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NEXT TUESDAY will be the commencement of the Centennial Celebration of Methodism in this State, at Raleigh. All the railroads will carry visitors and return for one fare. It will continue through the week, closing on Sunday night. Three Bishops, and other prominent ministers are expected to be present. No doubt thousands will visit Raleigh during that week with a view of participating in the general religious festivity.

Why Masons Celebrate the 24th of June.

ST. JOHN'S DAY.—Masonic Lodges in ancient times were dedicated to King Solomon. Tradition informs us that they were thus dedicated from the building of the First Temple, at Jerusalem, to the Babylonish captivity. From that time to the coming of the Messiah, they were dedicated to Zerubbabel, the builder of the second Temple; and from that time to the final destruction of the temple by Titus, in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, they were dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

Owing to the many massacres and disorders, which attended that memorable event, Freemasonry fell very much into decay. Many of the Lodges were entirely broken up, and but few could meet with sufficient members to constitute their legality. Under these circumstances a general meeting of the Craft was held in the city of Benjamin, when it was observed that the principal reason for the decline of Masonry was the want of a Grand Master to direct its affairs. They, therefore, deputed seven of their most eminent members to wait upon St. John, the Evangelist, who was at that time Bishop of Ephesus, to request him to take the office of Grand Master. He returned for answer, that though well stricken in years (being upwards of ninety) yet, having been in the early part of his life initiated into Masonry, he would take upon himself that office. He did so, and completed by his learning what St. John the Baptist had accomplished by his zeal. After his decease, the Christian Lodges were dedicated to him and St. John the Baptist, both of them being regarded as eminent Christian patrons of Masonry. Since then Masons have ever celebrated the 24th of June in commemoration of St. John the Baptist, and the 27th of December, in commemoration of St. John the Evangelist.—*Ex.*

Pompeii.

I thought I knew says a writer, almost how Pompeii looked, yet could not understand how a city could be so covered up as to be entirely forgotten, and no description I ever read could give me a satisfactory idea. It was a small city on a plain, near the foot of Mount Vesuvius; now where they have dug away the covering, it has the appearance of lying in a valley between two hills,

when, in reality, the hills are of the same material as that which once covered the whole city the valley being formed by removing the ashes to get at the ruins. The more they excavate the larger will be the valley, as more than two thirds of the city still lies under the hills, the grass growing over it as green as it once was over Pompeii entire. No wonder it was forgotten, hidden under a hill, with good pasture land on top. The work of excavation is still going on. We started for Pompeii early in the morning. A guide accompanied us to explain the ruins and watched us. Two francs and a cigar closed his eyes while we kicked up some of the mosaics.

We spent half a day within the walls, and walked nearly over the entire city of roofless houses. It was very interesting. Everything could be traced—the houses with dining and conversation rooms and inner courts. They believed in luxuries in those days, nearly every house having a bath room and fountain. The latter are still standing; some with curious figures of children holding the pipes in their hands from which the water came. The pipe is still fastened in the ground. Stores, with marble counters, are standing, some with holes in them for jars of wine or oils. Bake shops, with mills for grinding corn and ovens for baking, are to be seen. In them were found loaves of bread which might, without irreverence, be marked "B. C." A few stairs are left standing to upper rooms. In some of the rooms were found bodies, that are now in the museum. The position of each denoted that they died in great agony.

Some are lying with the faces upon their arms, as if to shield them from the fire of burning ashes; other's arms in an embrace that knew no parting even in death. On the finger of one woman is a ring, while on another is a necklace with the name "Julie di Diomede" engraved upon it. The streets are narrow, the sidewalks high, paved with large irregular shaped stones, said to be the lava. On the corners are stepping stones to cross from one side of the street to the other. The houses were gayly painted and frescoed. The painting on the inside is still to be seen and plainer than some of the work of the old masters. In one house (in which no woman is allowed to enter) are paintings few would care to look at and none have the hardihood to describe. They show well the character of the house. Many believe that Pompeii's destruction was a just retribution, perhaps so; but I can't see why Naples was spared.

No sight in Europe has been so interesting to us as Pompeii; everything is just as it was 1,800 years ago. The ruins at Rome and many of the old buildings show its former greatness and many of the customs of the people.—But many of them have been altered, and sometimes it is difficult to tell the old from the new. More than one building we

have gazed at and admired as ancient; then worn out of the guide by degrees that this part was modern, that the roof was new, and those columns were placed there three hundred years ago, and so on till it was difficult to find anything but the foundation that was the same as when the building was erected. But in Pompeii everything is unchanged; the style of architecture is not altered; the streets are not widened or the houses rebuilt by progressive people. No there it stands, a city as old as Rome, without any alteration.

