

THE MASONIC JOURNAL

GREENSBORO, N. C.

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E. A. WILSON, Editor & Proprietor.

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Our Foreman, Mr. J. H. FETZER, is authorized to receive and receipt for Subscriptions in our absence.

REMEMBER the Grand Lodge meets in Raleigh next Monday, the 6th inst., at 7 o'clock P. M. Every Lodge in the State should be represented, as much business of importance is to be transacted.

We are sorry to part company editorial with our friends of the *Reidsville News*, Messrs. Bethel and Reid, who have sold that paper to John R. Webster, a former proprietor. In parting with brothers Bethel and Reid, we do so with unfeigned regrets, having entertained relations of the highest regard for them during the short period of journalistic intercourse.

With Mr. Webster we are unacquainted, but judge from his salutatory that he will keep the *News* up to its present high standard.

THANKS—To Past Grand Master, brother Sereno D. Nickerson, Editor of the *New England Freemason*, for complete files of that valuable Magazine from Jan. 1st, 1874, to September 1st 1875 inclusive. This is a valuable acquisition to our library, of which we will make free use in future.

ALSO—To Companion R. P. Earhart, Grand Secretary, for a copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Royal Ach Chapter of the State of Oregon, held at Portland, June 11th & 12th, 1875. Pressing duties prevent a more extended notice this week.

Our esteemed cotemporary, the *Philadelphia Jewish Record*, copying our strictures on the unmasonic practice of electioneering for office in the Lodges, adds the following timely comments:

"These remarks are most appropriate, as the season for elections in the Masonic Lodges is close at hand. We agree fully with Brother Wilson in his just stricture as to the unmasonic practice of electioneering for office. By this means, frequently, modest merit is set aside and the successful aspirant is one who does no credit to his Lodge. If any stranger should visit the ante-rooms of our Temples and Halls or even in the Lodge Rooms while called off, during the month of December, he could almost fancy himself in the lobby of a political convention. And the grievance increases with ad-

vancing years and often the most contemptible tricks are resorted to, in order to oust faithful officers who deem their past services should entitle them to retention or advancement without effort to secure votes. Let the Grand Lodges take measures to prevent this crying evil and begin at home."

While in Goldsboro last week, brother H. C. Prempart showed us his commission of appointment as Tyler of our Grand Lodge, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mayor Jos. H. Separk of Raleigh. Brother Prempart has previously held the position of Grand Tyler for several terms, and makes a most efficient and courteous officer.

On The Wing.

Last week we took a coveted respite from our daily office toil by making a flying trip to our former Eastern home. Leaving home at 2 o'clock in the morning is anything but pleasant to a tired, overworked man, but the prospective of pleasure and recreation sent us willingly forth. We spent the early hours in ineffectual efforts at sleep, and by 7 o'clock were fully prepared to make savage onslaught upon the rich viands with which Mrs. Troy's table (breakfast and supper house at Morrisville) was abundantly supplied. Thus appeased and refreshed we were ready for anything that might turn up.

At Raleigh we were joined by our genial friends Pool of *Our Living and Our Dead*, and the ubiquitous Woodson, now of the *Wilson Advance*. With them our time passed off pleasantly, and in due season we were at Goldsboro where we met many friends.

On the Eastern train we were thrown with rather "mixed" company. A party of Quakers were on board, bound for Beaufort, several lawyers were going to Kinston court, and Gaylords negro minstrel troupe were going to Newbern—to "bust," which they did, and ought to have done long before, judging from their physique.

At Kinston we were warmly greeted by our many friends, and made to feel "at home again." Here we spent a short time at the Masonic Festival very pleasantly, mingling with our old friends. This was certainly the most beautiful and bountiful entertainment of the kind we ever attended, and reflects unbounded credit upon the fair hands that planned and arranged the tables and decorations. Two beautiful cakes contended for a prize, one presented by Mr. A. S. Padrick and one presented by Mrs. Ida Harvey, and so close was the contest that the committee were unable to decide between them.

We found the JOURNAL exceedingly popular among its readers in that section, the general expression being "we can't be without it," for all of which we say, thanks.

The great cry was no money and hard times—the hardest since the war—and all growing out of short crops and low prices of cotton. When will those noble farmers learn to exercise common sense views and produce their home supplies rather than depend upon the uncertainties of a single crop? Our Western section is more prosperous and progressive because of its diversity of crops and industries. From this our Eastern friends might learn a lesson.

Our furlough being out, we leave this moralizing for those most interested and turn our steps homeward, where we arrived in due season refreshed by the week's vacation.

Subscribe for the MASONIC JOURNAL.

Our Journal.

Judging by the short period it has been before the public, and the generous reception given it, our MASONIC JOURNAL is beyond peradventure a success. With every issue our subscription list increases, but not in that satisfactory ratio commensurate with the expense incident to a new enterprise.

The paper has been before the Fraternity sufficiently long for them to judge of its merits and usefulness to the Order, and it now rests with them to say whether its labors are of sufficient importance to entitle it to a proper support from the Masons of North Carolina and the South. If so, we ask it at once, and in the spirit of acknowledged interest which all should feel in the matter.

