of human character. Noiselessly, yet watchfully, the sentinel stands at his post while clouds of mystery obscure the future. It is the object of the act that constitutes the essence of all we do, and while I do not believe that that is a secret society whose objects are all made known, we should challenge the proof that secrecy is detrimental either to progress, morality, or to philanthropy. It has been urged that if Masonry is all that we claim, it should be more general and that none should be debarred from participating in its benefits. There are prerequisites necessary in order to gain admission into any association. The question of fitness is an important one; it is not every one that knocks that gains admission; discordant elements mar the usefulness of many institutions. As Masons, we, in conjunction with all other societies, claim the right to be the judge of our membership; and we receive none knowingly into our Order who are not moral and upright, and of good repute before the world, believing that such persons, when associated together with a common object in view, can accomplish more than isolated effort. But closely as we guard the portals of our Order, many who are unworthy gain admission. The real qualifications of a true Mason are internal, commencing at the heart, radiating through and controlling every act of life. While it is true that none may reach that great desideratum—human perfection—it is nevertheless true that such should be the aim of our ambition. Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honor; and he who unites with us for personal aggrandizement, will find—too late, perhaps, for him or us—that such is not the spirit or genius of Freemasonry. There are higher, broader, and nobler aims, in which self sinks into insignificance; and while we tolerate unworthy men in our Order, we should remember that it is no easy task to dissolve associations once formed, and to deprive individuals of rights once enjoyed, nor does it always conduce to the best good to do so. We should “deal gently with the erring, and never forget, however sadly stained by vice, he is a brother yet.” The masonic altar

not infrequently stands between a member and absolute degradation. It is better sometimes to bear the opprobrium than to destroy the last lingering influence that prompts to better deeds. None are perfect. However closely the rigid moralist may draw the line, depravity still lurks in all the avenues of life. It is a sad commentary upon humanity that, while the pure principles of Christianity have been taught for almost nineteen hundred years, the world has not yet produced a single example of mental and moral perfection; but, while this is true, it is just as true that the modifying influence of religious teachings has done much to mould and fashion the lives of men, and no one will assert that great benefit to our race has not accrued as a result. Masonry makes no man worse than nature fashioned him. While we claim that Masonry is universal, there is yet a semblance of illiberality in the exclusion of the other sex from the rights and privileges of the Order. This perhaps is a misfortune, but one beyond our power to remedy. As operative Masons, our ancient brethren were indeed the bearers of work and burden—engaged in all the arduous duties of manual labor, for which nature has unfitted the other sex—nor had woman in that day assumed her position as man's equal. Speculative Masonry was established upon the same basis, and without a total appendication of all the ancient landmarks of the Order. This fault, if fault it be, cannot be remedied. This exclusion grows out of no fancied inferiority in any respect, but simply because a wise Providence chooses to make our sphere of action different from another. But while we cannot induct them into all of the secrets of the Order, enough of our mysteries they may know to make themselves known as the sisters, mothers, and daughters of the Order, and as such may claim, and will ever receive, the assistance and protection of the worthy everywhere. In this age of enlightened civilization, the interest of the other sex is seldom ignored, and efforts are constantly being made to obviate that exclusion which the fixed laws of Masonry establish. Into the beautiful ceremonies of the Star degrees much of our work and many of our principles have been engrafted. Our lodge rooms are but the places where ruder natures meet, to divest themselves of the vices and follies of life, the better to fit themselves for a gentler companion. Masonry proper is but a transcript of all that is noble and good in men; it gives us no leisure to indulge in any of the vices and excesses so common to depraved nature—there is nothing in it tending to degrade.

Brethren, I have attended briefly to some of the principles and

objects that assist in forming the ground floor of our Temple. I should be glad, had I time and ability, to describe more fully its structure in all its tenons parts, and show how each piece fits to all others in the most symmetrical nicety, but other interests claim our attention. The most important thing in all transactions is the results which follow. We claim that no institution was ever formed upon purer principles, nor been more noble precepts taught, than are inculcated by our several masonic lectures. At every single step the incentives to the purest impulses are placed before us. We, who have passed the portals, and been inducted into the sublime mysteries, know that its lessons are lessons of morality and virtue. Rightfully we claim that our principles are all drawn from the highest possible source—revelation and reason. Our Order is to us the great moral work-shop; here we devise plans for usefulness. We claim an ancestry the most illustrious; our muster roll has been composed of the brightest and best in the history of the world; our heraldry has been handed down through a long succession of ages untarnished; even in semi-barbarous times our brethren were governed by the most self-denying and chivalrous motives—instances are on record where life even was sacrificed, in order to sustain an honor unsullied. Our Order has ever furnished champions for right, justice, and morality. They have transmitted to us the duties as well as the principles they maintained. It is a noble heritage! Shall we hand it down to our posterity as pure and bright as when we received it. To do this requires something more than taking the pledge, and passing through the ceremonies of the different degrees. These are mere forms, only necessary to impress us more forcibly with the important duties assigned to all. As faith without works is dead, so is Freemasonry, unless we live in the active discharge of masonic duty. One of the prime objects of our institution is to increase our capacity for usefulness. He only is a true Mason in whom light and morality abound. It is to be regretted that members of our Order, who not only have the impressed lessons of Masonry, but the pure teachings of Christianity, should yet fail in the performance of the excellent duties which is the privilege of all to perform. As a single unmanly act soils individual character, so a single unmasonic act drapes the Order. It is the duty of all men, but more especially of Masons, to avoid all of those excesses that interfere with moral advancement. As Masons we have work to accomplish—a destiny to fulfill. The day has long passed for building temples; we no longer engage in material architecture. Our work to-day is of a strictly



moral and intellectual character, but the same unity and oneness of purpose is as necessary to insure success to-day as at any time in the history of our Order. It is our mission to-day to transform the rough into the perfect ashlar, to destroy the distinctions of caste, to annihilate superstition, to promote peace and harmony, and to obtain by a peaceable process a higher standard of social life. We need the powerful influence of association, to-day, to accomplish this. The animosity towards our Order exists to-day, in all its force and activity. We can only contest it successfully by practicing all that we preach. The many strange and interesting mysteries that cluster around our Order are looked upon with suspicion. The outer world knows nothing of the deep undercurrent of purity, fidelity, and charity, that courses through every avenue. Our principles, properly exemplified and practiced, would place us at the head of the column in the army of reform. As Masons, we claim much; much is expected of us. We regard the internal; the world only views the external. May the time speedily come when signs and emblems will not be necessary to designate our membership; when we shall all be known by our upright acts, daily conversation, and by a strict observance of all the tenets of our Order. A pure and unsullied manhood is the proudest distinction on earth; there is no higher honor—no greater glory—than to stand among our fellows as upright men and Masons.

On motion of Past Grand Master Hastings, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be most cordially extended to W.: Bro.: Mark W. Wilcox, Grand Orator, for the interesting and instructive oration delivered by him on this occasion, and that a copy of the same be requested for publication in our proceedings.

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 proposed blank form for a charter, have carefully examined the same, and would recommend that the form, as proposed by the R.: W.: Grand Secretary, be adopted by the Grand Lodge.

ROBERT W. FURNAS,	} Committee on Jurisprudence.
WILLIAM E. HILL,	
ALFRED G. HASTINGS,	

The following report from the committee on Jurisprudence was agreed to:

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

Your committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the M.: W.: Grand Master's address in relation to the organization of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Ontario, beg leave to report the same back to the Grand Lodge, and would recommend that the same, with the accompanying papers, be referred to the committee on Foreign Correspondence.

GEORGE ARMSTRONG,	} Committee on Jurisprudence.
ROBERT W. FURNAS,	
ALFRED G. HASTINGS,	

At the suggestion of the Grand Secretary, and by unanimous consent, section I. of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge was amended by omitting the particular hour at which the annual communications of the Grand Lodge shall be opened.

Bro.: Knapp, chairman of the committee on Accounts, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

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

Your committee to whom was referred the statement of the Grand Secretary's expenditure of three hundred dollars appropriated for incidental expenses at the last communication of this Grand Lodge, do find that the same has been fully expended, as shown by itemized report presented.

W. M. KNAPP,	} Committee.
T. J. FOLEY,	
W. H. PLATT,	

On motion, the Grand Secretary was instructed to draw an order for any balances due Nebraska City Lodge, No. 12, and Lebanon Lodge, No. 58.

On motion of Bro.: Leese, it was ordered that an order be drawn in favor of Bro.: T. W. Redford for \$4.50, the amount due him as per pay-roll of the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

On motion of Bro.: Kaley, the Grand Lodge reconsidered the vote by which was adopted so much of the report of the committee on Grievances as referred to the matter of Lincoln Lodge vs. Bro.: Godfrey (pages 69 and 70, current proceedings). The question of adopting the report of the committee was earnestly discussed. Bro.: Guild moved the adoption of the following resolution instead of the report of the committee:

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge are convinced by the evidence and statements here presented, that in the case of Lincoln Lodge vs. Bro.: Godfrey, charged with unmasonic conduct, the majority of the Lodge, in voting for the acquittal of the defendant, committed a grievous error in so voting.

The resolution of Bro.: Guild was not agreed to, and the report of the committee on Grievances was again adopted as the sense of the Grand Lodge.

Bro.: Knapp, chairman of the committee on Accounts, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

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

Your committee on Accounts, to whom was referred the account of Bro.: L. S. Moe, Custodian of the Second District, for expenses incurred in the discharge of his duties, \$15.00, report the same correct, and recommend that an order be drawn on the Grand Treasurer for the same.

W. M. KNAPP,

J. H. FOXWORTHY,

H. E. PALMER,

*Of the Committee on Accounts.*

On motion of Past Grand Master Wheeler, it was ordered that the existing law, as collated by the special committee, Bro.: Bowen, be printed with the proceedings of this communication.

The following report from the committee on By-Laws of Chartered Lodges was adopted:

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

Your standing committee on By-Laws, to whom was referred the by-laws of Solomon Lodge, No. 10, Peru Lodge, No. 14, Macoy Lodge,

No. 22, St. John's Lodge, No. 25, Gibbon Lodge, No. 46, and Thistle Lodge, No. 61, have had the same under examination, and find them in conformity with masonic law and usage.

Gibbon Lodge, No. 46, having been removed from Gibbon to Kearney, has changed the name from "Gibbon" to "Rob Morris," and ask the approval of this Grand Lodge. We recommend approval.

R. W. FURNAS,  
J. R. McDONALD,  
A. C. HULL,  
EZRA BROWN,  
A. G. HASTINGS,

} Committee on  
By-Laws.

On motion of Past Grand Master Thummel, the thanks of the Grand Lodge were extended to the craftsmen of Omaha for the courteous reception of the members of the Grand Lodge, and for the use of FREEMASONS' HALL.

Whereupon, at eleven o'clock, peace and harmony prevailing, the Grand Lodge was closed.

GEORGE W. LININGER,

*Grand Master.*

*Mr. R. Bowen*

*Grand Secretary.*

## SPECIAL COMMUNICATION.

At two o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 19th, 5877, the M.: W.: the Grand Lodge of Nebraska met in special communication, with the following officers:

M.: W.: GEORGE H. THUMMEL, Grand Master;  
R.: W.: HIRAM C. RIDER, Deputy Grand Master;  
R.: W.: CHARLES F. GOODMAN, Grand Senior Warden;  
R.: W.: EDWARD K. VALENTINE, Grand Junior Warden;  
R.: W.: JAMES W. MOORE, Grand Treasurer;  
R.: W.: WILLIAM R. BOWEN, Grand Secretary;  
V.: W.: IRA N. PARDEE, Grand Chaplain;  
W.: SIDNEY L. F. WARD, Grand Marshal;  
W.: JAMES A. TULLEYS, Grand Senior Deacon;  
W.: WILLIAM H. PLATT, *as* Grand Junior Deacon;  
Bro.: JACOB KING, Grand Tiler.

The craftsmen of Capitol, Covert, and St. John's Lodges, of Omaha, with many sojourning Masons, their families and friends, were assembled in the Lodge-room, whither the Grand Lodge proceeded.

"Hail to the Morning" being sung, the circumambulation was thrice made. Due proclamation being made by the Grand Marshal, the Grand Chaplain read a lesson from the sixth chapter of II. Chronicles; the anthem "Hail Universal Lord" was sung, and, on behalf of the Craft of Omaha, M.: W.: Bro.: George Armstrong requested the Grand Master to dedicate the hall. The architect, Bro.: Alfred Dufrene, returned to the Grand Master the working tools with which he had been entrusted at the laying of the corner-stone, which the Grand Master received in the following words:

## GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

BROTHER ARCHITECT:—Eight months ago I had the pleasure of presenting to you these implements, and entrusting the construction of this edifice to your watchful supervision, and from the time when, at the foundation stone of this building, you received these emblems of operative Masonry until the present, when we are gathered in sight of you all to dedicate this building to the uses and purposes of Freemasonry, have your labors been daily watched, not only by those who were intimately connected with the enterprise of constructing a building that would be, and to-day is, an ornament to the city and a credit to the Fraternity for whose uses it is designed, but those outside of our own immediate brotherhood have beheld with pleasure its daily growth, and look with satisfaction upon its completion; and I assure you that one and all, be he Mason or profane, unite with me in expressing to you the gratification which they feel upon the completion of this structure; and the skill and fidelity displayed in the execution of the trust reposed in you, have secured my approval and the entire approbation of the Grand Lodge, and they sincerely pray that this edifice may continue a lasting monument of the taste, spirit, and liberality of its founders.

And now, my brethren, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, I congratulate you upon the completion of this building, and I trust that your fullest hopes and brightest expectations have been fully realized. Long have you waited for that which to-day you behold as the consummation of your desires—many and many a time have you consulted over the building of this hall; many plans have been discussed, and many a cherished idea has no doubt been given up—and as we to-day assemble all the difficulties that have attended the enterprise are lost sight of, and in the delight occasioned by this event, which witnesses the final success of your labors, all hardships are forgotten and buried in the pleasure the end ever brings. And to those whose hands have been foremost in the work, who had the immediate care of the building, the arrangements of the various parts of the edifice, you should be particularly grateful. The peculiar construction of the several parts of the hall seems admirably suited for that for which it was designed, and certainly reflects much credit on those who had charge of this part of the labor. To those who, by their counsel and advice, have brought these rooms to their present comely proportions, we give all credit.

Brethren, the services we here perform are not unmeaning rites, nor the amusing pageants of an idle hour—their importance is often lightly

esteemed, and soon too often forgotten. Permit me, then, to point out and impress upon your minds some of the ennobling sentiments these ceremonies are so well calculated to convey. This hall, designed and built by wisdom, supported by strength and adorned in beauty, we are first to consecrate in the name of the great Jehovah—who teaches us, in all our works, begun and finished, to acknowledge, adore, and magnify Him. It reminds us, also, in His fear to enter the door of the Lodge, to put our trust in Him while passing its trials, and as we walk through the dark valley and shadow of death, to hope in Him for the reward of our labors.

Let, then, that altar be devoted to His service, and these rooms resound with His praises. May that eye which seeth in secret, here witness that sincere and brotherly love and disinterestedness which withdraws from the engagements of the world to silence and privacy, that it may be exercised with less interruption and less ostentation. Our marches around the Lodge remind us of the travels of human life, in which Masonry shines out as a beacon light, luring us into safe and pleasant paths. Its tessellated pavement of masonic work intimates to us the chequered diversity and uncertainty of human affairs, in which, says one, our step is time, our progression eternity. Following, then, our ancient constitutions with mystic rites and solemn ceremonies, we are to dedicate this hall to Freemasonry, which it is not for me here to specially eulogize. It is our pride that we have our names on its records; may it be our high ambition that they should shed a lustre on the immortal page. The true Mason labors for the benefit of those who are to come after him. All men who desire to live desire to survive their funerals, and to live afterwards in the good that they have done mankind, rather than in the fading characters written in men's memories.

As Freemasonry aims to enliven the spirit of philanthropy, and promote the cause of charity, so we are dedicating this hall to universal benevolence in the assurance that every brother will dedicate his affections and his abilities to the same generous purpose; that while he displays a warm and cordial affection to those who are of the fraternity, he will extend his benevolent regards and good wishes to the whole family of mankind. Masonry requires nothing that is impracticable; but it does require and expect each and every one of us to do something within and according to his means, and there is no one who cannot do something—if not alone, then by combination and association. How often has an act of charity, costing the doer little, given to the

world the benefit of a giant mind? How often has such an act developed the ragged boy into the benefactor of his race! On what small and apparently unimportant circumstances have turned and hinged the fate of the world's great conquerors. The widow's mite may produce as great results as the rich man's costliest offering. The poorest boy helped by benevolence, may come to lead armies, to control senates, to decide on peace and war, to dictate to cabinets, and his magnificent thoughts and noble words may be law many years hereafter to millions of men yet unborn. And thus Masonry can do much, if each Mason be content to do his share, and if their united efforts are directed by wise counsels to the consummation of a common purpose. "It is for God and for Omnipotence to do mighty things in a moment, but by degrees to grow in greatness is the course that He hath left for man." Such, my brethren, is in part the significant meaning of the solemn rites we are here to perform, for they are the peculiar duties of every Lodge and of every Mason. How many pleasing considerations attend the present assembling, while in almost every other association of men, political animosities, contentions, and wars, interrupt the progress of humanity and course of benevolence. It is a distinguished privilege to dwell together in peace, and engage in plans to perfect individual and social happiness. Our private assemblies are unmolested, and our public celebrations attract a more general approbation of the Fraternity.

The present occasion gives fresh evidence of the increasing affection of its friends, and these apartments, fitted up in a style of such elegance and convenience, do honor to Freemasonry, as well as reflect the highest credit on the several Masonic Bodies for whose accommodation and at whose expense it was erected. We commend their zeal, and hope it will meet with the most ample recompense. May this hall be the happy resort of piety, virtue, and benevolence, and may these Lodges continue to flourish, their union to strengthen, and their happiness to abound.

With music the Grand Lodge marched about the hall. The following prayer was then made by the Grand Chaplain:

CONSECRATION PRAYER.

Almighty and ever glorious and gracious Lord God, Creator of all things, and Governor of everything Thou hast made! Mercifully look upon Thy servants now assembled in Thy name and in Thy presence, and bless and prosper all our works begun, continued, and ended in



Thee! Graciously bestow upon us wisdom in all our doings, strength of mind in all our difficulties, and the beauty of harmony and holiness in our communications and work. Let faith be the foundation of our hope, and charity the fruit of our obedience to Thy revealed will!

O! Thou preserver of men! graciously enable us now to dedicate this house which we have erected to the honor and glory of Thy name, and mercifully be pleased to accept this service at our hands.

May all who shall be lawfully appointed to rule herein according to our constitutions, be under Thy special guidance and protection, and faithfully observe and fulfill all their obligations to Thee and to the Lodge!

May all who come within these consecrated walls have but one heart and one mind, to love, to honor, to fear, and to obey Thee, as Thy majesty and unbounded goodness claim; and to love one another as Thou hast loved us! May every discordant passion be here banished from our bosoms! May we here meet in Thy presence as a band of brethren, who were created by the same Almighty parent, are daily sustained by the same beneficent hand, and are traveling the same road to the gates of death! May we here have Thy holy word always present to our mind, and religion, and virtue, love, harmony, and peaceful joy reigning triumphant in our hearts!

May all the proper work of our institution that may be done in this house be such as Thy wisdom may approve, and Thy goodness prosper. And, finally, graciously be pleased, O Thou Sovereign Architect of the Universe, to bless the craft wheresoever dispersed, and make them true and faithful to Thee, to their neighbor, and to themselves. And when the time of our labor is drawing near to an end, and the pillar of our strength is declining to the ground, graciously enable us to pass through the valley of the shadow of death supported by Thy rod and Thy staff, to those mansions beyond the skies, where love, and peace, and joy forever reign before Thy throne—Amen.