The Assailants of Masonry.

Bro. Christopher Diehl, Committee on Correspondence for the Grand Lodge of Utah, in his last report says:

The assailants of Masonry are those who know least of its principles, objects and results. In proportion to their ignorance, rages their prejudice. In fact to ignorance, bigotry and jealousy, may be traced all the opposition Masonry meets with in its irresistible progress. The increase of the Institution and the many evidences of its benign results, daily and hourly multiplying on every side, and exhibiting themselves in every place of good society, are slowly but surely digging deep the grave of destruction, and adding pillar to pillar to our noble temple. Our operations are our great strength, and our defamers must annihilate these, before they can hope to make a successful assault upon our organization.

The gigantic and rapid strides of Freemasonry drive its opponents to madness. All to no avail. Look at our own home; their shriek, "wolf!" during the last year has been answered by the dedication of the Temple in New York and a Masonic display never witnessed before in the Union. Look at South America—what has become of the Jesuitical sect raging war against Masonry? The governments have taken sides with Masonry and the Jesuits have quieted down. Look at Europe, the installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master has given Masonry a new impetus in England; and its influence in Italy, and the dedication of a Masonic Temple in the ancient city of Rome, renders Pio Nono uneasy in his own home, and makes him fear for other countries where he was supposed to be the father and head in religious reality. During a recent session of the German Reichstag, while the expulsion of the Jesuits was under discussion, a discipline of Ignatius Loyola, seeing that there was no help for his order, and intending to overthrow Freemasonry with it, was answered by a true man, a Mason by heart, perhaps without an apron, who said: "It is true, Freemasonry is a secret organization, but it does not meddle with politics, neither does it interfere with the religious belief of any of its members. It promotes personal intercourse and kindly feeling. It brings men together who would otherwise remain strangers. It creates in the Lodge room for its members an Utopia, and with this new zeal do they

return to their business, their family, and their place in State or Church. The best and greatest men of the German nation were Freemasons; I only name Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, Mozart. Have you still courage to bring accusations against Freemasonry? Go still further east, in the land of Brahma, and even there, the London Freemason informs us, a member of the same sect undertook in a series of sermons to defame Freemasonry, called it an unchristian-like, irreligious and ungodly organization, and warned his hearers from participation in its labors. His expectations proved to be a failure, and the Lodges in India have since done more work, and are increasing in numbers and influence."

In union is strength, and it gives us great pleasure to be able to report that our fellow craftsmen, "whosoever dispersed," stand like a phalanx to war against our opponents, and everywhere have they taken up the challenge glove, and are ready to protect our sacred Temple, erected for the dissemination of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.

A Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home.

We are indebted to Ill. Bro. Frederic Speed, 32°, of Vicksburg, Miss., for a late number of the *Daily Herald*, from which we learn the following action was taken by the Masonic Grand Lodge, at its recent session—the resolution having been introduced by Ill. Bro. Speed.

Resolved. That a special committee of five be appointed to digest and mature a plan for the organization and maintenance of a Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home and Industrial School in this Grand Jurisdiction; said committee to report to the Grand Master, who shall cause said report to be printed, and send the same to the Subordinate Lodges during the recess of the Grand Lodge, that they may instruct their representatives at the annual Grand Communication how to vote thereon.

The committee appointed consists of Frederick Speed, of Vicksburg; Thomas Reed, of Fayette; Wm. S. Patton, of Meridian; H. W. Walter, of Holly Springs, and A. P. Barry, of Hazlehurst.

This subject has been before the Grand Lodge in various shapes for several years—first, at the instance of Hazlehurst Lodge, No. 25, and in addresses and reports of the Grand Masters Barkley and Gathright. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, with its active membership of 12,000, will, we feel sure, address itself to this great work and thus not only convince itself, but the world at large, of the good effects of the Masonic institution. The Masons of Mississippi have not only the ability, but, we believe, the will, to establish, support and endow such an institution as is contemplated in the resolution referred to. It would be an appropriate, a noble work, and in other places has relieved many silent sufferers having claims upon the Order.—*Phila. Chronicle.*