

D. W. Baird



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Circular Letter FROM THE GRAND MASTER.

OFFICE GRAND MASTER OF MASONS, Wilson, N. C., May 20th, 1876.

TO THE W. M., WARDENS & BROTHERS: The time approaches when Masons throughout the world meet to celebrate the anniversary of one of the patron saints of the order...

It is meet that we should on these occasions indulge somewhat in a practical exemplification of the principles and teachings of our order, and show to the world that our professions are more than rhetoric...

Let such immediate contributions be made as will materially aid in the sustentation of the Orphan work and such measures adopted as will insure systematic, regular, reliable support.

Insist on the continued persistent work of your Orphan Asylum committees. Urge them to regular effort, if the duty is unpleasant. The receipt of small sums regularly every month from every Lodge committee would show to those engaged in the work that in every Lodge the cause was alive...

Encourage the ladies and children to organize Orphan Aid Societies. They will, while adding to the strength of the orphan work, benefit those engaged in them, by ennobling their feelings, developing the benevolent spirit, and improving their own minds by devising and carrying out the plans of the societies.

Let the 24th day of June 1876 be the starting point for such a revival of interest in the orphan work as will put beyond a doubt its firm establishment in the hearts of not only the masons but all the people of our State, when the poor friendless orphans may be assured of the protection which has been withdrawn by the striking down of their natural protectors.

And may God bless you all, my dear brethren, and enable you to so work and walk, that our Institution may be strengthened, our Grand work supported, and our Temples adorned by the beautiful fruits of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

GEORGE W. BLOUNT, Grand Master.

Masonic Convention.

At the suggestion of the Junior Grand Warden, R. V. Blackstock, of the Grand Lodge of N. C., a Convention of delegates from several of the Masonic Lodges west of the Blue Ridge, was held, and the following proceedings had, at the Orphan Asylum, at Asheville, N. C., on the 12th day of May, 1876:

On motion of Col. R. W. Pulliam, T. L. Cash, of Dunn's Rock Lodge, No. 269, was made Chairman, and A. L. Carter, of

Vance Lodge, No. 293 was appointed Secretary.

On motion, it was ordered that all Masons present be recognized as delegates from their respective Lodges. The following Lodges were represented: Mount Hermon, No. 118, Blackman, No. 170, Dunn's Rock, No. 269, Vance, No. 293, Tuscarora, No. 122.

The following committee to suggest work for the Convention, was then on motion appointed by the Chairman, to wit: R. V. Blackstock, Col. R. W. Pulliam, W. E. Clark, J. H. Moore.

On motion, the Chairman and G. M. Roberts were added.

After a short absence the Committee reported the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted, to wit:

WHEREAS, It is believed that the people of Western North Carolina will liberally support the Orphan Asylum at Asheville, and even increase its accommodations so as to enlarge its usefulness, if properly appealed to. Therefore

Resolved, That the Master of each Masonic Lodge in Western North Carolina, be requested, with the assistance of his Committee on the Orphan Asylum, to employ and pay some active, energetic agent to collect supplies in money and in kind, for the benefit of the Asheville Orphan Asylum.

Resolved, That the Masters and Wardens of the Lodges alluded to, be earnestly requested to endeavor to enlist the ladies of their respective localities in the interest of the Orphan Work, and to urge them to organize themselves into societies for the purpose of raising contributions for the same purpose.

Resolved, That the ministers of the various churches of every denomination in Western North Carolina, be respectfully asked to bring the interest of the Orphan Work frequently before their respective congregations, and to have contribution boxes erected in their houses of worship to receive gifts for the Asylum, and when practicable, to take up collections for the same.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting to draw up an appeal in behalf of the orphan cause, with these resolutions, and direct them, as far as they may be able, to the ministers of the various churches, presiding officers of Masonic, Odd Fellow, and Good Templar Lodges, Granges of Patrons of Husbandry, Divisions of the Sons of Temperance, Knights of Pythias, Superintendents of Sunday schools, and every other order in the State professing to do good to their fellow creatures.

Resolved, That we recommend to each Lodge in Western North Carolina to forward to the Steward of the Asylum at Asheville, five dollars of the Lodge's funds for each Mason made in the Lodge, for the benefit of the Asylum.

Resolved, That in view of the fact that the orphans of all classes are received and cared for in the Asylum, the various charitable institutions of the State be respectfully asked to assist in the support of the enterprise by contributions of money or in kind.

Resolved, That the newspapers of the State be requested to publish these resolutions, together with the proceedings of this meeting.

In pursuance of the suggestion in the 4th resolution the Chairman appointed R. V. Blackstock, Col. R. W. Pulliam and G. M. Roberts, a committee to prepare an appeal to the people in behalf of the orphans.