The Grand Master, with corn received from the Grand Junior Warden, dedicated the hall to Freemasonry; with wine, received from the Grand Senior Warden, to virtue and science; with oil, received from the Deputy Grand Master, to universal benevolence. An appropriate invocation was made by the Grand Chaplain, and the following address was delivered by Past Grand Master Robert C. Jordan:

## THE ORATION.

*Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren, and Friends:*—To the board of directors of this beautiful and substantial building I am indebted for a special invitation to be present and participate in the festivities of this day. Accompanying the same was a request that I should address the assembled craftsmen, inasmuch as I had, in the early days of Omaha, labored with my brethren in building up our ancient and time-honored institution. This mark of their esteem is highly pleasing to me, and I shall always cherish it with gratitude; but I regret my inability to deliver such an address as the peculiar circumstances of the occasion would seem to demand. Viewing it, however, in the light of a duty which I did not feel at liberty to try to evade, and having in remembrance the many acts of kindness conferred upon me by my fellow craftsmen of this city in days past and gone forever, I will do what I can to entertain you for a few moments, and ask your time and attention to a short historical review of the Masons and Masonry of Omaha twenty years ago and subsequently. Preliminary to this, pardon me for alluding briefly to my own introduction into the Order. It is a matter of history, no doubt well known to most of you, that in the year 1826 occurred what is known as the Morgan excitement. The western part of the state of New York was the scene of the origin of this difficulty. The assertion of the anti-Masons of the day that a man named Morgan had been abducted and made away with by the Masons of that locality, created a perfect storm of excitement that swept over the entire country. I have no doubt that our patriarchal brother, Col. Lorin Miller, who was a young and active Mason at that time, and a witness to many of the scenes and acts of violence occasioned thereby, would hardly content himself with calling it a storm, but more of a tornado or cyclone, and the town where he resided the very centre of it. Following upon this, as a natural result, came a season of twelve to fifteen years of severe calm. Lodges by the hundred became inactive and dormant, a few only keeping alive the fires upon the altars until a bright day should dawn upon the season of darkness. About the year 1840 new signs of life began to exhibit themselves. Increased representation in the Grand Lodges by subordinates in all the states warmed the hearts of the faithful few, who, year after year, from 1826 to 1840, had silently and with heavy hearts attended the annual roll-call at the Grand Lodge headquarters. All honor to their memory and names. During those eventful years, while they were keeping a faithful watch, occurred the most

trying times that have ever befallen our beloved Order since it had an existence. Not only were they called upon to face the fury that raged against the fraternity from without, which in some localities amounted to the risk of a man's life to own or acknowledge that he was a Mason; but they were compelled to witness, in many instances, those with whom they had walked in and out of the Lodge as brethren, and with whom they had taken sweet counsel, assume the traitor's garb, and for the sake of the politician's reward, or the ephemeral flatteries that recompense the sensational preacher, turn their back upon Lodge and companions, and go forth into a world of worse than darkness to them. I never heard of an instance of reconciliation and return of one of the unfortunates. With the year 1840 began the great revival in Masonry, which continued through the succeeding ten years. During this interval, in 1846, it became my privilege to be enlisted under the banners of the Order, receiving the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason's degrees in Aurora Lodge, No. 48, under the Grand Lodge of Ohio, the preparatory degrees and exaltation in Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 23, during the following year, and the Orders of Knighthood in July, 1848, in Chillicothe Commandery, No. 9. In these bodies were young and congenial brethren and companions. My tastes were more than suited. My love for the Order increased with each unfolding of this, to me, beautiful panorama, and my official promotion was as rapid as I could have desired. This continued until my removal to Nebraska, in 1857.

On the 15th of April of that year I arrived in Omaha, having had my attention called to this place through my friend and brother, Past Grand Master Armstrong, whose friendship and acquaintance I had enjoyed in my native state previous to coming here.

As I was careful to bring my masonic enthusiasm with me to this new country, I was not long in discovering that a Lodge—Capitol, No. 3—had been organized a short time previous to my arrival. This was welcome news to me. Within a few days after my arrival a meeting of the Lodge was held, which I attended, and among those present I recall the names of Sahler, as Master, Shields, as Senior Warden, and Dodd, as Junior Warden; and of the brethren, Armstrong, Demarest, Thrall, A. G. Clarke, Bovey, Manning, Wood, Rogers, Porter, Hamilton, Gilmore, and Lorin Miller. The Lodge met in an unplastered room in the third story of one of the Pioneer block stores. The jewels and furniture were of the most primitive kind. The floor was carpeted with saw-dust, and while I mention this humble beginning of this now strong and powerful

Lodge in no spirit of "despising the day of small things," I was forcibly impressed with the fact that I was in a new country.

Omaha at that time was a little, new, western village, with a population of twelve or fifteen hundred inhabitants, and the Lodge fixtures compared favorably with everything else about the town; but while the costly jewels and gorgeous paraphernalia of the older and wealthier Lodges in the east were absent at that meeting, there were present the great essentials, viz: the lawful authority to assemble, the three great lights, and the constitutional number of earnest, warm-hearted, and harmonious brethren. Thus I found them, and during all the intercourse of after years I cannot bring to mind a single instance where this harmony was disturbed between them and myself.

In reviewing the matters of interest occurring in the first year of Capitol Lodge, in order to attain anything like accuracy, I find it necessary to consult the records of those times, which I am enabled to do through the kindness and courtesy of Brother Grand Secretary Bowen. The brethren heretofore mentioned, who organized Capitol Lodge, received their authority to meet and conduct the business of a regular Lodge from the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Their first meeting was held on the 26th of January, 1857. Their organization was completed on that evening, and I noticed among the visitors recorded the names of W. R. Thrall, A. McElwee, W. E. Moore, and J. W. Pattison, all well and favorably known in those days. The next meeting is dated January 29th, which appears to have been simply a business meeting for the adoption of by-laws, and the appointing of committees to procure the necessary books and other wants of the Lodge. A meeting held on the 2d of February appears to be the first at which petitions were received for membership and initiation. Among the visitors recorded this evening are C. Hurlburt and E. V. Smith. By-laws were adopted at a business meeting held February 11th. The committee appointed on by-laws at a previous meeting appear to have recommended the adoption bodily — with a few necessary alterations of a local nature — of those of Hope Lodge, No. 144, state of New York. They give no reasons for not compiling a set of their own laws; but as the male population generally at that day was engaged in looking after cheap corner lots to sell at a high price, possibly the committee had no time. A meeting held March 2d appears to have been one full of business and of unusual interest. Several persons who had petitioned at a former meeting were elected to the Entered Apprentice degree, the candidate initiated being Mr. John

Reck, who died a few years after. The Fellow Craft degree appears to have been for the first time conferred at a meeting held April 7th, Bro. H. C. Andrews being the candidate.

At a meeting on the 19th of April (the first which I attended), among the visiting brethren recorded are C. A. Henry, C. H. Rider, R. C. Jordan, Jesse Bain, and S. Brandenburg. At this, and a subsequent meeting, held May 4th, the principal business recorded is the receiving of petitions and balloting for candidates.

The next recorded meeting, May 11th, is one of more than ordinary importance. By invitation of the Master, Bro.: John H. Sahler, I conferred the Master's degree on Bro.: H. C. Anderson, a Fellow Craft who had been elected at a previous meeting. This was the first time it had been conferred in Omaha. I remember well of feeling the honor of having that privilege at the time, and, as the years continue to roll on, it has rather increased than diminished. I might continue this to a length that would be both tedious and uninteresting, but have thought it of sufficient interest to you to record the conferring of the three degrees on the first candidate for each. Meetings at proper intervals occurred during the summer, transacting the usual legal business of a masonic Lodge. About the 1st of July, 1857, a charter was received from the Grand Lodge of Iowa, in lieu of the dispensation they had been working under. An election of officers, under the charter, resulted in the choice of Bro.: George Armstrong as Master, and Bros.: C. W. Hamilton and J. H. Dodd as the Wardens. The acting Deputy Grand Master of Illinois, Bro.: Buck, being present at the time, installed the new officers. Having secured a charter, and the Lodge at Bellevue also having just received one from the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and the Lodge at Nebraska City one from the Grand Lodge of Illinois, making three chartered Lodges in the territory, and the legal number requisite to form a Grand Lodge, a spirit to be self-sustaining and independent of other jurisdictions prevailed among the leading brethren of the different Lodges, which resulted in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on the 23d of September, 1857.

The Grand Lodge was organized in this city, and in the same unpretending Lodge rooms heretofore described, but as its proceedings are published, and in easy reach of any one desiring further information in regard to it, I shall omit any further reference to its proceedings. Having our own authority to constitute Lodges now fully established, brethren from Brownville, Plattsmouth, and other towns, soon availed them-

selves of the rights and privileges, and the growth of twenty years exhibits the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to the world as a healthy, vigorous body, with about seventy Lodges under its jurisdiction, with a membership of fully three thousand. With the growth of this city, and the remarkable growth of Capitol Lodge, in due course of time, a number of brethren, believing the good of the Order required the establishing of other Lodges, Covert Lodge, No. 11, was organized in 1866, and St. Johns Lodge, No. 25, in 1869, both of which have grown far beyond the expectations of those who were instrumental in their formation.

In the year 1859, a number of Royal Arch Masons residing in Omaha, who had been deprived of Chapter privileges since their removal here, petitioned the General Grand Chapter for a dispensation empowering them to open and form a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the city of Omaha. The dispensation was granted, and Omaha Chapter, No. 1, was duly set to labor in November of that year. There was a rapid increase in membership, and this body has now grown to be a tower of strength in Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction.

In 1865 the city had begun to assume the name and proportions of a metropolis—a small one at least—and a metropolis without a Commandery of Knights Templar, if not a disgrace to the Order, was something to be tolerated no longer. Accordingly the representatives hailing from the different jurisdictions, Sir Knights R. W. Furnas and G. B. Graff, of Columbia Commandery, Washington, D. C., Herman Kountze, of Massillon Commandery, No. 4, and your humble servant, of Chillicothe Commandery, No. 9, state of Ohio, petitioned the Most Eminent B. B. French, Grand Master of the Orders, for a special dispensation empowering them to confer the orders on a sufficient number to enable them to petition regularly for the establishment of a Commandery of Knights Templar and appendant Orders in this city, to be known and styled as Mount Calvary, No. 1. The special dispensation was duly granted, and the orders conferred on a constitutional number, and in October, 1865, the Commandery was regularly organized under its charter, and the officers installed by Sir Knight Belt, of Missouri, he being specially deputed by the Grand Master for that purpose. The condition of this Commandery, its strength of numbers, and the high character and respectability of its members is so well known, it is not necessary for me to say anything more in its praise, even if good taste permitted it.

In regard to the Council of Royal and Select Masters, although I was present at its organization, and am still a member of it, I know least of its history of any of the masonic bodies now at work in this city, but I am informed that it has done a large amount of work, and it equally as prosperous as any of the other sister organizations.

And now, my brethren, in conclusion, I feel that I have trespassed sufficiently upon your time; but I cannot close without offering congratulations upon the high and proud position you now occupy. It is apparent to all that a marked degree of prosperity has attended your every effort from the humble beginning in the plainly furnished room in 1857, down to the finished cap-stone of this beautiful temple which you have just dedicated and are now to make your future home. With these high favors and great privileges will come more and mightier duties to fulfill and perform. Let not pride of position make you forget that there is still in this world of sorrow the widow and fatherless to protect and support, the hungry to be fed, the naked to clothe, and the wounds of affliction to bind up. Ours is confessedly a benevolent institution. If these duties be neglected and forgotten, and you think and live only for the high and proud position to which you have attained, your charity will be as the sounding brass or the tinkling cymbal, and the world, which can only judge us by our outward acts, will be swift to visit upon us its judgment and condemnation for our faithlessness.

In again thanking you for your kind invitation to be present with you on this occasion, I wish to say it is a source of inestimable pleasure and satisfaction to me to be with you to-day, and speak of the early days of Masonry in Omaha, but I cannot repress a feeling of melancholy and sadness, when I scan the list of names and see the number who have passed from view in these short twenty years. Some have removed to distant lands, and united their interests with people who are strangers to us; others—and, alas, how many in so short a time—have been cut down by the grim tyrant death, and are sleeping in yonder silent city of the dead; let us cherish their memories with increased affection; and one by one as we obey the summons and go from our labors on earth to experience the realities of the unseen world beyond the grave, may those who are left behind, while shedding a tear of sympathy, think only of the good deeds of the departed, covering all errors and weaknesses with the mantle of charity and brotherly love.

At the conclusion of the oration, the "Arion Quartette" sang very effectively, the beautiful anthem, "Consolation;" after which the Grand Chaplain made the following benediction:

Blessed be the Lord, who hath given rest unto His people. The Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers; let Him not leave us nor forsake us. Incline our hearts unto Him, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, and His statutes, and His judgments, which He has commanded. And now—the only One, Eternal Jehovah, descend by Thy glory and fill this newly dedicated temple—Amen.

A collection was made for distressed Masons, and with music the Grand Lodge retired and was closed.



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

GRAND LODGE.	REPRESENTATIVE.	ADDRESS.	Date of Appointment.
Alabama.....	Palmer J. Pillaus.....	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.....
Connecticut.....	Joseph K. Wheeler.....	Hartford.....	April 9, 1877.....
Delaware.....	Daniel McClintock.....	Wilmington.....	December 11, 1869.....
District of Columbia.....	John H. Russell.....	Washington.....	September 22, 1869.....
Florida.....	William A. McLean.....	Jacksonville.....	February 12, 1877.....
Georgia.....	Joseph E. Wells.....	Macon.....	September 22, 1869.....
Idaho.....	Barton R. Hughes.....	Pioneerville.....	February 12, 1877.....
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.....	.....
Manitoba.....	Irwin Duffin.....	Winnipeg.....	April 14, 1877.....
Maryland.....	Edward J. Appelt.....	.....	.....
Michigan.....	Abraham T. Metcalf.....	Kalamazoo.....	January 17, 1874.....
Minnesota.....	J. E. Finch.....	Hastings.....	.....
Missouri.....	Charles F. Vogel.....	St. Louis.....	June 3, 1877.....
Montana.....	Henry M. Parchen.....	Helena.....	April 9, 1877.....
Nevada.....	Charles E. Laughton.....	.....	November 20, 1876.....
New Brunswick.....	William Wedderburn.....	St. John.....	January 1, 1873.....
New Jersey.....	Charles Bechtel.....	Trenton.....	September 22, 1869.....
New York.....	Robert M. C. Graham.....	New York City.....	April 9, 1877.....
Nova Scotia.....	George Frazier.....	Halifax.....	.....
North Carolina.....	James B. Batchelor.....	Raleigh.....	.....
Ohio.....	Robert Gwynn.....	.....	.....
Prince Edwards Isl'd.....	John Muirhead.....	Charlottetown.....	March 21, 1877.....
Rhode Island.....	Edward L. Freeman.....	Providence.....	April 17, 1877.....
South Carolina.....	Augustine T. Smythe.....	Charleston.....	March 20, 1877.....
Tennessee.....	James O'Connor.....	.....	.....
Texas.....	Joseph D. Sayers.....	Bastrop Co.....	March 20, 1877.....
Utah.....	Thomas E. Clohecy.....	Salt Lake City.....	November 3, 1875.....
Washington Terr'ty.....	James Biles.....	Turnwater.....	June 3, 1873.....
West Virginia.....	B. F. Martin.....	Pruntytown.....	.....
Wisconsin.....	Menich P. Wing.....	La Crosse.....	April 9, 1877.....
Wyoming.....	William G. Tonn.....	Evanston.....	March 20, 1877.....

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.	Date of Appointment.
Alabama.....	James W. Chaddock.....	Nebraska City.....	September 22, 1869.
British Columbia.....	William Adair.....	Dakota City.....	May 12, 1873.
California.....	Orasmus H. Irish.....	Nebraska City.....	May 20, 1874.
Canada.....	Robert C. Jordan.....	Grand Island.....	.....
Colorado.....	Josiah B. Redfield.....	Omaha.....	May 11, 1874.
Connecticut.....	Alfred G. Hastings.....	Lincoln.....	February 20, 1877.
Delaware.....	Edwin A. Allen.....	Omaha.....	December 1, 1869.
District of Columbia.....	Charles F. Catlin.....	Omaha.....	September 18, 1869.
Florida.....	Hiram C. Rider.....	Crete.....	February 1, 1877.
Georgia.....	H. O. Hanna.....	Falls City.....	September 15, 1869.
Idaho.....	James A. Tulleys.....	Red Cloud.....	February 1, 1877.
Illinois.....	George H. Thumme.....	Grand Island.....	September 2, 1892.
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.
Manitoba.....	Edwin F. Warren.....	Nebraska City.....	March 24, 1877.
Maryland.....	George Armstrong.....	Omaha.....	February 2, 1877.
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. Burke.....	Nebraska City.....	December 31, 1769.
Montana.....	Charles F. Goodman.....	Omaha.....	March 21, 1877.
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.....	.....
Prince Edwards Isl'd.....	William H. Platt.....	Grand Island.....	February 19, 1877.
Rhode Island.....	William M. Knapp.....	York.....	April 9, 1877.
South Carolina.....	George C. Belts.....	Omaha.....	October 22, 1869.
Tennessee.....	J. N. Wise.....	Plattsmouth.....	June 24, 1869.
Texas.....	Martin Dunham.....	Omaha.....	February 22, 1877.
Utah.....	George B. Graff.....	Omaha.....	December 5, 1872.
Vermont.....	William R. Bowen.....	Omaha.....	June 13, 1877.
Virginia.....	William E. Hill.....	Nebraska City.....	February 3, 1877.
Washington Territory.....	Charles A. Holmes.....	Tecumseh.....	February 15, 1877.
West Virginia.....	H. T. Davis.....	Lincoln.....	October 12, 1866.
Wisconsin.....	Alexander Atkinson.....	Omaha.....	January 29, 1877.
Wyoming.....	Rolland H. Oakley.....	Lincoln.....	March 7, 1877.

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.....	Eli Harrison, Jr.....	Victoria.....
California.....	Alex. G. Abell.....	San Francisco.....
Canada.....	J. J. Mason.....	Hamilton, Ontario.....
Colorado.....	Edward C. Parmalee.....	Georgetown.....
Connecticut.....	Joseph K. Wheeler.....	Hartford.....
Dakota.....	W. E. Caton.....	Elk Point.....
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 Hinrod.....	Boise City.....
Illinois.....	John F. Burrill.....	Springfield.....
Indiana.....	John M. Bramwell.....	Indianapolis.....
Indian Territory.....	Rufus P. Jones.....	Caddo Choctaw Nation.....
Iowa.....	Theodore S. Parvin.....	Iowa City.....
Kansas.....	John H. Brown.....	Wyandotte.....
Kentucky.....	Hiram Bassett.....	Millersburg.....
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.....	John W. Luke.....	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.....		
New Jersey.....	Joseph Hough.....	Trenton.....
New Mexico.....	David J. Miller.....	Santa Fe.....
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 Thomson.....	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.....	William B. Isaacs.....	Richmond.....
Washington Territory.....	Thomas M. Reed.....	Olympia.....
West Virginia.....	Odell S. Long.....	Wheeling.....
Wisconsin.....	John W. Woodhull.....	Milwaukee.....
Wyoming.....	William G. Tonn.....	Evanston.....



# RETURNS OF LODGES

FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, A. L. 5877.