As a means of enlightenment to the members and of communication with the Lodges it certainly is invaluable, and we appeal to each Worshipful Master and others desiring our success to interest themselves in our behalf among the membership of their Lodges and the citizens of their communities (for it is a vehicle of value to all) and secure us lists and send them forward at once. Let each one feel that it is our Journal, and strive to send a few names, (with the cash.)

Of course we shall look forward to the Grand Lodge, next week, with full expectations, for the interest manifested by the members of that Body will, to a great extent, determine our success for a coming year. We shall regard each member as a special agent, and hope to receive from him a good report from his Lodge. Give us a liberal support and we promise you value received, "good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over."

Good Advice.

The editor of the *New York Dispatch*, in speaking about the Masonic elections about taking place, utters the following wholesome advice:

We have heard frequent mention made of this, that, and the other ambitious aspirant, who is canvassing the field in advance, and in person, and through personal and sometimes officious friends—and not unfrequently injudicious ones—soliciting influence and support for official station.

This practice is much to be reprehended. The old maxim that "office should seek the man, and not man the office," is as true to-day in Masonry as it was in the primitive times of our institution. In fact we may say that a recognition of this maxim is to-day more in countenance with the true principles which should actuate Masons than ever before.

Our beloved Fraternity was never more prosperous than now, and we should beware lest our present successes blind us as to the legitimate cause of our conduct, which a decent self-respect should teach.

We take this opportunity in all soberness of spirit to warn the Craft against those who seek position from any ignoble ambition; and to beware of those who solicit preferment for themselves or friends, as interfering with the inalienable privilege of each individual elector, and as evidencing a disposition to engraft upon the Fraternity something of the political practices that obtain so largely at the present day in our popular elections.

Let merit be the only test for office, with capacity and zeal as a necessary accomplishment. Should this rule of action be observed in the approaching selections of officers in our several Masonic bodies, we may hope for an enlarged improvement in the personnel of those who may be chosen, and, as a sequence, an unabated prosperity in our beloved Fraternity at home, and no diminution of respect for its standing in other lands.

Tolla Floyd of Syria.

"Then he'll do it," exclaimed the man to whom I had said that we had engaged Rolla Floyd to accompany us from Damascus to Jaffa. "You have been fortunate in securing that mysterious man. His name is worth a hundred rifles against any tribe in Syria."

Floyd was one of a colony of Americans who left the pine forests of Maine, in the United States, some ten or a dozen years ago, to settle in the Holy Land.

His fine athletic form and his wonderful strength, coupled with his invariable kindness of heart and mildness of temper soon created a marked sensation among the natives; for when finding them in personal quarrel and rolling in the dust like fierce mastiffs, he frequently rushed into the crowd and, grasping the two combatants by the napes of their necks,—one in each hand—slowly walked down to the sandy shores of the mediterranean, and soused them into the briny sea until promises of peace and reconciliation had been given. Frequent attempts were made to rob his express of valuable packages, but he always managed to capture one or both of the bandits, and compelling them to listen to an impressive sermon on honesty, he always let them off on receiving promises of reformation. By this kindness in not turning his prisoners over to Turkish vengeance and entire fearlessness, he in time became as great an idol among the desperate thieves and cut-throats as he was among the most upright.

With a memory that seems to be without limits, he shortly became master of the Arabic, so that he speaks it with an accurate fluency, acquired by but few not born on the desert. In his familiarity with the Bible he surpasses all men I have ever seen, quoting from memory almost any verse that may be called for. It is asserted by those who have known him intimately for years that they have never seen him display anger, surprise, or boisterous mirth. Traveling as a missionary throughout the entire length and breadth of Palestine, and becoming familiar with every lake, hill, valley, cave, stream, and mountain mentioned in the Bible, he is to-day unquestionably the best informed in biblical history and topography of any man living. The American Government has twice offered him a Consulship; but his reply has been, "I shall make less money but perform more labor among the poor children of God by remaining in the field."

Once every month he regularly makes his appearance in Jerusalem, and takes a seat in the East as the W. M. of the Royal Solomon Mother Lodge, F. A. M. which position he has long held by the unanimous votes of all the members.—*ez.*

PROF. KERR IN BALTIMORE.—Prof. W. C. Kerr, our learned and indefatigable State geologist, was invited by the president of the American Health Association, recently in session in Baltimore, to deliver an address before its members on North Carolina topography and geology. Knowing that the wonders he would have to tell would seem incredible to men entertaining the average orthodox ideas of our grand old commonwealth, he outfitted himself before starting with a full equipment of official maps, charts and statistics, and it was well he did. His descriptions of North Carolina scenery, and his statements in regard to her resources, seemed to his distinguished auditors like fairy tales or snatches from the Arabian Nights. They had never in their wildest dreams imagined anything of the glories he portrayed, the marvelous lavishing of nature's richest gifts upon our almost unknown and wholly unappreciated realm. His maps and figures were resistless, and the result was that the president of the body and many of the eminent pundits declared their intention to come at an early day, and see for themselves our land of the blest.—*Sentinel.*