

THE MASONIC JOURNAL

GREENSBORO, N. C.

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1876.

E. A. WILSON, Editor & Proprietor.

TERMS:

1 copy One Year - - - \$ 2 00
1 copy Six Months - - - 1 00

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THE MASONIC JOURNAL which is published at Greensboro is worthy of our support. It is ably edited, possesses a high degree of merit and contains, besides Masonic Literature, well selected matter which is calculated to make its visits desirable and instructive.

THOS. S. KENAN,
Grand High Priest.

The enterprise ought to succeed. We need a means whereby a more general Masonic communication may be had: a means for the more general diffusion of Masonic intelligence.

I hope every Mason will take the JOURNAL—every Lodge endorse it, and at once make it the Organ of Masonry in North Carolina. With such encouragement and support I am satisfied you can make it of incalculable worth to the Fraternity. GEO. W. BLOUNT,
Grand Master.

All of which is endorsed by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter.

Wanted.—We want active, reliable Agents in every county in the South to canvass for the JOURNAL, to whom a liberal commission will be paid. An endorsement as to reliability, under seal of the Lodge, is desired. An immediate application will secure choice of territory. Send stamp for reply.

CHANGE.—For the convenience of many of our subscribers living off the lines of Railroads, we have decided to change our day of publication from Friday to TUESDAY. This of course makes this number three days later in reaching our readers this time, but in the future it will reach all on time, and afford us some advantage also.

THE CORNER STONE of the United States Court House and Post office at Covington Ky., was laid by the Grand Lodge of that State, on the 4th of July.

OUR KENTUCKY BRETHREN are justly proud of their Masonic Home for the indigent widows and orphans of deceased Brethren of that State. It is, indeed, a noble charity, and from their reports, nobly sustained.

SOME ONE has taken the pains to make the estimate, and it is ascertained that there are twenty-four Anti Masons in the United States! Now, with these arrayed in solid phalanx against the 594,000 Master Masons, what will we do?

AT THE 4TH OF JULY celebration in New York, Templar banners were profusely used, producing much admiration and inquiry. The Square office (Bro. Anderson's publishing house) was almost literally covered with them. Many were the speculations as to their import.

Work.

This is and always has been the great agitator of the Masonic body politic. Work is the leading characteristics of the order, and to fulfill the mission Masonic, good work, true work, square work—such as is proper for the building of the Temple—is what is what is demanded of us. And yet how diversified are the various specimens which are daily exhibited for inspection.

Here in North Carolina we claim to have the true work—the Ancient Work of Masonry—as taught by Stevenson, and yet when the Craftsmen are assembled to exhibit specimens of their skill a perfect Babel of confusion is the result, and it is utterly impossible to decide who, if any, have the "true work." This statement is more than verified by personal observation among many of the Lodges in various sections of the State. As the matter now stands we don't claim to know what the true work is, but we do know that there are almost as many versions of it as there are Lodges in the State. This is a great evil, but we believe there is a remedy.

Unfortunately for Masonry in North Carolina, there has been too much of a disposition to change in matters of form and language, and so prevalent is this that the same Lecturers have been required to change their teachings every year or two; and even now they are far from teaching what they did two years ago. This, too, is evidenced by going among the Lodges and conversing with the brightest Masons.

What the exact remedy is, perhaps we are not prepared to say, but we do think that if we had a different system of maintaining the purity of the work, and a largely increased corps of efficient instructors—all speaking identically the same language—it would be far better than at present. In fact the field is so invitingly large and the needs of the Lodges so great that every inducement should be held out to those who would prepare themselves to teach the one work as adopted by the Grand Lodge.

Another suggestion is that the Grand Lodge should decide what shall be their work and then appoint a Board of three Custodians, one of whom shall be elected for three years, one for two years and one for one year, to be kept full by annual election, whose duty it should be to keep the one work of the Grand Lodge pure and unimpaired. Then let the Grand Master commission as many Lecturers as will annually go before this Board and learn and teach this one work, that all the Lodges may have the benefit of learning, and with the assurance that there will be no change. In all this let the action and decision of the Grand Lodge be deliberate and conclusive and as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Aude, Vide, Tace.—"Hear, see and be silent" is the motto that adorns the East in all the Masonic Lodges in the city of Memphis, Tenn. It is a good motto, and one that might appropriately adorn every Lodge in the land.—Hear the words of good council, see the signs that call to the aid of a distressed Brother and be silent as to all that is not proper to be written, and especially so in speaking of a Brother, lest some unguarded word may prove a biting canker that will work untold injury to his reputation, family or business.

By keeping such a motto as the guide of our words, thoughts and actions how much of untold misery might be avoided, and how much of happiness be added to our lives.

Lodges of Instruction.