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

---

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

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

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

### OFFICERS.

William F. Martin, Master.	Wm. S. Robertson, Secretary.
F. E. Caldwell, Senior Warden.	M. B. Thompson, Senior Deacon.
George Johnson, Junior Warden.	Wm. F. Hogaboon, Junior Deacon.
J. Slothower, Treasurer.	L. H. Case, Tiler.

---

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

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

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

### OFFICERS.

Edward F. Thorpe, Master.	J. J. Hochstetler, Secretary.
Edwin F. Warren, Senior Warden.	J. C. Watson, Senior Deacon.
A. M. Smith, Junior Warden.	T. S. Jones, Junior Deacon.
Wm. E. Hill, Treasurer.	C. B. Rickel, Tiler.

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

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

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

## OFFICERS.

George W. Lininger, Master.	Lewis H. Rheem, Senior Deacon.
Stephen K. Jackson, Senior Warden.	Parley M. Hartson, Junior Deacon.
Seth T. Cole, Junior Warden.	John J. Moncll, Jr., Sen. Steward.
Charles F. Goodman, Treasurer.	Louis H. Korty, Junior Steward.
Wm. R. Bowen, Secretary.	Jacob King, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Third Thursday in each month.

## OFFICERS.

Robert W. Furnas, Master.	A. R. Davidson, Senior Deacon.
J. C. McNaughton, Senior Warden.	Charles Neidhart, Junior Deacon.
Philip Crowther, Junior Warden.	M. A. Handley, Senior Steward.
Joseph L. Roy, Treasurer.	W. H. McInish, Junior Steward.
Robert Teare, Secretary.	David Campbell, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday on or before full moon.

## OFFICERS.

William Adair, Master.	John P. Bayha, Secretary.
William C. McBeath, Sen. Warden.	Geo. W. Wilkinson, Sen. Deacon.
William Cheney, Junior Warden.	Frederick J. Reitz, Junior Deacon.
John P. Eckert, Treasurer.	Sylvanus Hardin, Tiler.

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

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

## OFFICERS.

Francis E. White, Master.	Samuel S. Hinkle, Senior Deacon.
J. Finley Johnson, Senior Warden.	John Beverage, Junior Deacon.
Julius Poppenberg, Junior Warden.	Philip H. Williams, Sen. Steward.
John W. Marshall, Treasurer.	A. D. Despaine, Junior Steward.
Daniel H. Wheeler, Secretary.	James Pailing, Tiler.

## SUMMIT LODGE, NO. 7, PARKVILLE, COLORADO.

(Transferred to Grand Lodge of Colorado.)

## DECATUR LODGE, NO. 7, DECATUR.

(Charter surrendered.)

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN LODGE, NO. 8, GOLD HILL, COLORADO.

(Transferred to Grand Lodge of Colorado.)

## COLUMBUS LODGE, NO. 8, COLUMBUS.

(Charter surrendered.)

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

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

## OFFICERS.

James R. Cain, Master.	William S. Stretch, Secretary.
Charles L. Metz, Senior Warden.	Ezra C. Metz, Senior Deacon.
Robt. L. Henderson, Junior Warden.	Casper Gardner, Junior Deacon.
George L. Blackburn, Treasurer.	John Fikes, Tiler.

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

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

## OFFICERS.

John B. Kuony, Master.	Newton Clark, Secretary.
Edwin N. Grenell, Senior Warden.	Allen Craig, Senior Deacon.
James S. Riddell, Junior Warden.	Elam Clark, Junior Deacon.
Jacob P. Andrews, Treasurer	Henry Schutt, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Wednesday of each month.

SEAL.—The Mosaic pavement.

## OFFICERS.

Washington I. Baker, Master.	James S. France, Senior Deacon.
George Patterson, Senior Warden.	Peter M. Lee, Junior Deacon.
John Steffen, Junior Warden.	George H. Peterson, Sen. Steward.
Christian Hartman, Treasurer.	Charles H. Platz, Junior Steward.
James Morris, Secretary.	John Leonard, Tiler.

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

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

OFFICERS.

Edwin R. Richardson, Master.	John Adle, Secretary.
J. R. Northcutt, Senior Warden.	George L. Woolsey, Senior Deacon.
D. R. Thompson, Junior Warden.	Wm. C. Wellman, Junior Deacon.
Andrew Woolsey, Treasurer.	Charles B. Bickel, Tiler.

---

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Monday on or before full moon.

OFFICERS.

Tyler C. Hoyt, Master.	David Randolph, Secretary.
Z. J. Parsons, Senior Warden.	George Bowker, Senior Deacon.
Miles D. Simpson, 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 each full moon.

OFFICERS.

D. C. Cole, Master.	B. W. Knott, Secretary.
J. H. F. Scott, Senior Warden.	John H. Miller, Senior Deacon.
Thomas S. Horn, Junior Warden.	N. D. Pierce, Junior Deacon.
John W. Swan, Treasurer.	Jacob Zarnig, Tiler.

---

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

REGULAR MEETING.—First Tuesday in each month.

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

OFFICERS.

Arundel C. Hull, Master.	George Porter, Senior Deacon.
A. S. Foster, Senior Warden.	Evan Caldwell, Junior Deacon.
Carl A. Fried, Junior Warden.	Ezra M. Collins, Senior Steward.
Ferdinand Jenewein, Treasurer.	William Fried, Junior Steward.
D. T. Newton, Secretary.	Joel A. Green, 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.

William R. Spicknall, Master.	Chas. A. Holmes, Senior Deacon.
Alexander Stewart, Senior Warden.	H. J. Curtis, Junior Deacon.
Robert G. Work, Junior Warden.	Philander Cody, Senior Steward.
Joseph W. Buffum, Treasurer.	Thomas Moore, Junior Steward.
William L. Dunlap, Secretary.	J. J. Smith, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Friday in each month.

## OFFICERS.

Charles N. Folsom, Master.	Thos. Johnson, Senior Deacon.
S. H. Nickols, Senior Warden.	John Simington, Junior Deacon.
E. M. Park, Junior Warden.	I. L. Simington, Senior Steward.
Henry Johnson, Treasurer.	Caleb A. Miller, Junior Steward.
Herbert A. Alden, Secretary.	George H. Clark, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—First Tuesday of each month.

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

## OFFICERS.

Rolland H. Oakley, Master.	D. A. Cline, Senior Deacon.
J. H. Foxworthy, Senior Warden.	Virgil H. Young, Junior Deacon.
J. McConnell, Junior Warden.	Alfred Keenes, Senior Steward.
C. M. Leighton, Treasurer.	H. Kirkpatrick, Junior Steward.
W. H. H. Moore, Secretary.	John McClelland, Tiler.

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

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

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

## OFFICERS.

S. C. Patterson, Master.	Michael Archer, Secretary.
R. H. Fitch, Senior Warden.	G. W. Shrader, Senior Deacon.
W. H. Smith, Junior Warden.	S. A. Walker, Junior Deacon.
S. M. Patterson, Treasurer.	Howard Allen, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Tuesday in each month.

## OFFICERS.

William H. Palmer, Master.	Ed. C. Jackson, Senior Deacon.
Richard Albery, Senior Warden.	Felix R. Davis, Junior Deacon.
Chas. H. Welland, Junior Warden.	Wm. L. Handy, Senior Steward.
Frederick W. Kenney, Treasurer.	Julius Keigler, Junior Steward.
Orange V. Palmer, Secretary.	Henry Newell, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Fridays in 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.	Fred. Fredrickson, Senior Deacon.
Henry E. Palmer, Senior Warden.	Peter Merges, Junior Deacon.
Rasmus Pedersen, Junior Warden.	Wm. Darrah, Senior Steward.
Alfred M. White, Treasurer.	William H. Baker, Jun. Steward.
John A. MacMurphy, Secretary.	Andrew Johnson, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Tuesday preceding each full moon.

## OFFICERS.

Joseph L. Edwards, Master.	Augustus E. Hassler, Secretary.
Ronald A. Kennedy, Senior Warden.	Saml. H. Cummins, Senior Deacon.
Geo. W. Hackenberg, Jun. Warden.	Jos. N. Plummer, Junior Deacon.
Samuel S. Shannon, Treasurer.	Wilsey C. Lane, Tiler.

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

(Charter arrested.)

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

REGULAR MEETING.—First Thursday in each month.

SEAL.—A quatre foil, 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.

John G. Taylor, Master.	Chas. P. Needham, Senior Deacon.
Jas. B. Bruner, Senior Warden.	Patrick Coyle, Junior Deacon.
Thomas Nolan, Junior Warden.	Geo. E. Stratman, Senior Steward.
John G. Jacobs, Treasurer.	Albert H. Dailey, Junior Steward.
E. E. French, Secretary.	Adam Bell, Tiler.

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

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

SEAL.—Letter "G;" motto, Faith, Hope, and Charity.

## OFFICERS.

Hiram P. Webb, Master.	Leonard W. Colby, Senior Deacon.
Chas. W. Palmer, Senior Warden.	Joseph Yohe, Junior Deacon.
Jesse Richards, Junior Warden.	Wm. H. Lamb, Senior Steward.
William Lamb, Treasurer.	Eugene Mock, Junior Steward.
Andrew J. Pethoud, Secretary.	Peter Shafer, Tiler.

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

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

## OFFICERS.

E. N. Sweet, Master.	James McLaughlin, Secretary.
John H. Mockett, Senior Warden.	Frederick Leffert, Senior Deacon.
W. E. Krause, Junior Warden.	Irwin B. Doolittle, Junior Deacon.
F. W. Ragoss, Treasurer.	Moses Herner, Tiler.

## WYOMING LODGE, NO. 28, SOUTH PASS CITY, WYOMING.

(Transferred to Grand Lodge of Wyoming.)

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

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

## OFFICERS.

John P. King, Master.	John Culp, Senior Deacon.
Van Ness Griffin, Senior Warden.	Louis Neal, Junior Deacon.
L. M. Weddell, Junior Warden.	A. L. P. Thompson, Senior Steward.
John H. Shook, Treasurer.	H. A. Brand, Junior Steward.
James H. Overman, Secretary.	James Woolf, 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 Courtright, Senior Warden.	Hiram H. Brisbin, Junior Deacon.
A. B. Stephens, Junior Warden.	Samuel H. Briggs, Senior Steward.
Daniel H. Harris, Treasurer.	James H. Carter, Junior Steward.
John B. Ira, Secretary.	Abram Courtright, Tiler.

---

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

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Wednesday evenings in each month.

## OFFICERS.

Melvin R. Hopewell, Master.	M. H. Morehouse, Senior Deacon.
J. R. Reed, Senior Warden.	Jas. E. Hildreth, Junior Deacon.
J. C. Laughlin, Junior Warden.	Franklin Force, Senior Steward.
Jas. R. Sutherland, Treasurer.	Wm. I. Pierce, Junior Steward.
William B. White, Secretary.	Charles H. Barnes, Tiler.

---

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Tuesday evening in each month.

## OFFICERS.

Anthony Ries, Master.	Henry I. Clark, Senior Deacon.
T. J. Foley, Senior Warden.	Theodore W. Bye, Junior Deacon.
A. Struthers, Junior Warden.	Jonathan Rogers, Senior Steward.
Chas. McDonald, Treasurer.	Beach J. Hinman, Junior Steward.
Samuel Goozee, Secretary.	Albert Marsh, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Second Thursday in each month.

SEAL.—The letter "G."

## OFFICERS.

William H. Platt, Master.	Edward B. Hirst, Senior Deacon.
Blake C. Howard, Senior Warden.	Benjamin Parry, Junior Deacon.
D. A. Kernan, Jr., Junior Warden.	Jas. Michelson, Senior Steward.
Ludwig Engle, Treasurer.	C. P. B. Williams, Junior Steward.
Charles Howell, Secretary.	Henry P. Meakley, Tiler.

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

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

SEAL.—A sprig of acacia.

## OFFICERS.

John H. Wheeler, Master.	Chas. J. Phelps, Senior Deacon.
Wm. H. Sumner, Senior Warden.	Jas. W. Munroe, Junior Deacon.
John Miller, Junior Warden.	George H. Wells, Senior Steward.
Frank Falkner, Treasurer.	E. E. Greenman, Junior Steward.
Homer Holcomb, Secretary.	James Hughes, Tiler.

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

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

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

## OFFICERS.

George Cross, Master.	J. C. Houghton, Senior Deacon.
F. A. Morey, Senior Warden.	J. H. Smith, Junior Deacon.
Robert Christian, Junior Warden.	A. Benedict, Senior Steward.
R. A. Kennedy, Treasurer.	E. A. Littlefield, Tiler.
B. F. Rawalt, Secretary.	

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

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

SEAL.—The square and compasses, with letter "G" in centre, over a tree growing.

## OFFICERS.

Newton R. Persinger, Master.	Henry Walters, Senior Deacon.
Joseph B. White, Senior Warden.	James Dunnovan, Junior Deacon.
Julius E. Wilder, Junior Warden.	Wm. H. Crits, Senior Steward.
James Verrigg, Treasurer.	David Thomas, Junior Steward.
Bell E. Berryman, Secretary.	Thomas Matthews, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—First Friday of each month.

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

## OFFICERS.

R. L. Cornwall, Master.	Robert Armstrong, Senior Deacon
Jacob Bigler, Senior Warden.	C. A. Caldwell, Junior Deacon.
Geo. H. Hastings, Junior Warden.	John P. Clarey, Senior Steward.
W. T. Buchanan, Treasurer.	John Lanham, Junior Steward.
H. M. Wells, Secretary.	E. B. Quigley, Tiler.

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

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

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

## OFFICERS.

William H. Leese, Master.	Thomas E. Sanders, Secretary.
Horace A. Scott, Senior Warden.	Wm. Clemmons, Senior Deacon.
F. W. Redford, Junior Warden.	Wm. Doncaster, Junior Deacon.
Lloyd G. Johns, Treasurer.	Christopher W. Bradman, Tiler.

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

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

SEAL.—A level, crossed by a square, centre to centre—erect.

## OFFICERS.

S. B. Knapp, Master.	J. D. Patterson, Secretary.
J. C. Miller, Senior Warden.	George Wolf, Senior Deacon.
H. R. Platt, Junior Warden.	Charles Duby, Junior Deacon.
D. L. Carpenter, Treasurer.	Ole Bergstrom, Tiler.

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

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

## OFFICERS.

Spencer M. Hillebert, Master.	Wm. P. Mitchell, Senior Deacon.
William W. Turk, Senior Warden.	Charles E. Nims, Junior Deacon.
Edgar S. Norton, Junior Warden.	E. P. Stephens, Senior Steward.
William H. Nims, Treasurer.	Christian Rist, Junior Steward.
William T. White, Secretary.	Albert M. Gentry, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Wednesday on or before each full moon.

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

OFFICERS.

A. C. Toner, Master.	F. A. Frost, Secretary.
S. B. Muchmore, Senior Warden.	A. R. Pray, Senior Deacon.
C. L. Lamb, Junior Warden.	J. J. Hopper, Junior Deacon.
Julius Pessneecker, Treasurer.	James McKinney, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Monday evening on before each full moon.

OFFICERS.

Barnabas E. Swift, Master.	Ira G. Dillon, Senior Deacon.
Henry A. Guild, Senior Warden.	Daniel H. Freeman, Junior Deacon.
Enos J. Hanchett, Junior Warden.	Charles R. Jones, Senior Steward.
Pliny Allen, Treasurer.	Hillery 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.

William J. Hanna, Master.	John W. Hughes, Senior Deacon.
Eugene B. Appelget, Senior Warden.	Isadore Ebert, Junior Deacon.
Erasmus M. Correll, Junior Warden.	Benj. F. Berkly, Senior Steward.
Charles B. Coon, Treasurer.	John G. Rice, Junior Steward.
Walter J. Thompson, Secretary.	John M. Fitchpatrick, Tiler.

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

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

OFFICERS.

Ezra Brown, Master.	Wilbur Allen, Senior Deacon.
Levi B. Munger, Senior Warden.	Saml. C. Sloat, Junior Deacon.
Wm. A. Farmer, Junior Warden.	Chas. D. Moore, Senior Steward.
John D. Rain, Treasurer.	W. Jay Turner, Junior Steward.
George W. Howard, Secretary.	Lester Webster, Tiler.

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

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

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, All-Seeing Eye, radiant.

## OFFICERS.

William S. White, Master.	W. Durant Page, Secretary.
J. Oscar Moore, Senior Warden.	Dwight Wait, Senior Deacon.
Samuel S. Seely, Junior Warden.	David H. Moore, Junior Deacon.
Isaac N. Foster, Treasurer.	Joseph Rudge, Tiler.

## ROB MORRIS LODGE, NO. 46, KEARNEY, 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.

Enoch B. Carter, Master.	Christ. Putnam, Senior Deacon.
Sylv. S. St. John, Senior Warden.	Douglass Westervelt, Jun. Deacon.
Daniel A. Dorsey, Junior Warden.	Frederic J. Switz, Senior Steward.
Simon C. Ayer, Treasurer.	Thomas Downing, Jun. Steward.
Charles P. Edwards, Secretary.	John J. Marrs, Tiler.

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

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

## OFFICERS.

George W. Pampel, Master.	Cassius C. Kenney, Secretary.
John E. Ashley, Senior Warden.	Richard Burge, Senior Deacon.
Myron H. Felt, Junior Warden.	John Reynard, Junior Deacon.
George 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.	Virgil A. Stuart, Junior Warden.
Clarence C. Chapin, Senior Warden.	D. A. Phillips, Secretary.



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

REGULAR MEETINGS.—Second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month.

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

## OFFICERS.

Albert K. Marsh, Master.	John C. Merrill, Senior Deacon.
G. H. Van Duyne, Senior Warden.	Geo. F. Dickson, Junior Deacon.
Chas. M. Turner, Junior Warden.	A. Burlingame, Senior Steward.
Isaac M. Clark, Treasurer.	Jas. Thompson, Junior Steward.
Jas. J. Melvin, Secretary.	Albert Tooker, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETINGS.—The Saturday evening on or before 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.

Emanuel Steinau, Master.	Clement C. Forgey, Senior Deacon.
Geo. H. Pratt, Senior Warden.	T. H. Urquhart, Junior Deacon.
Jehial P. Farr, Junior Warden.	E. D. Stoddard, Senior Steward.
Chas. K. Lawson, Treasurer.	Thos. N. White, Junior Steward.
Thos. J. Pardoe, Secretary.	Frederick J. Benedict, Tiler.

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

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

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

## OFFICERS.

Frederick E. Wilson, Master.	Seth Raymond, Senior Deacon.
C. C. Cook, Senior Warden.	Chas. B. Churchill, Junior Deacon.
Joseph L. Cyphers, Junior Warden.	A. H. Jones, Senior Steward.
William Duncan, Treasurer.	Sumner Darnall, Junior Steward.
Benj. F. Rolph, Secretary.	Geo. W. Darnall, Tiler.

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

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

SEAL.—The plumb.

## OFFICERS.

Peter Hammany, Master.	Wm. V. Miller, Secretary.
Jos. C. Blackburn, Senior Warden.	Samuel G. Glover, Senior Deacon.
Wm. R. Turner, Junior Warden.	John Hammany, Junior Deacon.
Luther P. Jenks, Treasurer.	John W. Hamilton, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—Friday evening on or before each full moon.

SEAL.—An open hand.

## OFFICERS.

Isaiah B. Hampton, Master.	Chas. W. Kaley, Secretary.
Henry S. Kaley, Senior Warden.	Jas. Calvert, Senior Deacon.
George W. Ball, Junior Warden.	Ira Sleeper, Junior Deacon.
Edmund B. Smith, Treasurer.	Edward Kellogg, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETING.—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.