The convention was largely attended

by the ladies and other sympathising friends, and much deep and earnest feeling was manifested. After thanks to the officers of the Asylum for their fidelity, zeal, and efficiency in the management of the affairs of the institution, the Convention adjourned.

T. L. CASH, Chm'n. A. L. CARTER, Sec.

The Silent Statue.

On Monday, May 15th, at the Masonic Temple in New York, a very quiet but impressive ceremony was performed in the presence of a few of the more prominent Masons of the metropolis, who happened to be near the building and were gathered together. One of the most beautiful ornaments that will hereafter adorn this elegant structure will meet the eye immediately upon ascending the grand stairway; for at the head of the main stair in a large niche originally constructed as a receptacle of some beautiful symbol, has been placed a unique statue of Silence and Secrecy. This magnificent piece of work is of pure white marble and is from the chisel of Augustus St. Gaudens the sculptor of the famous mythical representation of Hiawatha; it is seven feet nine inches in height, and is the gift of Bro. Levi H. Willard, to the Masonic fraternity. At midday, Mr. Willard removed the veil and formally presented the statue to the Trustees of the Temple, in behalf of whom, Grand Master Elwood E. Thorne accepted the same, in a brief but neat speech referring to many esoteric points in the great lesson of Freemasonry.

Tight Shoes.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune has the following: Said a young girl, who had become an invalid: "I have learned during my illness that a vast deal of ill health among women is owing more to tight boots or shoes than any other cause." I conversed with a woman who had been in business thirty years, and the greatest portion of this period has stood on her feet and never felt the slightest inconvenience. "I always looked out," continued she, "to wear shoes and boots that gave room to expand the muscles of my feet." She at this time had in her employ two or three girls, one of whom was subject to fainting fits from wearing tight boots. It is impossible for a woman or girl to stand an hour with snug-fitting boots or shoes without suffering a torture that effects the whole body. Here the effect is made the cause. Very few people understand the wonderful elasticity of the muscles of the feet, and those who ought to be best informed know the least—these are the shoemakers.

The Gr. Lodge of Mississippi has appointed a Committee to "digest and mature a plan for the organization and maintenance of a Masonic Widow and Orphan's Home and Industrial School."

PEN AND SCISSORS.

... A Photographer's epitaph—Taken from life. ... We know a gentleman who is really in love with his own wife. ... Dishonesty is forsaking permanent for temporary advantages. ... Crop reports from Nebraska are very favorable. ... Wisconsin bears are making havoc among the sheep. ... Baron Rothschild is the hardest working Banker in Paris. ... As many as 600 deaths from the plague have taken place at Bagdad and Halia in a single week. ... Air and scandal are much alike. The oftener they are breathed the worse and more poisonous they become. ... There are 14,000 tame ostriches at Cape Town, Africa, and during 1872 there were sold at Port Elizabeth alone \$600,000 worth of ostrich feathers. ... We must not deceive ourselves, for he that overcometh not himself in little matters will not be able to do so in great things. ... Christopher Ward, a farmer of Caledonia Ont., who murdered his wife in April and then set the house on fire to hide the deed, will be hanged June 20. ... In the South Yorkshire coal field, where 30,000 miners have been on a strike for some weeks, there are 120 collieries, more than three fourths of which are idle. ... A Chicago man has invented a smoke consumer which works so well that it not only eats up all the smoke but puts out all the fire. ... In the natural history of insects that the grub turns into a butterfly; but it often occurs in the natural history of man that the butterfly turns into a grub. ... Oak Hill Grange, Pa., has a new departure—all the sisters dress alike, in 7/8 cents calico, of the same material, color and pattern; the poor and the rich on the same footing. ... It is expedient for every farmer to build cheap gates, as they will save enough valuable time in the busy season of the year to repay the expenses of constructing them many times over. ... The post that is by hard blows driven into the ground is apt to stand there, because it was planted by a positive power. So it is that hard knocks is for some good purpose after all. ... A Texas woman fell over a rail and bit her tongue off while chasing her husband with a pitchfork. This may not come under the head of "divine retribution," but it is a plaguey bad thing on the woman. ... An exchange states that the ratio of physicians to population is now 1 to 800. A few years ago the ratio was 2 to 1,200. It seems that the longer they practice the smaller the list of patients—and this is about the way of it generally! ... It is expedient to keep the fence-corners clean, so that grass will grow in them and so that your neighbor will not take offense because of the thistle and other foul seeds that you allow to mature and find their way into his cleanly kept fields. ... Tycho Brahe lost his color and trembled at the sight of a fox or hare. Dr. Johnson would never enter a room with his left foot foremost. Julius Caesar fled to the cellar at the sound of thunder. Peter the Great could not be persuaded to cross a bridge. Marshal Saxe screamed at the sight of a cat. Byron would never help any one to salt, and would leave the table if any salt was spilled during the meal.