Our English Brethren have a way of doing some things that very much pleases us. In connection with many Lodges of the Kingdom they have what they call "Lodges of Instruction" for the two-fold benefit of their members. These Lodges have their By-Laws and Rules, and usually have a Preceptor or Master, a Treasurer and Secretary. To make the Lodges of practical avail they have libraries of standard and valuable works—on Masonry and other subjects, and these are read and discussed at these Instruction meetings for the benefit of all present. In this way much general information is gained, as well as valuable Masonic knowledge.

Then they also drill in the lectures pertaining to the degrees, so that no one has any excuse for being "rusty" in the work or dull in matters pertaining to Masonic lore, of course Masonry is thus made entertaining to our English Brethren, and with them it is only necessary to appoint a meeting to have it well attended.

Would it not be well for our American Lodges to adopt the same course? Many of them have good libraries, but which are of comparatively little use. True a few of the more earnest Brethren now and then take a book and read it, but the Lodge gains nothing from them in return. Then, again, there are so few among us who are really skilled in the lectures that from sheer ignorance the many are deterred from attending the regular Lodge meetings.

Soon the long evenings will be here again, and we hope every Lodge that possibly can will organize these Lodges of Instruction for social culture and thorough drill in the work of the Lodge. Then to make them more effective, let Brethren be selected to preside over the meetings interchangeably, so that the Brethren will not only be drilled in the work, but also in the important duties of presiding over and governing the Lodge. In this way the Lodge can be brought to the highest standard of excellence and usefulness, and Masonry at once to assume its proper high standard in every community. So mote it be.

Up The Hill.

Ever since the inaugural of the MASONIC JOURNAL, nearly a year ago, it has been "up the hill" with us in more ways than one. Our experience in journalism led us to anticipate many of the difficulties incident to a new newspaper enterprise, and to some extent to ward against them, but there have been many other seemingly almost insuperable barriers to our success, and which ordinarily would have crushed us, but realizing from the experience of others that class journalism, especially those Masonic, was an up-hill, tedious clambering for success, we took courage from the hope inspired by the knowledge that the need for a weekly Masonic organ in North Carolina was (and is) an acknowledged necessity. And thus we have clambered—up, up, step by step, toward the goal of permanency and success.

In all these months of toil and care our efforts have been equaled by our love for Masonry and the desire to disseminate its pure principles among the Brotherhood of our State. To do this we have toiled both day and night, and that, too, unaided, except by a few noble spirits whose kindness to us and love for the order have bound us to them by an indissoluble affection. But notwithstanding all their kindness it has been "up the hill" with the JOURNAL. Many on whose friendship and interest we confidently re-

lied have not co-operated with us in building up the paper. Their pens and their active efforts should be fully given to increase its interest and its subscription lists. There are many who can write for us, and with great acceptability, while all can work for us both in and out of the Lodges; and if all would do so we would soon have the largest circulation of any paper in the State. True, our list is growing all the while, and is nearly double what it was two months ago, but so slow and expensive is this increase that the end barely justifies the means.

Now, will not each individual Brother who reads this go at once and make the honest effort to get us at least one more subscriber? This will cost you but a few minutes of time, and do you good, while it will save us the heavy expense incident to canvassing. The paper has been sufficiently long before the public for all to judge of its merits, and that there is great need for just such an organ for the instruction of ourselves and our families none can doubt; and we earnestly appeal to all to come at once to our aid and let us make it a grand success intellectually, morally and financially.

We desire to enlist the personal co-operation of every Master, Warden, Secretary and active member of the Lodges in the State, and appeal to them to do all they can for their Organ—and at once.

Remember, that every name you send now extends the field of the JOURNAL'S usefulness in disseminating the principles and influence of Masonry in North Carolina and the South. We say the South because in all the Southern States there is such a great lacking of Masonic periodical literature, to supply which the JOURNAL is intended, and we ask the Brethren of all these States to bring the claims of the paper before all their Lodges. Take us kindly by the hand and give us a strong Masonic pull!—UP THE HILL.

State Fair.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society was held in Raleigh last week, and discussed and arranged important matters for the approaching Fair, Oct. 17-21 inclusive. T. P. Devereaux of Raleigh, was elected Chief Marshal. The various Military and Cadet companies of the State are to be invited to assemble in encampment at Raleigh during the week, and compete for prizes at target shooting. The successful company will receive a prize flag, and the successful man a prize plume.

We are pleased at the manifest interest in keeping up our State Fair, and hope the Managers will do everything in their power to make it a grand success. As an humble representative of public sentiment we urge them to have more care for the morals of the concern than hitherto, or large numbers of the best citizens of the State will refuse to attend. The wholesale gambling, drinking, and the multitudinous swindling heretofore practiced on the grounds are not only offensive but reprehensible, and should forever be abandoned. We say this in the interest of the Fair and the good people of the State.

Officers of Granite Lodge, No 522, Mt. Airy, N. C.:

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