Benjamin Crabb, Master.	L. C. Burr, Senior Deacon.
Paren England, Senior Warden.	T. S. Ganter, Junior Deacon.
Chas. W. Carter, Junior Warden.	C. W. Willard, Senior Steward.
C. C. White, Treasurer.	R. B. Tursey, Junior Steward.
Isaac Oppenheimer, Secretary.	John McClelland, Tiler.

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

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

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

## OFFICERS.

Lewis F. Taylor, Master.	Fred. E. Hardy, Senior Deacon.
C. P. Mathewson, Senior Warden.	W. H. Widaman, Junior Deacon.
Wm. H. Long, Junior Warden.	Alexander Beor, Senior Steward.
Chas. Eble, Treasurer.	A. N. McGuinnis, Junior Steward.
D. R. Daniel, Secretary.	Joseph Morton, Tiler.

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

REGULAR MEETINGS.—First and third Fridays in 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.	John H. Parker, Senior Deacon.
Lee Love, Senior Warden.	Jas. A. McKillip, Junior Deacon.
John A. Eatherly, Junior Warden.	S. McConnaughey, Senior Steward.
Chas. LeCount, Treasurer.	John E. Carter, Junior Steward.
Frederick W. Leidtke, Secretary.	Andrew Rowley, Tiler.

## MT. MORIAH LODGE, NO. 57, SYRACUSE, OTOE COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Thursday on or before full moon.

## OFFICERS.

John M. Parry, Master.	Morris Dennis, Secretary.
Jas. N. Eaton, Senior Warden.	L. E. Sensabaugh, Senior Deacon.
A. H. Johnson, Junior Warden.	Wm. Y. Heather, Junior Deacon.
Isaiah Rogers, Treasurer.	H. F. Price, Tiler.

---

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

REGULAR MEETING.—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.

Robert H. Henry, Master.	Marshall Smith, Senior Deacon.
Philip B. Bonesteel, Senior Warden.	Henry P. Coolidge, Junior Deacon.
John W. Early, Junior Warden.	John N. King, Senior Steward.
John P. Becker, Treasurer.	Marcus M. White, Junior Steward.
Jas. R. Meagher, Secretary.	Julius Rasmussen, Tiler.

---

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

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

## OFFICERS.

Jacob C. Polsley, Master.	B. F. Graham, Senior Deacon.
M. L. Ellsworth, Senior Warden.	Chas. H. Cole, Junior Deacon.
J. N. Davis, Junior Warden.	N. H. Bell, Senior Steward.
Ebenezer Pickett, Treasurer.	Joel D. Cook, Junior Steward.
J. Henry White, Secretary.	John Beermaker, Tiler.

---

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

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

## OFFICERS.

Albert C. Robbins, Master.	E. C. Archer, Senior Deacon.
B. F. Whitney, Senior Warden.	J. A. Palmer, Junior Deacon.
N. M. Ayres, Junior Warden.	H. H. Studevart, Senior Steward.
J. H. McKee, Treasurer.	Frank Nicholson, Junior Steward.
D. E. Baumgardner, Secretary.	Lucius Kinsman, Tiler.

THISTLE LODGE, NO. 61, PLUM CREEK, DAWSON COUNTY.

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

SEAL.—On a shield *azure*, bordure *argent*, a branch of three thistles *argent*; for crest, three plates in triangular form.

OFFICERS.

John H. MacColl, Master.	William H. Lengel, Secretary.
Frank H. Young, Senior Warden.	Hanford O. Smith, Senior Deacon.
Richard F. James, Junior Warden.	Hugh MacLean, Junior Deacon.
John McBride, Treasurer.	Anton Able, Tiler.

KEYSTONE LODGE, NO. 62, LINCOLN VALLEY, HAMILTON COUNTY.

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

OFFICERS.

Martin Ennis, Master.	Isaiah Ball, Senior Deacon.
John T. Price, Senior Warden.	Wm. H. Sampson, Jun. Deacon.
David S. Parkhurst, Junior Warden.	George L. Lever, Senior Steward.
Edward Deering, Treasurer.	Joseph A. Campbell, Jun. Steward.
Stephen P. Cowgill, Secretary.	William J. Parker, Tiler.

RIVERTON LODGE, NO. 63, RIVERTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY.

REGULAR MEETING.—Saturday or or before each full moon.

SEAL.—On a shield, *azure*, three squares interlaced, *argent*; bordure of the second; for crest, the Master's square, *argent*.

OFFICERS.

James R. McDonald, Master.	Hans C. Lohff, Secretary.
William E. Hatch, Senior Warden.	James Garvin, Senior Deacon.
Geo. W. Sheppard, Junior Warden.	McKee Crilley, Junior Deacon.
Isaac Shepherdson, Treasurer.	Jehoiada Worth, Tiler.

HAMILTON LODGE, U. S. D., HAMILTON, HAMILTON COUNTY.

William H. Streeter, Master.	Thomas F. Tracy, Senior Warden.
	Jesse S. Miller, Junior Warden.

BLUE VALLEY LODGE, U. S. D., WILBER, SALINE COUNTY.

Edward J. Weaver, Master.	William H. Mann, Senior Warden.
	Henry Clark, Junior Warden.

OSCEOLA LODGE, U. S. D., OSCEOLA, POLK COUNTY.

John G. Mickey, Master.

John H. Anderson, Senior Warden.

Samuel Snell, Junior Warden.

---

FIRTH LODGE, U. S. D., FIRTH, LANCASTER COUNTY.

Alfred G. Hastings, Master.

James B. McDill, Senior Warden.

Jacob Groves, Junior Warden.

---

EDGAR LODGE, U. S. D., EDGAR, CLAY COUNTY.

Milton J. Hull, Master.

Ezra E. Howard, Senior Warden.

Charles H. Ketrledge, Junior Warden.

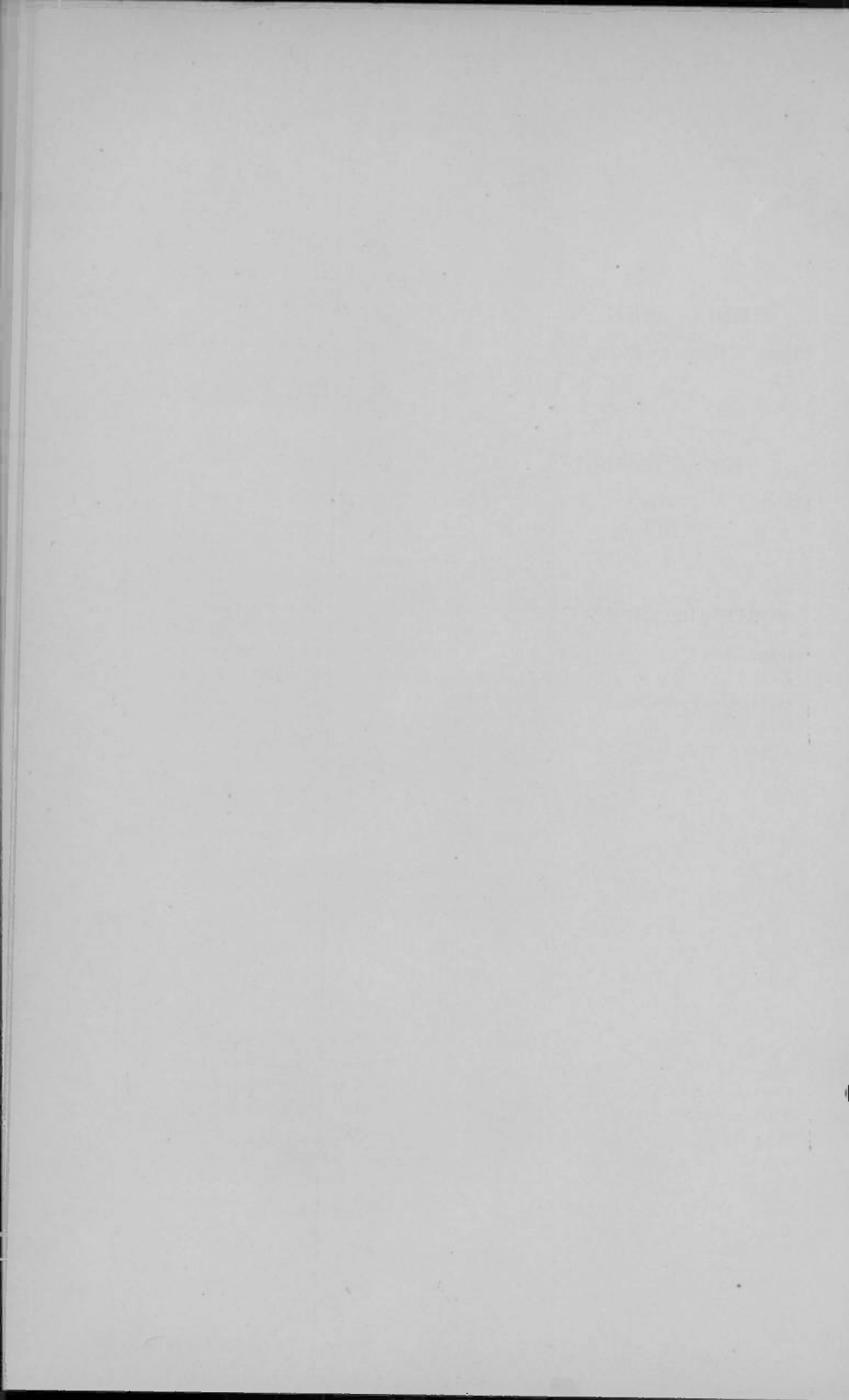
---

FORTITUDE LODGE, U. S. D., ULYSSES, BUTLER COUNTY.

George Miller, Master.

Madison Rogers, Senior Warden.

Sumner Darnall, Junior Warden.



CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA.

---

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, Every Grand Lodge possesses the inherent power to form a constitution as the fundamental law of its masonic action, and to enact such by-laws from time to time as it may deem necessary for its own government, and to make such rules and prescribe such regulations for the admission of its subordinate Lodges as will insure the prosperity thereof, and promote the general good of Masonry; and, whereas, every Grand Lodge is the true representative of all the Fraternity in communication therewith, and is in that behalf an absolute and independent body with supreme legislative authority: *Provided, always,* That the ancient landmarks of the Order be held inviolate: Therefore, upon these principles, which have never been disputed, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska does hereby ordain, establish, and promulgate the following constitution and by-laws for its future government, and does make and prescribe the following rules and regulations for the government of the Lodges under its jurisdiction:

ARTICLE I.

This Grand Lodge shall forever hereafter be known by the name and style of the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

ARTICLE II.

The Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Lecturer, Grand Marshal, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Junior Deacon, and Grand Tiler, with such other officers as it may from time to time create; together with the Masters and Wardens, or their proxies, duly constituted, of the chartered Lodges under its jurisdiction; and such Past Grand Masters and Past Deputy Grand Masters as shall be present, and are members of a subordinate Lodge.

## ARTICLE III.

The Grand Lodge shall hold a regular communication annually, at such time and in such place as it may designate.

## ARTICLE IV.

The Grand Lodge shall not be opened nor shall any business be transacted therein unless there be present representatives from at least seven of the chartered Lodges, but a smaller number may meet and adjourn from day to day, until a constitutional quorum shall attend.

## ARTICLE V.

The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be styled and take rank as follows:

The Most Worshipful Grand Master;  
The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master;  
The Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden;  
The Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden;  
The Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer;  
The Right Worshipful Grand Secretary;  
The Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain;  
The Worshipful Grand Orator;  
The Worshipful Grand Lecturer;  
The Worshipful Grand Marshal;  
The Worshipful Grand Senior Deacon;  
The Worshipful Grand Junior Deacon;  
The Custodians;  
The Grand Tiler.

## ARTICLE VI.

No brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Warden, who has not been duly elected, installed, and presided over a subordinate Lodge.

## ARTICLE VII.

At each regular communication of the Grand Lodge there shall be elected by ballot from the brethren who are at the time constitutionally eligible to seats therein, a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Grand Senior Warden, a Grand Junior Warden, a Grand Treasurer, and a Grand Secretary; all other Grand Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master, with the advice and consent of the Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE VIII.

No Grand Officer shall officiate in the station to which he is elected until he has been legally installed.



## ARTICLE IX.

## THE GRAND LODGE—ITS POWERS AND AUTHORITY.

1. The powers and authority of the Grand Lodge shall be supreme in this state, possessing all the attributes of sovereignty and government—legislative, executive, and judicial—limited only by a strict adherence to the ancient landmarks of the Order, and by the provisions of its own constitution and regulations.

2. Its legislative powers extend to every case of legislation not expressly delegated by itself to the Lodges; and the constitutions and regulations, which it has an inalienable right to adopt and promulgate at its own convenience, and to alter, amend, or repeal at its own pleasure, under the limitations therein imposed, are final and binding upon all Lodges and Masons within its jurisdiction, until so altered, amended, or repealed.

3. Its executive powers include the granting of dispensations and charters to establish and perpetuate Lodges within this state, and in other territory where no Grand Lodge exists; the revocation or suspension thereof; the issuing of special dispensations for all purposes permitted by any of the provisions of this constitution; and the exercise, generally, of all such authority as may be necessary to carry its own legislation into complete effect.

4. Its judicial powers are of two kinds:

ORIGINAL.—Including the decision of all controversies between any of the Lodges, or between one of them and a member or members of another, or between members of different Lodges; and the enforcement of discipline upon its own members and upon the Lodges under its jurisdiction; and

APPELLATE.—Embracing the revision of all matters of controversy or discipline proper for masonic investigation, which may have arisen in any of the Lodges, and over which it has not retained original jurisdiction.

## ARTICLE X.

## THE GRAND MASTER—HIS POWERS AND DUTIES.

1. The Grand Master, during the interval between the communications of the Grand Lodge, may exercise all its executive powers except the granting of charters and dispensations for military or army Lodges. By virtue of these, authority is given him—

To grant dispensations for the formation of new Lodges;

To grant dispensations for the holding of elections of an officer or officers at times other than the regular periods;

To grant dispensations to ballot for and confer the degrees upon candidates without reference to time;

To grant dispensations to receive and act upon the petitions of rejected applicants within a less period than the time prescribed by law of either Grand or subordinate Lodges;

To convene any Lodge, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and compel its conformity to masonic usage ;

To arrest the charter or dispensation of any Lodge, for good reasons shown, and suspend the operations thereof until the next annual communication ;

To suspend the Master of any Lodge from the exercise of the powers and duties of his office, for good reasons shown, until the next annual communication ;

To require the attendance of and information from any Grand Officer, respecting matters appertaining to the duties of his office ;

To appoint representatives in other recognized Grand Lodges, and to receive and accredit such representatives from them.

2. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master—

To preside in the Grand Lodge at all of its communications ;

To present, at each annual communication, a written address, therein setting forth all his official acts during the year, exhibiting the general condition of Masonry within the jurisdiction, and recommending such legislation as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the Order ;

To constitute all chartered Lodges, either in person or by a duly authorized representative, in accordance with the ancient usages and regulations ;

To exercise a general and careful supervision over the craft, and see that the constitution and regulations of the Grand Lodge are strictly maintained, supported, and obeyed ; and

To discharge all the necessary executive functions of the Grand Lodge, when that body is not in session.

## ARTICLE XI.

### OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER AND GRAND WARDENS.

1. It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of his duties at all the communications of the Grand Lodge, and, in his absence, to preside therein ; and, in the event of the death of the Grand Master, or of his absence from the state, or of his inability from any cause to perform the functions of his office, the Deputy Grand Master shall succeed to and be charged with all his powers and duties.

2. It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master at all the communications of the Grand Lodge, and, in his absence, and that of the Deputy Grand Master, to preside therein in the order of their rank ; and, in case of the death, absence from the state, or inability as before, of both their superiors, the Grand Wardens shall, in the order of their rank, succeed to and be charged with all the powers and duties of the Grand Master.

## ARTICLE XII.

## OF THE ORGANIZATION OF A SUBORDINATE LODGE.

1. A Lodge can only be formed by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master, or of a charter from the Grand Lodge; and no charter shall be granted to any Lodge until it shall have worked for a time under dispensation, and shall have exhibited to the Grand Lodge satisfactory evidence of its masonic capability.

2. Upon the petition of eight or more Master Masons being presented to the Grand Master, he may grant them a dispensation to open and hold a Lodge at the place therein to be named, with power to make Masons, and he shall therein appoint the Master and the Wardens of the new Lodge. But in no case shall such dispensation be issued unless the petition be accompanied by a recommendation from the nearest or most convenient chartered Lodge (if from a town or city where more than two Lodges exist, then from a majority of such Lodges), setting forth that the petitioners are all Master Masons in good standing, that the establishment of the new Lodge is of manifest propriety and will conduce to the good of the Order, and that a safe and suitable Lodge room has been provided therefor; and, also, a certificate from the Custodian of the district in which the new Lodge is to be located, setting forth that the three principal officers are competent to confer the three degrees of Masonry in a suitable and impressive manner. Such dispensation shall terminate upon the first day of the month in which the next succeeding annual communication shall be holden; and shall then be returned to the Grand Secretary, together with the by-laws, book of records, and returns of the new Lodge to that date.

3. Upon the return of dispensation of the new Lodge, as above, with a petition for a charter, if an examination of its work and proceedings shall prove satisfactory, the Grand Lodge may order the issue of a charter to such Lodge, and assign it such name and number on the registry as shall be deemed proper; and such Lodge shall be duly constituted within ninety days thereafter, or its charter shall be forfeited. If the examination be not satisfactory, the petition may be totally refused, or a continuance of the dispensation until the next annual communication may be ordered.

4. No warrant or dispensation for the institution of a new Lodge shall be granted for a less sum than fifteen dollars, and no charter shall be granted for a less sum than thirty-five dollars, in addition to the dispensation fee herein provided for.

## ARTICLE XIII.

This constitution may be altered or amended in the following manner only: The proposed alteration or amendment must be made in writing at some stated communication; if seconded by five members it shall be entered upon the minutes, and be thereby submitted to the several sub-

ordinate Lodges, for their approval or rejection. If a majority of the Lodges approve thereof, by certificate over their respective seals, to the next succeeding Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall put the question upon its adoption, and if concurred in by a majority of the members present and voting, it shall from thenceforth be considered as a part and parcel of this constitution: *Provided*, That any subordinate Lodge or Lodges failing to act upon proposed amendments and report the same as herein provided, shall be counted as voting in the affirmative.

BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA.

---

SECTION I.

1. On the day appointed for the meeting of the Grand Lodge, a Master Masons' Lodge shall be opened in ample form, at — o'clock —, when the M. W. Grand Master shall appoint a special committee to examine visiting brethren, and a committee to examine credentials, each to consist of three members. So soon as a constitutional quorum of Lodges is ascertained to be present, the Grand Lodge of Nebraska shall be declared open for the dispatch of business, and the Grand Master shall then make such appointments as may be necessary to fill all vacancies in the following standing committees, each to consist of not less than three or more than five members, to-wit: The committee on Accounts; the committee on Charters and Dispensations; the committee on By-Laws from Chartered Lodges; the committee on Foreign Correspondence; the committee on Ways and Means; the committee on Charity; committee on Grievances; the committee on Unfinished Business; the committee to prepare a Pay Roll; the committee on Masonic Jurisprudence; and the committee on Returns of Lodges.

2. The standing committees shall be appointed by the Grand Master immediately before the closing of each annual communication, and shall continue until the closing of the next annual communication. To these standing committees the Grand Master may, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, refer any matters for their consideration and report to the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication, and may also require their report and recommendation to him on any matter requiring immediate action.

3. The Grand Master may, at his discretion, convene any or all of these committees one or two days in advance of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, for which they shall receive *per diem* as if in Grand Lodge.

## SECTION II.

1. The members of the standing committees of the Grand Lodge shall each be entitled to a seat and voice, but no vote, by virtue of that appointment, in the Grand Lodge, and shall perform and discharge the following specific duties, to-wit:

2. It shall be the duty of the committee on Accounts to examine the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, settle and balance the same, and report the actual state of the funds to the Grand Lodge.

3. The committee on Charters and Dispensations shall particularly examine the work, records, and by-laws of all Lodges under dispensation, and the proceedings of the Grand Officers granting the same.

4. It shall be the duty of the committee on By-Laws of Chartered Lodges to examine the amended by-laws of all the chartered Lodges submitted for the approval of the Grand Lodge; they will note all matters that are improper or unconstitutional in any of such work, records, and by-laws, and report to the Grand Lodge, with such recommendations as they shall deem meet and proper in the premises.

5. The foreign correspondence of the Grand Lodge, including all communications made by other Grand Lodges, shall be referred to the committee on Foreign Correspondence, whose duty it shall be to examine the same and report all matters found therein which affect the general or local welfare of the craft, accompanied with such recommendations as they may consider expedient.

6. It shall be the duty of the committee of Ways and Means to take into consideration the condition of the funds and estate of the Grand Lodge, and all propositions and resolutions affecting its revenue which may be offered; they shall specifically report thereon, and may recommend any measures which, in their opinion, will operate financially for the benefit of the institution.

7. All applications for appropriations from the charity fund of the Grand Lodge shall be submitted to the committee on Charity, who shall consider the same and make report thereon to the Grand Lodge.

8. All matters of controversy and grievance brought before the Grand Lodge shall be referred to the committee on Grievances, whose duty it shall be to examine into the same and report for the action of the Grand Lodge.

9. It shall be the duty of the committee on Unfinished Business to examine and report from the journal of the previous session all such matters as were then pending and undetermined.

10. It shall be the duty of the committee to prepare a Pay-Roll to examine and report the *per diem* and traveling compensation allowed to the representatives and members of the Grand Lodge.

11. It shall be the duty of the committee on Masonic Jurisprudence to investigate and report upon all questions that may be referred to them by the Grand Lodge: *Provided, That,* with the consent of the

Grand Lodge, said committee may retain any question or paper referred to them and report thereon at the next regular Grand Communication.

12. To the committee on Returns may be referred the credentials of representatives and proxies, for report of the number of Lodges that are represented, the names of the representatives, proxies, and others present, with the number of votes to which each one is entitled. They shall carefully examine and correct the returns of the Lodges, and submit to the Grand Lodge a tabular abstract of the condition of the craft as shown by the returns.

13. On all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, the Grand Officers, together with such Past Grand Masters and Past Deputy Grand Masters as may be present and are members thereof, shall each be entitled to one vote; the Master and Wardens of each subordinate Lodge, or their regularly constituted proxies, shall each be entitled to one vote; but in no case whatsoever shall a member, by virtue of any proxy or authority, cast more than three votes: *Provided*, No brother shall be entitled to cast more than one vote, except as a representative from a subordinate Lodge.

#### SECTION III.

The Grand Tiler shall not, *ex-officio*, be entitled to any vote in the Grand Lodge.

#### SECTION IV.

It shall be competent for the Master and Wardens of any subordinate Lodge to appoint a suitable brother, being a member of the same Lodge, his or their proxy to the Grand Lodge, certified under their official signatures; and it shall in like manner be competent for any Lodge, the officers of which decline attending the meeting of the Grand Lodge, and to appoint their proxies as aforesaid, to designate and make choice by resolution, of some brother having the qualifications aforesaid, the proxy of said Lodge; which resolution must be certified by the Secretary thereof, and shall entitle the brother appointed to three votes: *Provided, however*, That no representative or proxy from a subordinate Lodge shall hold a seat in the Grand Lodge until he shall produce evidence that the Lodge he represents has discharged in full its Grand dues.

#### SECTION V.

All decisions of the Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of the votes given. The yeas and nays may be ordered upon any question at the request of three members, when the roll shall be called and every vote counted.

#### SECTION VI.

1. The Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds, securities, and vouchers of the Grand Lodge, and shall pay all orders from the moneys on hand that may be directed by the Grand Lodge, or other-

wise constitutionally drawn. It shall be his duty to attend all the communications of the Grand Lodge, with his books of account, vouchers for money paid out, and all necessary papers relating to his office, in order that the same may be inspected and his accounts settled; and he shall meet with any Grand committee, when required, whose general or special province it may be to act in relation to the fiscal concerns of the Grand Lodge. Before entering upon any of the duties of his office, he shall give bond, with security, as the Grand Lodge may direct, conditioned for the faithful discharge thereof, and shall receive, as a compensation for his services, a sum not less than ten dollars per annum.

2. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to record the transactions of the Grand Lodge; and he shall attend personally each Grand Communication, with the necessary books and papers of his office; he shall keep the seal of the Grand Lodge, and affix the same with his attestation to all instruments required to be so executed; he shall receive, receipt for, and immediately pay over to the Grand Treasurer, all Grand dues, fees, and other moneys, handed in at any communication of the Grand Lodge, taking a proper voucher therefor; he shall keep a faithful journal of all its proceedings, distribute the same when ordered to be printed for circulation, and conduct any correspondence required of him under the orders of the Grand Lodge and the directions of the Grand Master; he shall procure all necessary books and stationery, and shall have charge of all the records, jewels, papers, parchments, certificates, and documents, other than those belonging to the Grand Treasurer; he shall do and perform any other duties customary to his office, and the established usages of Masons; and for his services he shall receive a salary of eight hundred dollars per annum. He shall be *ex-officio* Librarian of the Grand Lodge.

3. The outgoing Grand Secretary shall promptly transfer to his successor all the property and records of his office, excepting such documents as may be necessary for making up the record of the annual communication then closed; and it shall be the duty of such outgoing Grand Secretary to prepare and cause to be printed the proceedings of the then closed annual communication, delivering the same, with all documents, etc., thereunto pertaining, to his successor, with the least possible delay.

## SECTION VII.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer—

1. To attend all communications of the Grand Lodge.
2. He shall, with the advice and consent of the M.: W.: Grand Master, have the entire charge and supervision of the work of this jurisdiction, and it shall be his duty to see that the uniform and established work and lectures of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska are thoroughly taught and practiced by the subordinate Lodges throughout the jurisdiction; and if it shall come to his knowledge that any Lodge within the jurisdiction shall ignore, refuse, or fail to practice, in every



respect, such uniform and established work, as taught by him or the Custodians appointed for that purpose, it shall be his duty to instantly report the same to the Grand Master, who may arrest the charter of said Lodge, and shall hold the same until such time as they shall comply with the requirements of the Grand Lodge aforesaid, or until the next session thereof.

3. He shall have full control of all the Custodians in regard to their official acts; see that they faithfully perform the duties of their office, and if they shall neglect or fail in the performance of any official duties, he shall report the same to the Grand Master, who shall have the power to remove such Custodian and appoint in his place a brother who, in his judgment, is fully competent and willing to faithfully discharge the duties of the office.

4. He shall be required to make a full report to the Grand Lodge of his official visits and acts performed during the year; and he shall receive, as compensation for his services, such sums as it may be necessary for him to expend for stationery and postage, in addition to mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile one way, traveled by the shortest practicable route; and two dollars per day when employed officially visiting Lodges in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

#### SECTION VIII.

1. It shall be required of the Custodians, before entering upon the duties of their office, to procure from the Grand Lecturer a certificate showing that they are fully qualified and authorized to perform the duties of the office.

2. Each Custodian shall render a full statement of his official acts to the Grand Lecturer one month preceding the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, and they shall each receive, as compensation for the time actually devoted to their official duties, the sum of two dollars per day, and mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile one way, traveled by the shortest practicable route, to be paid by the Grand Lodge.

#### SECTION IX.

1. Each subordinate Lodge is required to be represented at the stated communications of the Grand Lodge.

2. One representative from each subordinate Lodge (the Master or his proxy, and in case the Master or his proxy fail to attend, the Lodge may select a delegate to represent the Lodge), if present, shall be paid, out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, ten cents per mile for each mile traveled going to the Grand Lodge, to be estimated by the most direct route, and two dollars per day for each day's attendance; also, that no delegate or representative, or proxy, who leaves said Grand Lodge before it is closed, shall receive any mileage or *per diem* for attendance, unless he be excused by the Grand Lodge.

## 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, May 1st, and none others, shall be considered members liable for dues.

## SECTION XI.

Every subordinate Lodge which shall not be represented for two successive Grand Communications, and neglects for two consecutive years to discharge its Grand dues, shall be suspended from all its masonic functions; and it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to give such delinquent Lodge immediate notice thereof; and, unless within one year from date of suspension, the said Lodge shall faithfully discharge all arrearages, or show good cause to the contrary, it shall forfeit its charter and be struck from the roll of Lodges; and in no case, and under no pretense whatever, shall such Lodge be resuscitated until all Grand dues are paid, together with a dispensation fee of fifteen dollars, and thirty-five dollars upon applying for a charter.

## SECTION XII.

When a charter shall be surrendered or become forfeited, the whole of the property of the subordinate Lodge, of every kind and description, shall be vested in the Grand Lodge, and subject to its disposal.

## SECTION XIII.

The subordinate Lodges shall have authority to assess such dues upon their members, from time to time, as they shall deem just and expedient, and the by-laws of each Lodge shall designate the amount so assessed, and the time for the payment thereof. And if any member shall fail to pay such dues at such stated times, he shall be considered delinquent, and it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to cause a notice to be served on the delinquent member, in person, if a resident within the county in which said Lodge is situated, at least ten days before any other action shall be taken; and if the brother shall reside outside of the county, notice shall be mailed to the post office nearest his residence at least thirty days before any further action is taken, which notice shall be deemed sufficient; and if he then fails to respond to the satisfaction of the Lodge, he may be suspended, after due trial and conviction, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; and should the said suspended brother, at any time thereafter, pay his arrears to the Lodge, it shall then be the duty of the Secretary to report the same at the next regular meeting, and at the succeeding regular meeting thereafter he may be reinstated by a vote of two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

## SECTION XIV.

Any brother suspended for any other cause than non-payment of dues, can only be restored to membership by petition and a three-fourths ballot.

## SECTION XV.

The Master of each Lodge shall cause the Secretary to give immediate notice to the Grand Secretary of every suspension or expulsion that is ordered in his Lodge, whether for non-payment of dues or otherwise; and it is hereby declared that suspension or expulsion works an absolute forfeiture, for the time being, of all masonic privileges.

## SECTION XVI.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, in making up the annual minutes of the Grand Lodge for publication, to embrace therein a list of the suspensions and expulsions from the several subordinate Lodges, setting forth the cause in each particular case.

## SECTION XVII.

Whenever the Grand Lodge shall abrogate the decision of a subordinate Lodge suspending or expelling a brother, and thus restore him to the benefits and privileges of Masonry, he shall not thereby be reinstated to membership in the subordinate Lodge without unanimous consent.

## SECTION XVIII.

No Lodge under dispensation shall be permitted to hold a public celebration on any masonic occasion whatever, unless the consent of the M.: W.: Grand Master, or, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master, be first obtained.

## SECTION XIX.

1. No Lodge is authorized to commence work under its charter until the officers thereof have been regularly installed; and for this purpose, whenever a charter is granted, the M.: W.: Grand Master, or, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master, shall appoint a suitable and early day for constituting said Lodge, and for the installation of its officers, and, when convenient, shall in person conduct such ceremony. They have the power, however, at their discretion, to appoint some worthy Past Master to act as their proxy on such occasions.

2. Each Lodge, upon being chartered, shall submit to the Grand Secretary its proposed seal; and when that officer shall certify that the device proposed is distinct from the seals already adopted by the other Lodges of the jurisdiction, the proposed seal shall be submitted to the Grand Master for his approval; and after being so approved, it shall be unlawful for any Lodge to change its seal in any particular; and an impression thereof shall be filed in the Grand Secretary's office. The seals of Lodges shall be embossed upon the documents issued—not merely imprinted.

## SECTION XX.

Every resolution or motion contemplating an appropriation from the funds of the Grand Lodge, shall be proposed by or referred to some standing committee of that body before it can be acted upon.

## SECTION XXI.

When an appeal from the decision of a subordinate Lodge, on any matter of masonic discipline, shall be perfected and entered in the Grand Lodge, it shall be referred to the standing committee on Grievances, or decided without such reference, if deemed most expedient; and in either case, the subordinate Lodge or the appellant brother shall have the benefit of any additional testimony, provided the same has been taken agreeably to the notice prescribed in the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge for the government of the Lodges under its jurisdiction.

## SECTION XXII.

No resolution shall be entertained by this Grand Lodge unless the same shall have been put into writing, and a copy thereof furnished the Grand Secretary.

## SECTION XXIII.

The committee on Foreign Correspondence shall be appointed by the M. W. Grand Master at each annual communication, previous to the closing thereof, of which committee the R. W. Grand Secretary shall be chairman, so that they may be enabled to report, at the assembling of the Grand Lodge, such things as may be of interest to the craft.

## SECTION XXIV.

All papers coming before the Grand Lodge, which shall be referred to committees, shall be placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary, and by him passed to the appropriate committee, before they shall be considered as matters for record.

## SECTION XXV.

No by-law shall be altered or done away, or new one adopted, until the proposed alteration, amendment, nullification, or addition be reduced to writing, and seconded by five members. It shall then be entered upon the minutes and lie over until the next succeeding stated meeting of the Grand Lodge, when, if approved by two-thirds of the members present, the same shall be adopted: *Provided*, That by an unanimous vote, any proposition as aforesaid may be acted upon at the session at which it is introduced.

# BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA,

RELATIVE TO MASONIC OFFENCES, ETC.

---

ADOPTED 5877.

---

## ARTICLE I.

### PENAL POWERS OF A LODGE.

SECTION 1. Every Lodge shall have the right to exercise discipline over all its members, wherever residing, and over all unaffiliated as well, as affiliated Masons (except present Masters or the Grand Master), residing or sojourning within its territorial jurisdiction, for any violation of moral or masonic law.

Sec. 2. Any member of a Lodge may prefer charges against an offending brother; but to further the administration of justice it shall be the special duty of the Junior Warden, in the absence of other accusers, to take steps to bring to trial all masonic offenders.

Sec. 3. In case of offending Masons, who are members of any other Lodge, the Lodge within whose jurisdiction the offender resides, or is sojourning, shall first send up charges and specifications to the Lodge of which the offender may be a member; and should such Lodge waive jurisdiction, or refuse or neglect to take action in the premises within sixty days thereafter, then the Lodge preferring the charges may proceed to try the same in the manner prescribed by the laws of this Grand Lodge, and the result thereof shall be communicated to the Lodge in which the accused may be, or shall have last been, a member.

Sec. 4. A suspended Mason, charged with unmasonic conduct, which, if established, would justify a greater punishment than he is undergoing, may be arraigned for trial: *Provided*, that if an offender so tried be found guilty, the penalty may be expulsion.

Sec. 5. No Lodge, or member thereof, shall publish in any newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, or circular, or otherwise make public, the details or result of any trial therein.

Sec. 6. The presence of visitors in a Lodge during any of the proceedings of a masonic trial, shall be optional with the Lodge or the Master.

## ARTICLE II.

## MASONIC OFFENCES.

SECTION 1. The offences of which a Lodge may take cognizance, and to which it shall give full, fair, and lawful trial, and, upon conviction, administer adequate punishment, are immorality, and, particularly, acts which tend to impair the good name of Masonry, or which violate masonic obligations, or the laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge.

SEC. 2. Lodges shall not take cognizance of difficulties of a legal character, growing out of business transactions between brethren; nor entertain charges against a brother for the purpose of adjusting mere legal rights, pecuniary or otherwise, unless such charges shall clearly specify fraud on the part of the alleged offender.

SEC. 3. The Master of any Lodge shall not permit any charges or specifications, or any other subject matter, either written or oral, involving questions of a political or sectarian character, to be read in, or in any manner presented to, the Lodge.

## ARTICLE III.

## PRESENTATION OF CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS.

SECTION 1. All charges of unmasonic conduct shall be made in writing, specifying with reasonable certainty the character of the offence alleged, and the time and place of its commission, as near as may be practicable, and be signed by the accuser, who must be an affiliated Master Mason in good standing. (See forms at close.)

SEC. 2. All charges and specifications shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge; if received at a stated meeting, they shall be then and there read; if received during recess of the Lodge, said charges shall be read at the next stated communication thereafter, of which meeting all the resident members shall have due notice: *Provided*, that in cases where the magnitude of an offence demands, or where the Lodge or the Master shall deem it for the best interests of Masonry, the matter may be laid before the Grand Master, and by authority of his dispensation said charges may be read and received at a special communication of the Lodge, called for the purpose, of which due notice shall be given the resident members.

SEC. 3. The trial of charges may proceed at any meeting appointed for the purpose, and continue until completed.

## ARTICLE IV.

## RECEPTION OF CHARGES.

SECTION 1. When charges shall be presented and read, as provided in section 2 of the last preceding article, the Lodge shall decide, by a majority vote, whether the charges shall be accepted, and the accused brother be placed on trial; when decided in the affirmative, the charges

cannot be withdrawn except for cause shown, and by the vote of two-thirds of the members present; nor shall such charges be amended except by a majority vote, of which proposed amendment the accused shall have due notice.

SEC. 2. Immediately upon the acceptance of charges by a Lodge the Master shall appoint the time and place for trial; and it shall be the duty of the Master to cause the accused to be served with a duly attested copy of the charges and specifications, and a citation stating the time and place appointed for the trial thereof: *Provided*, that the accused shall be entitled to time to prepare his defense, as follows: If a resident of the county, ten days; if without the county and a resident of the state, twenty days; if residing without the state, thirty days.

SEC. 3. If the accused shall neglect or refuse to attend in person, after notice has been duly served on him—or if notice cannot be served on him personally by reason of his residence being unknown, or beyond the limits of the county in which the Lodge is located, then a copy of such notice shall be sent to him by mail, addressed to him at his last known place of residence; and, upon proof that the notice has been sent to him as herein prescribed, the Lodge, at the time in such notice specified, may proceed without his presence and conduct the proceedings to a final issue: *Provided*, that at least one stated communication shall intervene between the time of mailing such notice and any action by the Lodge in pursuance thereof. In such cases the Lodge shall appoint a competent brother to act as attorney for the accused.

SEC. 4. In every case where a flagrant offence shall be committed by any Mason present while the Lodge is at labor, the foregoing rules requiring notice and delay may be dispensed with, and the Master may order the offending brother to show cause instantly, why he should not be punished.

## ARTICLE V.

### WITNESSES AND TESTIMONY.

SECTION 1. Witnesses in masonic trials who are Masons shall be mentally competent, and in good standing in the fraternity, and may be affiliated or non-affiliated brethren.

SEC. 2. Every Mason shall give his testimony upon his honor as a Mason.

SEC. 3. All witnesses in masonic trials who are not Masons, shall be any persons of sound mind, of such religious belief as to feel the obligations of an oath, which may be administered by any competent legal officer.

SEC. 4. The evidence of both the accuser and the accused, if offered, shall be received in any masonic trial. The status of a Mason under charges is not affected until after conviction.

SEC. 5. The testimony of witnesses who are Masons may be taken in open Lodge, or by a special committee appointed by the Master. Wit-

nesses who are not Masons shall be examined by said committee. In either case the accused and accuser, in person or by attorney, shall be entitled to be present, and propound such relevant questions as they may desire.

SEC. 6. The testimony of any witness unable to attend the Lodge or a committee, may be taken by deposition before a properly authorized person or persons, due notice of the time and place having first been given.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the accused and accuser to secure the attendance of their respective witnesses who are not Masons, and, through the Master and Secretary of the Lodge, they may, when necessary, summon for such purpose any resident Mason.

SEC. 8. When testimony is taken in open Lodge, the Lodge shall be opened on the highest degree to which the accused has attained in Ancient Craft Masonry; but the decision as to guilt or innocence, and the question of punishment, shall be severally determined in and by a Lodge of Master Masons.

SEC. 9. The Master shall decide all questions arising as to the relevancy of the evidence and the regularity of the proceedings; and the Secretary shall take down in writing all the evidence submitted by both the prosecution and defense, and note all objections made by either party and the rulings of the Master, and the record thereof shall be filed among the archives of the Lodge, and the main facts of the case shall be entered upon the Lodge records.

SEC. 10. At the conclusion of the evidence the accused and the accuser, in person or through their attorneys, may, if they desire, address such relevant remarks to the Lodge upon the merits of the case as may be deemed proper; after which the accused and the accuser shall retire from the Lodge, and remain in an ante-room until the final decision (*Provided*, that if the Junior Warden shall be the accuser, in his official capacity, he shall not be obliged to retire); after which any member entitled to vote may express his views of the case and of the law and the facts involved, and no member shall be permitted to withdraw from the Lodge until after final action, except for urgent cause, and by consent of two-thirds of the members present.

SEC. 11. When a committee is appointed, as provided in section 5 of this article, it shall consist of not less than three members of the Lodge, either of whom, if objected to by either of the parties for cause, may be removed by the Master, and another appointed.

SEC. 12. Every such committee shall convene and select from their number a chairman and secretary, and when so organized shall have power, through the Master and Secretary of the Lodge, to summon before them the accused and accuser, with their respective witnesses.

SEC. 13. The proceedings of such committee shall be governed by the provisions of section 3 of article IV., and sections 1, 2, 3, and 6 of this article. The duties of the Master and Secretary, prescribed in section 9 of this article, shall apply to and be discharged by the chairman and secretary of the committee.



SEC. 14. The committee may sit whenever and as often as it may deem best for the interests of Masonry: *Provided*, that every trial begun shall be prosecuted with as much dispatch as the law governing the same and full justice to the accused and accuser will permit.

SEC. 15. When the committee have concluded their labors they shall report their proceedings and all the evidence to the Lodge; and, upon retirement of the accused and accuser, any member of the Lodge present may express his views of the case, and any portion or the whole of the evidence shall be read as he may require, to enable him to come to a decision.

SEC. 16. A brother, against whom charges have been preferred, may deny or admit any portion or the whole of the charges and specifications.

SEC. 17. In case an accused brother shall plead guilty such plea may be accepted as evidence, and shall render the taking of further proof unnecessary; but such plea shall not excuse the Lodge from voting upon the question of guilt or innocence.

## ARTICLE VI.

### THE VERDICT.

SECTION 1. Upon conclusion of the trial the question of "guilty," or "not guilty," shall be immediately and distinctly put by the Master upon each specification under each charge in its order, which shall be voted upon separately; and every member present shall be required to vote by ballot, and it shall require a vote of two-thirds of said members to sustain any charge or specification.

SEC. 2. If any charge or specification shall be sustained the accused shall be then and there declared guilty, and the Master shall put the question as to the amount of punishment, beginning with the greatest and, if not sustained, the next grade, and so on, ending with the least, masonic penalty, in the order as hereinafter provided; the vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary to decide the degree of punishment.

SEC. 3. When any Mason, after due trial, shall be found guilty of unmasonic conduct, punishment shall follow which shall be proportionate to the offence.

SEC. 4. When any Mason shall have been expelled or suspended by a Lodge, he shall be notified of such action by the Secretary. When any brother shall have been acquitted, he shall be notified of the same by the Master in open Lodge.

## ARTICLE VII.

### PUNISHMENT.

SECTION 1. The masonic punishment which shall be inflicted by chartered Lodges for unmasonic conduct, after due trial and conviction shall be, in the discretion of the Lodge, either EXPULSION, INDEFINITE SUSPENSION, DEFINITE SUSPENSION, or REPRIMAND.

SEC. 2. Expulsion involves an absolute deprivation of all the rights, privileges, and benefits of Masonry, to the delinquent and his family; the infliction of such punishment shall require a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the close of the trial.

SEC. 3. No Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall expel a member for non-payment of dues.

SEC. 4. Indefinite suspension, whether for non-payment of dues or for any other offence, subjects an offender, during such suspension, to the same penalties as are prescribed in the preceding section (2), and the infliction of such punishment shall require a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the close of the trial.

SEC. 5. Definite suspension shall require the same vote (two-thirds), and the penalty and the period of suspension may be voted upon together or separately: *Provided*, that no definite suspension shall be voted for a longer time than one year, nor for a less time than one month.

SEC. 6. Reprimand shall be the least masonic punishment, and shall only be inflicted after due trial and conviction, and when voted by two-thirds of the members present; the reprimand shall be administered in open Lodge by the Master.

SEC. 7. Any brother violating the proprieties of Lodge etiquette may be censured therefor, upon a motion and vote of a majority of the members present.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

SECTION 1. The payment of annual dues is a duty incumbent upon every member of a Lodge, and the neglect or refusal to fulfil this duty shall be (except for good cause) an infraction of masonic law and a violation of a masonic covenant, and shall subject the delinquent to Lodge discipline: *Provided, however*, that a Lodge, by a majority vote, may remit the whole or any portion of the dues of any of its members.

SEC. 2. No Lodge shall suspend a member for non-payment of dues without due notice and fair trial.

SEC. 3. The formalities of written charges hereinbefore prescribed for the trial of offences requiring proof, may be dispensed with, and proceedings, as prescribed in the following sections, shall be deemed due notice and fair trial for the offence of non-payment of dues.

SEC. 4. Any member who may be in arrears for dues to a Lodge, according to the provisions of its by-laws, shall be notified thereof in writing by the Secretary, with a request for the payment of the same at or before some subsequent meeting of the Lodge; and if said member neglect or refuse to make answer to such notice at or before the time designated therein, he shall be notified in person, if possible, or *summoned* to appear at such subsequent stated meeting as may be deemed proper, and show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues; if his whereabouts be unknown, a written notice shall be

addressed to him at his last known place of residence. This shall be deemed *due notice*, and the Lodge may proceed without his presence: *Provided*, that if a member be *summoned* as herein prescribed, and fail to answer, upon proof that such summons has been personally served, the offence of non-payment of dues shall be held in abeyance until the delinquent shall show cause for disobedience of said summons; for which offence any Mason may be expelled, after trial and conviction, in the manner and form prescribed in articles I. to VII., inclusive.

SEC. 5. When any member shall refuse or neglect to answer the *notice* prescribed in the last preceding section, his delinquency may be communicated to the Lodge at a regular meeting thereof, which facts, together with the Lodge records showing his indebtedness, shall be deemed ample proof of the delinquency; if the brother be present he shall be entitled to make such pleas as he may deem proper, after which he shall retire; and upon such evidence a vote may be taken upon a motion to suspend the delinquent member indefinitely. A vote of two-thirds of the members present at a stated communication of the Lodge shall be necessary to fix such penalty; this shall be deemed *fair trial*.

SEC. 6. No Lodge or Grand Lodge dues shall accrue against a Mason during the term of his suspension.

SEC. 7. No Lodge shall, for any cause, abridge the rights or privileges of membership of any of its members, by *striking a name from its roll*, without due notice and fair trial, as prescribed in these by-laws.

## ARTICLE IX.

### APPEALS.

SECTION 1. Any Mason who has been subjected to the disciplinary proceedings of a Lodge, his accuser, or any member of the Lodge, has the right to appeal from any verdict or sentence therein, in his case rendered or adjudged.

SEC. 2. All appeals from any chartered Lodge shall be made in writing, and contain a statement of the case, the exceptions taken to the decisions of the Lodge appealed from, and the grounds upon which the same are based. The appeal shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at least thirty days prior to the next succeeding annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 3. The appellant shall give the Lodge appealed from notice of his intention within ninety days after receiving notice of its action or decision; and the Secretary of such Lodge, under the direction of the Master, shall, at least thirty days before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, transmit to the Grand Secretary an attested copy of all the charges, specifications, papers, proceedings, and evidence in the case, and, if requested, furnish the appellant with a like attested copy: *Provided*, the times herein specified shall intervene between such decisions and the actual meeting aforesaid; if not, then such time shall apply to the next succeeding annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, or may be disposed of by the Grand Master during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 4. Whenever an appeal shall be taken from any constituent Lodge, as provided in the foregoing sections, the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the whole case, and may, upon investigation,

a. Dismiss the appeal, approve the proceedings, or affirm the decision appealed from.

b. Modify or change a decision or sentence, or inflict a penalty where the constituent Lodge has failed to do so.

c. Set aside the proceedings of the Lodge for informality, and remand the case for further proceedings.

SEC. 5. Whenever the Grand Lodge shall modify or change a decision or sentence adjudged by a constituent Lodge, the same shall be final; and upon notice thereof, such constituent Lodge shall cause the same to be entered upon its records.

SEC. 6. Whenever the Grand Lodge, on a review of the trial or other proceedings of a Lodge resulting in the expulsion or suspension of a Mason, shall reverse or annul the judgment of said proceedings, or shall order a new trial, the accused shall be thereby restored to all his rights, privileges, and membership. When a case is remanded for new trial no amendment shall be made to the original charges and specifications, unless the accused have due and timely notice thereof.

SEC. 7. Every Lodge shall communicate to the Grand Secretary all suspensions and expulsions as they may severally occur.

## ARTICLE X.

### RESTORATIONS AND REINSTATEMENTS.

SECTION 1. No Lodge shall have the power to restore an expelled Mason to membership, nor to his former rights and privileges in Masonry.

SEC. 2. The Grand Lodge reserves to itself the right, by a majority vote, at any annual communication, upon a recommendation as provided in succeeding section 4 of this article, to restore an expelled Mason to good standing in the fraternity, as a non-affiliated Mason only, but not to membership in any Lodge. Any brother restored by the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to a certificate of the fact from the Grand Secretary, which shall serve in lieu of a regular demit, in case of application for membership to any Lodge in this jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. The resumption of membership in any Lodge by a brother restored as defined in the last preceding section must be acquired by petition.

SEC. 4. An expelled Mason seeking restoration shall petition the Lodge from which he was expelled for its recommendation to the Grand Lodge for his restoration; if such petition be concurred in by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a stated communication of the Lodge, the same shall be so indorsed, under seal, and be transmitted to the Grand Secretary at least ten days before the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge: *Provided*, that in case such Lodge has become extinct said petition may be made direct to the Grand Lodge, with a statement

of the fact, and upon favorable action thereon the brother shall be entitled to resume the status of a non-affiliated Mason.

SEC. 5. Any Mason indefinitely suspended for non-payment of dues or other cause, seeking reinstatement, shall petition in writing to the Lodge having jurisdiction, and on payment or remission of dues, if any, and upon a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present at a stated communication, the petitioner may be restored to membership or to good standing in the fraternity only, leaving him non-affiliated: *Provided*, that if the Lodge from which a Mason shall have been suspended has ceased to exist, the petition for reinstatement may be made to the Lodge in whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides, or to the Grand Lodge, which may reinstate the petitioner to good standing in the fraternity.

SEC. 6. Definite suspension shall expire by limitation, and any Mason so suspended shall be entitled to resume membership, and all the rights and privileges thereof, at the expiration of the time defined in his sentence, without vote or other action on the part of the Lodge.

SEC. 7. The reinstatement of a suspended Mason by a chartered Lodge shall be determined by secret ballot.

## ARTICLE XI.

### MASTERS AND LODGES.

SECTION 1. A Worshipful Master may be disciplined by his Lodge after the expiration of his official term, for any unmasonic conduct, except for *official* misconduct, or a violation of *official* obligations. All complaints for official misconduct shall be made to the proper authority during the official term of the offender, otherwise he shall not be disciplined therefor.

SEC. 2. When a controversy shall arise between Lodges, or between a Lodge and its Master, or charges be preferred, or an informal complaint be made, the same may be filed with the Grand Lodge, if in session, or during recess be lodged with the Grand Master; if the matter be deemed by him of a sufficiently grave character to warrant investigation he may proceed in person, or appoint a commission of not more than seven nor less than three Masters or Past Masters, with, if consistent, the Deputy Grand Master as chairman, to investigate such charges or complaint. Such commission shall have authority to summon witnesses, and shall have such other powers as may be specially delegated to them by the Grand Master; and said commission shall make such report and give such opinion to the Grand Master as will enable him to make a final decision.

SEC. 3. When a Master or other officer of a Lodge shall be deposed from *office* only he shall not thereby be deprived of any of the rights or privileges of membership.

SEC. 4. When any trouble shall arise between brethren or between Lodges, which shall require the presence of the Grand Master or other

Grand Officers, or a commission, such brethren or Lodges shall be required to pay, *pro rata*, the reasonable expense incurred by such commission or officers in the discharge of their official duty.

## ARTICLE XII.

### AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. The Grand Lodge shall have full power and authority to make amendments, alterations, and additions, to any portion of these by-laws, in manner and form only as prescribed in article XXV. of the by-laws, as published 5872.

## ARTICLE XIII.

### REPEAL.

SECTION 1. All by-laws, regulations, code of jurisprudence, and resolutions of this Grand Lodge, which are contrary to or inconsistent with this code, are hereby declared repealed, and the foregoing are adopted in their stead as the laws of this Grand Lodge: *Provided*, that such repeal shall not affect any rights or proceedings heretofore acquired or had.

## COMPLAINT.

To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of ——— Lodge, No. —, A. F. and A. M., Nebraska:

Brother ——— is hereby charged with unmasonic conduct, by reason of the following specifications:

*First Specification.*—That the said ———, on or about the ——— day of ———, 58—, at the town of ———, did violently assault and strike Brother ———.

*Second Specification.*—That the said ———, on or about the ——— day of ———, 58—, at ———, did, in presence of several persons, use the following slanderous words of and concerning Brother ———, to-wit: (Here set out the words.)

*Third Specification.*—That, under the provisions of Article I. (or Section 1 of Article II., as the case may be), Brother ——— is required to pay as dues to his said Lodge and the Grand Lodge; but that said Brother ———, contrary to his duties, has wilfully neglected so to do for the period of ——— years, and that there is now due to the Lodge from said Brother the sum of \$——.

(Use one or more specifications, as the facts may justify; add new specifications for each separate state of facts constituting a masonic offence, with reasonable certainty as to time and place.)

All of which said acts were in violation of his duties and obligations as a Mason, and tend to the scandal and disgrace of the masonic fraternity; wherefore it is demanded that the said ——— be put upon trial upon said charges and specifications, and be dealt with according to masonic law and usage.

(Signed.)

—————, *Junior Warden.*

(Dated) ———, A. L. 58—.

## SUMMONS.

(Summons to be served upon accused, with copy of complaint.)

Brother ——— ———:

You are hereby summoned and required to appear at the ——— (regular or special, as the case may be) communication of ——— Lodge, No. —, A. F. and A. M., to be held at the Lodge room, in ———, on the ——— day of ———, A. D. 18—, A. L. 58—, at ——— o'clock P. M., and then and there answer make to the complaint, of which the annexed is a true copy.

(Dated) ———, A. L. 58—.

By order of the Lodge.

[Seal.]

—————, *Secretary.*

## ANSWER.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, for answer to the charges preferred against \_\_\_\_\_, allege \_\_\_\_\_ that he is not guilty of the charges or specifications, or either of them.

(The answer will vary according to the facts in each case. The specifications, or either of them, may be admitted, and the charge denied; or the charges and specifications may be admitted, and matters pleaded in mitigation.)

(Signed.) \_\_\_\_\_

(Dated) \_\_\_\_\_, A. L. 58—

## NOTICE.

(Notice to parties to attend before Commissioners.)

To Brothers \_\_\_\_\_, complainant, and \_\_\_\_\_, accused:

Take notice that the undersigned, commissioners appointed to hear the charges preferred against Brother \_\_\_\_\_, will meet at \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. L. 58—, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock in the \_\_\_\_\_ noon, for the purpose of taking the testimony in said case.

(Dated) \_\_\_\_\_, A. L. 58—.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ } Commissioners.

## SUMMONS FOR WITNESSES.

To Brothers \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_:

You, and each of you, are hereby summoned and required to attend as a witness before Brothers \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the commissioners appointed to hear the charges preferred against Brother \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. L. 58—, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock in the \_\_\_\_\_ noon, and there to testify what you may know in the matter of said charges.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary.

[L. S.] (Dated) \_\_\_\_\_, A. L. 58—.

\_\_\_\_\_, W. M.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

In the matter against }  
Brother A— B— } (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 18—, A. L. 58—.

Present: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, commissioners.

Brother A— B— appeared in person, and by Brother C— D—, his counsel (or, if the accused failed to appear in person or by



counsel Brother A— B— failed to appear). Brother — officiated as chairman, and Brother — was chosen clerk of the commission.

(In case accused fail to appear, continue:) Proof of service of notice of trial upon A— B— was thereupon filed, and the commission proceeded to hear the evidence.

The charges and answer were then read. (Upon this record should be noted every matter which occurs during the investigation, and the manner in which the question is disposed of.)

Brother — was then examined in support of said charges, and testified as a Mason, as follows:

I reside at —; I know Brother —, etc., etc. (Language of the witness must be put in writing.)

Being cross-examined, the witness testified: (Here insert language of witness; it is not necessary to record the questions which may be asked witness in direct or cross-examination.)

The commissioners adjourned to meet at same place on the — day of —, 58—, at — o'clock — m.

(Date) —, —.

The commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present: —, —, —, commissioners, and A— B—, complainant, and C— D—. (Continue record of commission as above, until evidence is closed on both sides.) The proofs being closed, after hearing the parties, the commissioners submit their report of the testimony and their finding in the case, which is hereto attached and marked "Exhibit A."

(Signed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ } Commissioners.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of — Lodge, No. —, A. F. and A. M.:

The undersigned, commissioners heretofore appointed to hear the charges preferred against Brother —, fraternally report that they have attended to the duties assigned them, and that a record of the evidence and proceedings before them is herewith presented.

The commissioners, upon the testimony before them, find the following facts:

1. That Brother A— B— did, on the — day of—, A. D. 18—, A. L. 58—, violently assault and beat Brother —, as in said specification alleged.
2. That there was no provocation whatever for said assault.

(State, in like manner, in separate paragraphs, each finding of fact, and number them.)

They, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the charges of unmasonic conduct preferred against Brother ———, are sustained, and that he is guilty of said charge.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

(Signed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ } *Commissioners.*

(Dated) ———, A. L. 58—.

#### NOTICE OF PRESENTATION OF COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

*To Brothers* ——— (*complainant*), and ——— (*accused*):

You will take notice that the undersigned commissioners will present their report at the ——— communication of ——— Lodge, No. —, A. F. and A. M., to be held on the ——— day of ———, A. L. 58—, at — o'clock — m. A copy of their report and findings is hereto attached.

(Signed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ } *Commissioners.*

(Dated) ———, A. L. 58—.

#### NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE GRAND LODGE.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Nebraska, and to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of* ——— Lodge, No.—, A. F. and A. M.: (or, if an appeal from decision of Master, omit words, "Wardens and Brethren.")

The undersigned hereby appeals to you, from the decision of ——— Lodge, No. —, (or the decision of the Master of ——— Lodge, No. —) in passing sentence of expulsion on him, or in deciding (state decision of Master from which appeal is taken), and states the following grounds of appeal:

1. That said decision is against the law and the evidence.
2. That the Lodge (or the Master) erred. (State erroneous rulings or decisions complained of, separately, and number them.)

(Signed.)

\_\_\_\_\_.

(Dated) ———, A. L. 58—.

ORDER BY GRAND MASTER, STAYING SENTENCE, EXTENDING TIME, ETC.

*In the matter of* )  
*Brother* ———. }

Upon good cause shown us, by virtue of the power and authority in us vested as Grand Master of Masons in the State of Nebraska, we hereby order that the sentence of expulsion against Brother ———, passed by ——— Lodge, No. —, be and the same is hereby stayed until the hearing of the appeal therefrom by the Grand Lodge, or until our further order in the premises (or that the time to serve the notice of appeal in this matter) be extended ——— days from the date hereof.

Witness our hand and official seal, at the city of ———, this  
 [SEAL.] ——— day of ———, A. L. 58—.

(Signed.) ——— ———, *Grand Master.*

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE NEW EVIDENCE UPON HEARING OF APPEAL BEFORE THE GRAND LODGE.

*To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of* ——— *Lodge, No. —, A. F. and A. M.:*

You will take notice that upon the hearing of this appeal from the decision of ——— Lodge, No. —, before the Grand Lodge, the undersigned will offer evidence to prove (here state what he intends to prove).

(Signed.) ——— ———.

(Dated) ———, A. L. 58—.

ANSWER OF LODGE TO AN APPEAL.

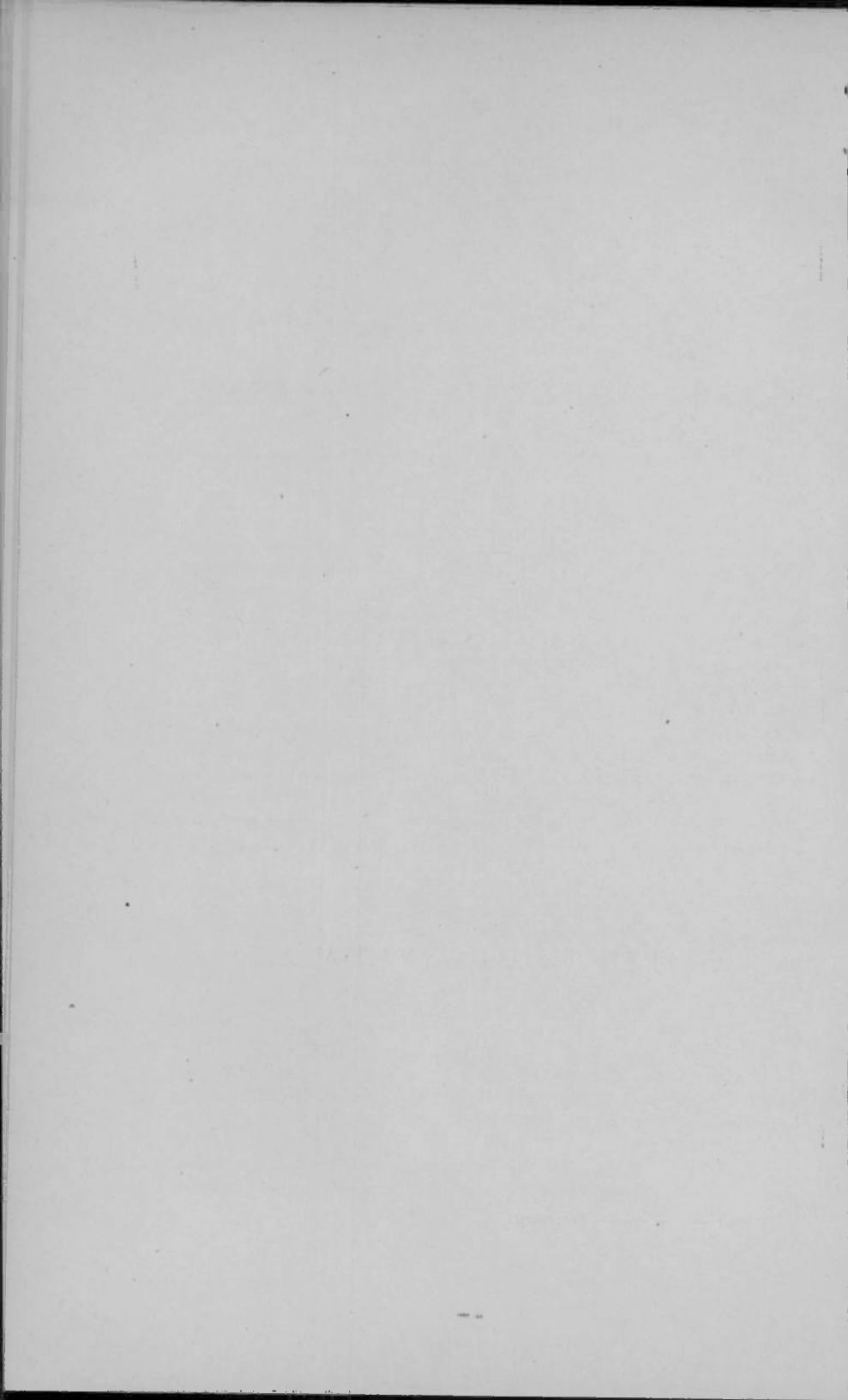
*To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Nebraska:*

——— Lodge, No. —, answering the appeal of A—— B——, respectfully shows:

That there was no error committed by said Lodge upon said trial; and that the decision is fully sustained by the law and the evidence. (Or the Lodge may be more specific in its answer, and reply to each alleged ground of appeal, seriatim.)

[SEAL.] ——— ———, *W. M.*

Attest: ——— ——— *Secretary.*



# RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

## GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA,

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SUBORDINATE LODGES.

---

1. A subordinate Lodge shall consist of at least a Master, a Senior and Junior Warden, a Treasurer, Secretary, Senior and Junior Deacon, a Tiler, and as many members as are convenient. The first five officers above enumerated shall be elected by ballot, by a majority of votes, at the regular meeting preceding the festival of St. John the Evangelist (December 27), and be installed into office on or before that date.

2. No brother, except in cases of newly chartered Lodges, shall be eligible to the Mastership unless he has been elected and served in the station of Warden in some regular chartered Lodge. In the absence of Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens, according to rank, shall succeed to the duties of his station. No Worshipful Master shall be installed until he shall have been duly qualified by receiving the degree of Past Master, the same to be conferred by a convocation of not less than three actual Past Masters, and none but actual Past Masters should be present at such convocation.

3. Each subordinate Lodge possesses the inherent right to enact by-laws and ordinances for its own government, provided the same are not inconsistent with the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations of Grand Lodge and the fundamental principles of Masonry. And to the end that these shall be preserved always inviolate, it is hereby declared that no by-law or ordinance of government of a subordinate Lodge shall be of any permanent validity until approved by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

4. Each Lodge shall assemble for work at least once in every lunar month; and if any Lodge under this jurisdiction shall cease to meet for twelve successive months, it shall forfeit its charter, and be erased from the Grand Lodge book.

5. All the proceedings, ballotings, and business of the Lodges, shall be had in a Lodge of Master Masons, that of conferring the inferior degrees alone excepted.

6. No religious test shall ever be required of any applicant for the benefits of Masonry, other than a steadfast belief in the existence and perfections of Deity ; and no Lodge under this jurisdiction shall receive any candidate without the acknowledgment of such belief.

7. A unanimous ballot in favor of applicants for the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason is required. Before advancing, applicants must be examined in the degree they have taken, in open Lodge, at a regular meeting, and required to possess a thorough knowledge of at least the first section thereof, before proceeding further ; and no Lodge in this jurisdiction shall confer said three degrees for a less sum than thirty dollars ; and in no case shall a degree be conferred until the required fee be in actual deposit.

8. No Lodge, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, shall initiate, craft, or raise a candidate.

9. All applications for initiation or for membership shall be made at regular meetings and lie over at least one lunar month.

10. After a petition is regularly received by a subordinate Lodge, and entered upon its minutes, it shall not be withdrawn.

11. If any member of a subordinate Lodge shall, from trifling, capricious, sinister or unworthy motives, attempt to arrest the legitimate work of his Lodge, he shall thereby be rendered amenable to masonic discipline. And it is made the duty of the Lodge, in all such cases, to proceed to the investigation thereof, and to reprimand, suspend, or expel the offending member, as a majority present may deem best.

12. No Lodge shall initiate into the mysteries of the craft any person whomsoever, without first being satisfied, by a test or otherwise, that such candidate has not made application to some other Lodge, and been rejected ; and if it shall appear that he has been so rejected, then the Lodge must be satisfactorily convinced that the objection to his initiation has been withdrawn, and the unanimous consent of the Lodge rejecting him must be obtained before he can be initiated.

13. Application for initiation must be made to the Lodge nearest the residence of the applicant (except in towns or cities where there are more than one Lodge, in which instance application may be made to either) : *Provided*, The Lodge nearest the residence of an applicant may, on application, waive jurisdiction and permit the applicant to send in his petition as he may desire.

14. In no case shall a subordinate Lodge publish in a newspaper the suspension of any of its members.

15. The subordinate Lodges have the power, with the consent of the Grand Lodge, or, when the Grand Lodge is not in session, of the Grand Master, to require all Master Masons residing within their respective jurisdictions to contribute pecuniary aid to purposes strictly masonic, but this power shall not be exercised except with proper caution and deliberation.

16. Each subordinate Lodge shall bury a deceased worthy member of its body with masonic rites, if requested by the decedent in his life-

time, or by his near relations after his death, and in all other cases such masonic honors may be granted or withheld as the Lodge may consider best.

17. Subordinate Lodges not only possess the power, but it shall be their express duty, to take cognizance of brethren within their vicinities, whether subordinate to the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge or otherwise, and to suspend or expel from the privileges of the order any brother who shall be found guilty of unmasonic conduct, subject, however, to an appeal to the Grand Lodge.

18. No subordinate Lodge shall proceed to suspend or expel a brother for unmasonic 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.

19. Any brother feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of the Lodge pronounced against him, may at any time within one year thereafter take an appeal to the Grand Lodge; and on his application, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of such Lodge to make out and forward to the Grand Secretary a certified copy of the proceedings had in his case, with the original testimony, as far as the same shall have been reduced to writing.

20. Applications for charters must be accompanied with a brief historical sketch of the facts, incidents, and preliminary steps connected with the organization of the proposed Lodge.

21. The Secretary of each subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction is required to notify the Grand Secretary of all rejections made by his Lodge, stating the name, age, residence, and occupation of each applicant rejected, and the Grand Secretary shall notify the other subordinate Lodges of such rejections. And each Lodge shall keep a book, in which shall be recorded each and every such objection made and reported; and to the end that the fraternity may not be imposed upon, each applicant, before being prepared for initiation, shall be required to satisfy the Lodge, by pledge or otherwise, that he has never been rejected in any other Lodge: *Provided*, That if any applicant shall file with his petition, a statement, in writing, that he has been so rejected, with the unanimous consent of the Lodge which rejected him, for his initiation, then such pledge shall be dispensed with. And no rejected applicant shall be initiated in any other Lodge until the unanimous consent of the Lodge rejecting him be obtained.

22. The jurisdiction of each Lodge extends over the non-affiliated as well as the affiliated Mason, and they are equally amenable for un-masonic conduct.

23. A non-affiliated Mason who shall, for the space of six months, reside in any county wherein is a working Lodge, without making application for membership therein, shall forfeit the privilege of visiting said Lodge; and, if he still fails or refuses to make application, as aforesaid, for the space of twelve months, he shall then forfeit all claim to masonic rights or benefits.

24. It is absolutely required of all Masons raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, to sign, in his own proper handwriting, the constitution and by-laws of the Lodge conferring the degree, and until the brother has done so, he shall not be authorized to take part in the proceedings, or be considered a member of the Lodge.

25. No subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction shall initiate, pass, or raise more than one candidate at the same time: *Provided*, this rule shall not be so construed as to prevent the giving of the lectures and charges to any number at the same time.

26. No Lodge shall endeavor to compel an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to take the degree, or to expel one from a Lodge without due trial and conviction for some masonic offence.

27. It is not lawful for a Lodge, in restoring to membership a brother who has been suspended, to charge him for dues for the time intervening between his suspension and restoration.

28. No Lodge shall ballot upon a petition for initiation from any person who has not been a resident of the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he makes application at least one year.

29. Where a non-affiliated Mason permanently locates within the jurisdiction of any subordinate Lodge in this state, and fails to make application for membership or give a satisfactory reason for not doing so, for the space of one year from the date of such location, he thereby forfeits all claims, rights, benefits, or recognition in Masonry, of whatsoever kind, except the right to petition for affiliation.

30. The masonic fiscal year of this jurisdiction shall commence on the first day of May, and end on the thirtieth day of April; and each subordinate Lodge shall make its annual report to the Grand Secretary within ten days thereafter; and all Grand dues of subordinate Lodges shall be paid on or before the first day of each annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

31. Petitions asking recommendation for the formation of new Lodges as provided for in the constitution of this Grand Lodge, shall only be presented at regular meetings, and then lay over until the next regular meeting before being acted upon. No brother shall be permitted to vote on the question of recommendation for a dispensation or charter when he is one of the applicants.

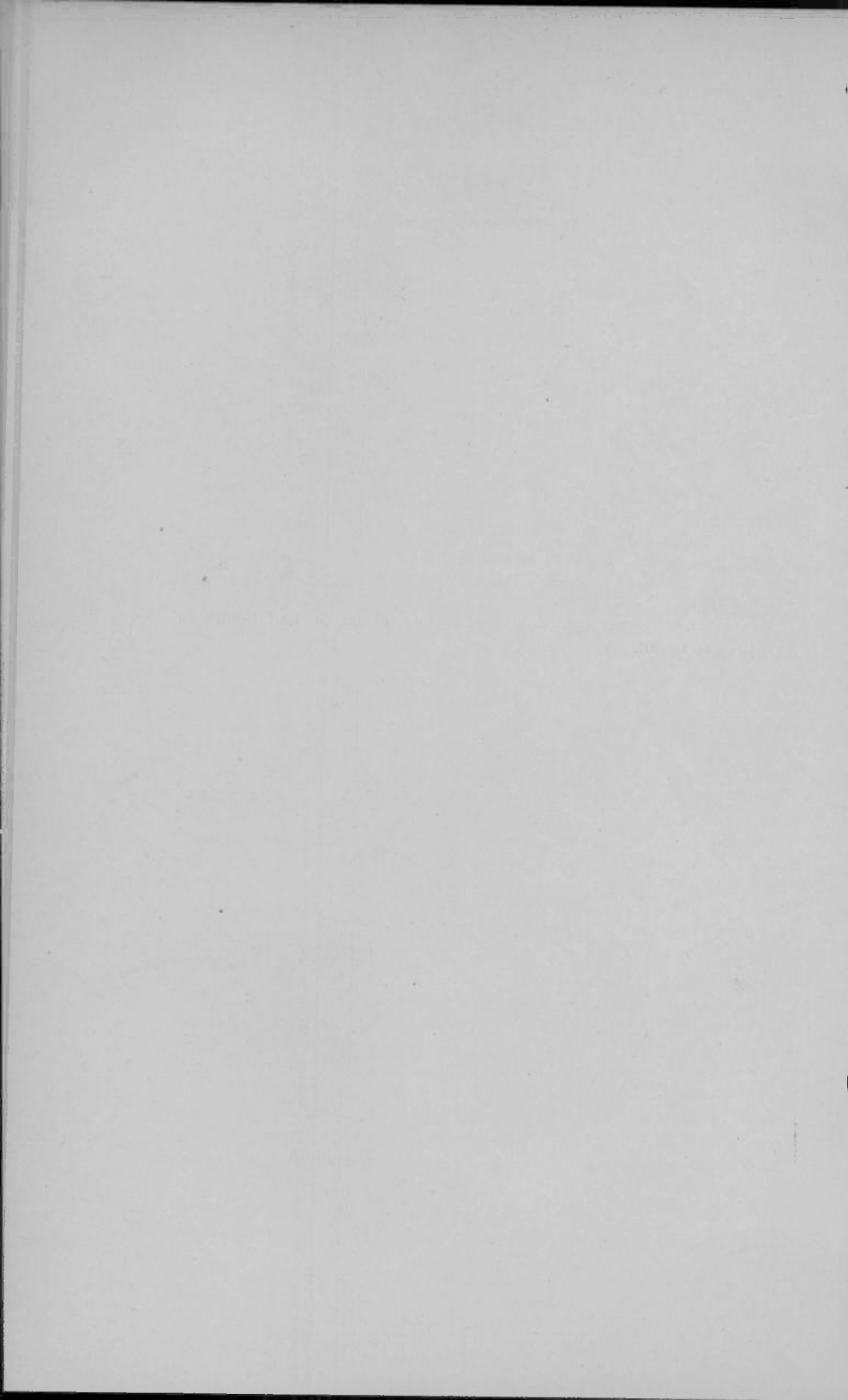


32. An expelled member can only be reinstated by petition and reference at a regular meeting, same as original petitions, to lay over until next regular meeting, and re-admitted on a unanimous vote.

33. An interval of one lunar month shall intervene between the election of applicants for advancement.

34. The right of a brother Master Mason to object to the admission of an applicant for membership, or for the several degrees conferred in a Master Mason's Lodge, cannot be denied; and where objection is made to the Worshipful Master, it is his duty to declare the brother or candidate rejected, without a ballot, unless the objection be withdrawn, even if the objecting brother be absent from the Lodge at the time of making the objection, or when the balloting is ordered.

35. None but members of the subordinate Lodge to which application is made for initiation, advancement, or membership, shall be permitted to vote on the question of admission or advancement. Whenever, however, objections are made to the Worshipful Master, in either case, by any Master Mason in good standing, masonic courtesy, at least, requires a suspension of further procedure, and the Worshipful Master should state fully to the Lodge the objections lodged, withholding the name of the objector, and an investigation should be had before proceeding to ballot.



## STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

*Resolved*, 1st. That it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that no man can become a Mason unless he can avow a belief in the Holy Scriptures; and it is also the sense of this Grand Lodge that the demand for such belief does not conflict with the universality of Freemasonry, but that in every land, and with every nation, where Masonry exists, the holy writings are respected, and some form of belief in them required from candidates for admission to the mysteries of the order. (5858.)

2d. That it is improper for an individual Mason to examine a traveling brother for the purpose of vouching for him to admit him into a Lodge, without having been appointed by the Worshipful Master or presiding officer for that purpose; and that no avouchment shall be taken for the admission of a visiting brother founded on such examination; nor the avouchment of a brother, unless he has been in open Lodge with the brother so proposing to visit. (5858.)

3d. That the Grand Lodge of Nebraska will guard the ancient landmarks and enforce respect for them by every means in her power. (5858.)

4th. That the Most Worshipful Grand Master be and he is hereby requested to communicate to the Grand Secretary the names of the officers designated in dispensations for the organization of new Lodges, and the date of such dispensations.

5th. That it is the sense and utterance of this Grand Lodge that the vices of intemperance, gambling, and profanity, are unmasonic in the highest sense, and derogatory of the best interests of the fraternity; hence, it is hereby made the imperative duty of the Masters and Wardens of the subordinate Lodges to prefer charges against any brother who persistently indulges in either of said vices, and try him, in the regular form, for such offence. (5859.)

6th. That the Masters of subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction be required to have the proceedings of the Grand Lodge read in their respective Lodges in connection with the rules and regulations for the government of subordinate Lodges, at the first regular communication after the same shall have been received. (5863.)

7th. That all subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge be and they are hereby instructed to procure a sufficient number of lambskin or white leathern aprons for the purpose of initiation. (5863.)

8th. That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge it is unwise and irregular for any subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction to initiate, pass, or

raise more than one candidate at the same time, provided this resolution shall not be so construed as to prevent the giving of the lectures and charges to any number at the same time. (5865.)

9th. That the M. W. Grand Master be and is hereby authorized to appoint suitable brethren as resident representatives of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to the several Grand Lodges in the United States and Canada, in accordance with the custom adopted by other Grand Bodies; and to request sister Grand Lodges to appoint resident representatives to this Grand Lodge. (5867.)

10th. That it is not lawful for a Lodge, in restoring to membership a brother who has been suspended, to charge him dues for the time intervening between his suspension and restoration. (5867.)

11th. That where any subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction shall be represented by only one of its officers, if no proxies be given by the other officers, the said officers attending shall be entitled to cast the number of votes to which such subordinate Lodge would be entitled, were all of its officers present. (5868.)

12th. That the Grand Secretary be directed to procure from each of the Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska a photograph, of uniform size, framed, and to be kept among the archives of this Grand Lodge. (5869.)

13th. That the sum of ten dollars be required from subordinate Lodges asking for a dispensation to confer degrees in less than the regular time; said sum to be paid into the Grand Lodge fund before the same shall be issued. (5872.)

14th. That this Grand Lodge views with abhorrence any attempt on the part of Lodges or members of Lodges to give the aid of Masonry in organized or individual form to any lottery or gift enterprise whatever; and the purchase, sale, or drawing of lottery tickets is unmasonic, deserving reproof and discipline. (5872.)

15th. That the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is a gross violation of masonic obligation, and should in all cases subject the offender to reprimand, and if persisted in, to expulsion from the fraternity. (5872.)

16th. That we carefully guard the landmarks of Masonry—the belief in God, the recognition of Divine Providence, and a profound respect for the Book of the Laws, which declares “thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,” and bids us remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. (5872.)

17th. That all printing for the Grand Lodge be referred to a special committee of three, of which the Grand Secretary shall be chairman. (5872.)

18th. That this Grand Lodge recommends to all subordinate Lodges within its jurisdiction that they amend their by-laws so as to make it incumbent on said subordinate Lodges to charge Grand Lodge and Orphan School Fund dues on all its members on the first day of May of each year. (5872.)

19th. That hereafter subordinate Lodges shall each year include in their annual returns a statement showing the names and number of

all Master Masons, Fellow Crafts, and Apprentices who have been suspended therein since the organization of such subordinate Lodges, and remain suspended at the date of the annual return. (5872.)

20th. That the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction be requested to notify all Lodges working under this jurisdiction to refuse examination and admission to all persons claiming to be Masons and hailing from Lodges within the Grand Jurisdiction of Michigan, unless they are provided with a certificate from the Grand Secretary of that Grand Jurisdiction, James Fenton, dated since March 15th, A. L. 5872. (5872.)

21st. That section 10 of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge requires the payment of Grand Lodge \* \* \* dues on all members of subordinate Lodges who are members on the *first day* of the masonic year, and on no others—that is, all members who lose membership in any subordinate Lodge, *from any cause whatever*, shall pay dues to this Grand Lodge, and no dues are required from those who *in any way* become members of any subordinate Lodge during the masonic year. (5872.)

22d. That the trafficking in lottery tickets, and all schemes, enterprises, and games of chance are corrupting and demoralizing in their tendencies, and as such are offences against the fundamental principles of Masonry; and all persons guilty of such practices shall be subject to the same penalties as the liquor dealer, the habitual drunkard, the profane swearer, or professional gambler. (5873.)

23d. That subordinate Lodges are hereby required to take cognizance of violations of the foregoing resolution; and to bring to trial, conviction, and punishment all Masons within their respective jurisdictions who shall wilfully violate the same. (5873.)

24th. That any subordinate Lodge which shall fail to punish a flagrant violation of the foregoing resolutions shall be liable to forfeiture of its charter; and the Grand Master is authorized, in the exercise of a wise discretion, to suspend the charter of any subordinate Lodge which shall fail to enforce a due regard for these resolutions, or which shall in any manner countenance any lottery, gift enterprise, or scheme of chance. (5873.)

25th. That a compulsory method of keeping Masons within the Lodge, after they have once been made, is repugnant to the voluntary character of the institution. (5873.)

26th. That it is unwise on the part of any Lodge to refuse an application for a demit on the part of a member in good standing, made in legal form and in good faith. (5873.)

27th. That although demission made with the intention of a total disseverance from the fraternity is a violation of a masonic duty, yet there is no power in a Lodge to refuse to act upon an application for a demit when legally demanded. (5873.)

28th. That the committees on Accounts, Charters and Dispensations, By-Laws and Chartered Lodges, Grievances, and Masonic Jurisprudence, be required to meet two days in advance of the meeting of the Grand Lodge, to consider the several matters to be referred to them. (5873.)

29th. That the committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall consist of the Past Grand Masters of this Grand Jurisdiction who shall be present at the annual Grand Convocations, and that the junior Grand Master shall be chairman of said committee. (5873.)

30th. That all matters coming before these committees from subordinate Lodges shall be forwarded by the Secretaries of the subordinate Lodges on or before the first day of the month in which the Grand Lodge convenes, to the Grand Secretary, to be by him transmitted to the committees. (5873.)

31st. That the Grand Lodge make an appropriation of the amount of *per die* to each member of the committees in attendance as required in the foregoing resolution, the same as though in attendance upon the Grand Lodge. (5873.)

32d. That hereafter no subordinate Lodge shall be entitled to representation in this Grand Lodge until it has fully complied with the provisions of rule 21 of the rules and regulations for the government of subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction. (5874.)

33d. That the Grand Secretary be required to call the attention of each subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction to rule 21, and the penalty for its violation, at least forty days before the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, by circular or otherwise. (5874.)

34th. That Masons holding demits over one year old shall not be competent petitioners for dispensations granted by this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (5874.)

35th. 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. (5874.)

36th. 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. (5874.)

37th. Whereas, it is the practice in this jurisdiction to publish in the printed proceedings of this Grand Body lists of those suspended and expelled by the subordinate Lodges; and, whereas, provision has been made to furnish subordinate Lodges with a "black book," in which shall be recorded the names of all those rejected, suspended, and expelled, for the private information and guidance of such Lodges; therefore, *Resolved*, That hereafter no lists of those suspended, rejected, or expelled be published in the printed proceedings of this body. (5874.)

38th. That regarding initiation, each subordinate Lodge in this jurisdiction must be governed by the landmarks of the fraternity and the regulations of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. (5877.)

39th. That regarding admission to membership, subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction cannot elect a brother who does not last hail from a Lodge chartered by a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. (5877.)

## QUESTIONS DECIDED

BY THE

### GRAND MASTER AND GRAND LODGE.

---

1. *Question.* If, by suicide or other unnatural manner, a Master Mason comes to his death, is the decedent entitled to masonic burial?

*Answer.* Masters of Lodges have a perfect right to act discretionary. (5858.)

2. *Question, first.* Does a sentence of expulsion made by a subordinate Lodge operate fully and effectively before such expulsion is reported to the Grand Lodge, and a ratification of such sentence by that body? *Second.* If yea, what action is necessary to be taken by a Lodge expelling one of its members, in reference to notifying other Lodges, in and out of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, of such expulsion?

*Answer, first.* Expulsion from a subordinate Lodge does operate fully and effectively until the member shall be reinstated as is provided for in the by-laws of this Grand Lodge, section 25. *Second.* Refer to sections 23 and 24 of the by-laws of the Grand Lodge. (5864.)

3. It is not lawful for a Lodge of Masons to convene for "work" on the Sabbath day. (5866.)

4. It is not lawful to confer the degrees of the order upon an applicant who can neither read nor write. (5866.)

5. A Lodge under dispensation cannot admit Master Masons to membership upon demits. (5866.)

6. A person who has lost the index finger of the right hand, and whose middle finger of the same hand is stiff, so that he cannot straighten it, is not eligible to be initiated into the mysteries of the craft. Nor one whose left knee is stiff. (5875.)

7. The Grand Lodge has not the legal or constitutional right to demit any brother from his Lodge. The compact of membership is between each subordinate Lodge and its members, and the severance of that compact by demitting must be the joint act of the Lodge and its members. (5866.)

8. *Question.* Is a member of a subordinate Lodge, who has been made an honorary member thereof by action of the Lodge, required to pay Grand Lodge dues?

*Answer.* The Lodge should pay said dues. (5867.)

9. It is absolutely necessary that the constitutional questions should be propounded to the candidate for initiation before he is prepared. (5867.)

10. A brother has the right to see the charter of a subordinate Lodge previous to his being examined. (5867.)

11. A non-affiliated Mason has not the right to represent a subordinate Lodge in this Grand Lodge. (5867.)

12. That a Lodge under dispensation only pays to the Grand Lodge dues accruing from initiations. That all other dues are to be reported to the chartered Lodge having jurisdiction before the dispensation was granted. That the authority of a chartered Lodge is not restricted over its members or non-affiliated Masons by reason of a dispensation having been granted to certain brethren to meet within its jurisdiction as a Lodge under dispensation. That in all respects, except in matters mentioned in the dispensation (making Masons), the jurisdiction of the chartered Lodge is as complete as before the dispensation was granted. (5868.)

13. It is the right and duty of the Master of the Lodge within whose jurisdiction they reside, to require all persons claiming to be Masons, whether they visit the Lodge or not, to prove themselves to be what they profess. In default of their ability to do so in a legal manner, they are to be regarded and treated as impostors. (5868.)

14. Demitted Masons, though working in a Lodge under dispensation, notwithstanding they may be named in the dispensation, are, strictly speaking, non-affiliated Masons. (5868.)

15. That a brother who has been "elected and installed" as a Warden of a chartered Lodge is eligible to the office of Master. One who has only served by virtue of the appointment of the Grand Master, in a Lodge under dispensation, is not. (5868.)

16. That the officers of a Lodge cannot be installed by proxy. There is no authority for such a proceeding. The obligation at installation should be taken by the person who is to perform its requirements. The charge should be delivered to the party upon whom rests the responsibility of obedience. (5868.)

17. Indefinite suspension does not relieve the suspended brother from his masonic obligations, nor does it deprive his Lodge of jurisdiction over him. If, during the suspension, he should be guilty of gross unmasonic conduct, his Lodge has the power to try him on charges and expel him. (5868.)

18. A "regular summons" is usually in writing or print, issued by order of the Master, signed by the Secretary, and authenticated by the seal of the Lodge. A verbal summons by the Master is equally binding upon the brother to whom it is given. (5868.)



19. It is not regular for a Lodge to receive a candidate's promise to pay his fee in lieu of money. (5868.)

20. A member's dues commence from the time that he is raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft cannot be charged with dues. (5868.)

21. It is the duty of a Master to see that his Lodge is protected against improper propositions, or propositions presented with undue frequency. He has control over all such matters, subject to the Grand Lodge for the proper exercise thereof. (5868.)

22. A visiting brother is present only by courtesy, and can exercise the privilege of speaking or any other participation in the proceedings simply to the extent that leave is granted, and then his action can be no other than advisory. (5868.)

23. A Lodge in this state has jurisdiction over a person who has taken the Entered Apprentice degree in another state for the purpose of conferring the remaining degrees, provided he has come here to reside permanently, and the Lodge in this state is satisfied that the degree has been conferred, and the person is a suitable one to be advanced, both by information and actual observation, and has the written consent of the Lodge where he was initiated or passed. (5868.)

24. It may be, and often is, necessary for a Master to order the ballots passed a second, or perhaps, in exceptional instances, a third time, when he thinks, or has reason to believe, that a black ball may have been cast by mistake. The result when declared is the property of the Lodge, and is final.

25. A demit once taken severs the brother's connection with the Lodge granting it. The connection can only be resumed by a unanimous vote, in the same manner and under the same regulations as in the case of the application of a stranger to the Lodge. It does not matter for what purpose the demit was taken, the result is as above stated. The demit is evidence that the person making application for membership was once a member of some Lodge in good standing. The application must lie over one communication, as in cases of new members. If your by-laws require a different method, they are wrong. You are not bound to receive a demit any way except as evidence of the facts set forth therein, and as such to be deposited among the Lodge records. A Lodge has a perfect right to refuse membership, notwithstanding the demit, if they so choose, if the applicant is not worthy, and that without charge preferred. (5868.)

26. Objection to initiation of a candidate may be made in open Lodge, or by information given to the Master, and it will, if insisted upon, be taken as a rejection of the candidate. (5868.)

27. It is the duty of the Master to maintain order in his Lodge. To this end he may refuse admission to a member or cause an offending member to be removed from the Lodge. This he does to maintain order, yet a member cannot be excluded when he is announced at the door because another member objects to his admission. (5868.)

28. There being no by-laws to the contrary, an objection to advancement, made manifest by the ballot, is only good until the next regular communication, but an objection made to the Master, or to the Lodge, holds good until removed, which shall be considered as being removed at the expiration of six months after date of objection, at which time the applicant may renew his application if he desires, and the Master shall order a ballot upon the same. (5872.)

29. It is proper for one Lodge to ask another Lodge to confer the second and third degree for them upon one who has been elected to receive said degrees by the Lodge making the request, in which case the Lodge making the request would still hold jurisdiction over the candidate. (5872.)

30. A Lodge cannot be called off from one day or night to some other day or night, and call it a continuation of the same meeting (except in cases of trials or funerals), but a Lodge should be regularly closed on the day or night in which it was opened. All receptions of petitions, reports on the same, and all balloting should be had at regular communications, and none are regular except those designated as such by the by-laws of the Lodge. (5872.)

31. It would be improper for a Lodge in this jurisdiction to make a Mason of one who has a cork-leg, however worthy he otherwise might be. (5872.)

32. It is not necessary for an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft made in a Lodge in this jurisdiction, to make written application for advancement. A candidate must be examined in open Lodge, in the previous degree taken, and previous to the ballot being had. (5872.)

33. A Lodge under dispensation cannot receive demitted Masons to membership; they can do nothing except what is mentioned in the dispensation—that of making Masons. (5872.)

34. As I understand the rule in this jurisdiction, no one can preside as Master of a chartered Lodge until they have received the Past Master's degree, the same having been conferred in a convocation of actual Past Masters, consisting of not less than three. (5872.)

35. A Chapter Past Master cannot be present at a convocation of actual Past Masters, the same being for the purpose of conferring the Past Master's degree on the Master elect of a subordinate Lodge. But one who is an actual Past Master, who may have received the degree in a Chapter, previous to filling the office of Master, is to be regarded as an actual Past Master, and is competent to assist in conferring the degree on a Master elect. (5872.)

36. Lodges under dispensation have territorial jurisdiction co-equal with chartered Lodges, for the purposes named in the dispensation, to-wit: that of making Masons. (5872.)

37. All who are named in a dispensation for a Lodge under dispensation, together with those who have been made Master Masons therein, are entitled to vote upon all matters that come before the Lodge.

Lodges under dispensation are not competent to try Masons for unma-sonic conduct. (5872.)

38. One Lodge conferring the third degree upon an elected candidate at the request of another Lodge, the brother is a member of the Lodge that made the request, by complying with the by-laws of said Lodge. (5872.)

39. Right of objection:

*First.* That an objection made to the Master or to the Lodge, by a member thereof, against the initiation or advancement of a candidate, who has previously been elected, must be respected, and holds good until removed.

*Second.* The objector's reasons are his own; he may or may not give them, just as he sees fit; his inherent rights are such as preclude any demand being made upon him to explain his reasons therefor.

*Third.* The objector is not bound to prefer charges, nor can the Lodge or any other power require him to disclose his reasons for objecting.

*Fourth.* A candidate for advancement has no claim upon the Lodge for the Fellow Craft or Master Mason's degree, further than what is guaranteed by his moral and mental fitness to receive them; but his standing as an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft is not impaired by a refusal of the Lodge to advance him. (5872.)

40. A Master Mason not in good standing is not entitled to masonic recognition because he is, for the time being, a member of a Chapter. (5873.)

41. A Mason who applies for and is granted a demit from a subordinate Lodge, to which the Master failed to affix his signature, is a demitted Mason. To make his certificate of demission regular, he should have a certificate of the action of the Lodge, and the Master for the time being should affix his signature thereto. (5873.)

42. A ballot in the Fellow Craft and Master Mason's degree is taken, both for the degree and proficiency. (5873.)

43. The actual Past Master's degree can only be conferred by three or more actual Past Masters; none but actual Past Masters should be present as such convocation; and the lecture must be that of the actual Past Master's degree. (5874.)

44. In case the Master and Wardens elect of any subordinate Lodge should refuse or neglect to be installed, such Lodge would, nevertheless, be entitled to representation in this Grand Lodge. (5875.)

45. A brother who, under existing laws of the Grand Lodge of New York, has petitioned for affiliation in one of our Lodges previous to receiving his demit, and after being elected and receiving his demit, fails to deposit it with the Lodge electing him, is a demitted Mason. (5875.)

46. Money accompanying a petition should not be passed into the treasury of a Lodge before a favorable ballot. (5875.)

47. A brother whose demit is over one year old can, if not a resident in the jurisdiction for a year, lawfully petition for affiliation. (5875.)

48. An applicant for the degrees in Masonry, if stiff in joint of left knee, cannot be made a Mason. (5875.)

49. A member of a Lodge is not liable for dues during term of suspension. (5875.)

50. The subordinate Lodge is liable for Grand Lodge dues of a suspended member who was in good standing at the beginning of current year. (5875.)

51. The floating indebtedness of a Lodge cannot be considered as dues, nor is it a condition precedent to the obtaining of a demit, that the brother applying therefor should pay his *pro rata* share of the same, unless it be regularly assessed as dues and expressed in the by-laws of the Lodge. (5875.)

52. Can the by-laws of a subordinate Lodge preclude a member in arrears for dues from voting upon petitions for initiation, advancement, or affiliation? No. All present must vote, if members of the Lodge in good standing. (5875.)

53. A Lodge has no right to confer degrees upon an applicant whose residence is insufficient, notwithstanding the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he formerly resided may grant permission. (5875.)

54. 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. (5876.)

55. An installed officer of the Lodge cannot demit during his term of office. (5876.)

56. 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. (5876.)

57. 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 in the state. (5876.)

58. 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. (5876.)

59. 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. (5876.)

60. 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. (5876.)

61. The powers of a 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. (5876.)

62. 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. (5876.)

63. *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. (5876.)

64. *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. (5876.)

65. *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. (5876.)

66. Eight Master Masons constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in a subordinate Lodge. (5877.)

67. *Question.* Is it the duty of a constituent Lodge under this jurisdiction, in the event of a member thereof requiring and receiving pecuniary assistance at the hands of a Lodge in a sister jurisdiction, to reimburse the Lodge so rendering assistance the amount thus advanced?

*Answer.* It is, so far as his actual necessities may require. (5877.)

68. *Question.* Is it the duty of a constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction to reimburse a Lodge of this or a sister jurisdiction for the expenses incurred in the care and burial of sojourning members in good standing of such other Lodge?

*Answer.* It is, if the deceased brother was in indigent circumstances. (5877.)

69. An actual Past Master cannot, under any circumstances, open a Lodge and transact business in the absence of the Master and the Wardens, except the Lodge be first congregated by one its principal officers. (5877.)

70. Fees accompanying a petition for membership become the property of the Lodge after a favorable ballot. (5877.)

71. It is not necessary for a Lodge at its stated communications to open as Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons, but the Grand Lodge recommends that it be done. (5877.)

