



My Mother's Hands.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
They're neither white nor small;
And you, I know, would scarcely think
That they are fair at all.
I've looked on hands whose form and hue
A sculptor's dream might be;
Yet those aged wrinkled hands
Most beautiful to me.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
Though heart were weary and sad,
Those patient hands kept toiling on,
That the children might be glad.
I always weep, as looking back
To childhood's distant day,
I think how those hands rested not,
When mine were at their play.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
They're growing feeble now,
For time and pain have left their mark
On hands, and heart and brow.
Alas! alas! the nearing time,
And the sad, sad day to me,
When neath the daisies out of sight,
These hands will folded be.

But oh, beyond this shadow land,
Where all is bright and fair,
I know full well these dear old hands
Will palms of victory bear;
Where crystal streams through endless years
Flow over golden sands,
And where the old grow young again,
I'll clasp my mother's hands.

The red wood tree is a peculiarity of California forests. Oregon, in all of her splendid groves, has none of it, nor can Nevada boast of a single one. The sombre shores of the great inland sea of Washington Territory are also without it, nor does Alaska boast a solitary sentinel of this family of gigantic evergreens. It belongs to the Golden State alone, and is a distinctive resource of her fast accumulating wealth. No other lumber splits so true to the grain, and none other can supplant it as perfectly in the uses to which it is now devoted. For fence posts and railroad ties, it is the most durable wood ever found, resisting the action of both air and water with unparalleled stability. Below San Francisco it is comparatively scarce, Santa Cruz and San Mateo being the only counties which have an average growth of it. And the rapid improvement of elegant farms in those counties is fast thinning out the towering forests. But on the north coast there is wealth enough to last for years, but the question is how will these forests be replaced when they are thinned out by the insatiable demands of a growing commerce? In Japan every man who cuts down a tree must plant another in its stead; but no such stringent legislation prevails in this country. Sonoma, Mendocino and Humboldt counties, employ thousands of men, and are building up a substantial prosperity from their red wood. Deserted logging camps are soon converted into dairy farms, and the once nomadic tramps, who swung the axe in the silent woods, settle down to grow up with the country advancing toward opulence.

Do We Want Uniformity.

Almost every man has some pet day-dream which serves to beguile his idle moments and raise him for a season at least, into some fairy land, where the terrible hum-drum of daily life does not follow him, and where for the time being, he is monarch of all he surveys. And to a person of imaginative turn, the very impracticability of the vision constitutes its chief attraction, in giving a foretaste of the supreme satisfaction that would ensue could the dream be made a reality. There are not a few such dreamers in our Masonic household, the burden of whose vision is masonic uniformity. They would like to have some process by which the brains of all men connected with the institution might be moulded to a certain shape and trained so that every thought word or act of a Masonic nature should have an arbitrary direction, and their trumpet give forth the same certain sound every time, whether blown in England, France, or the isles of the sea. Generally, these visionaries are quite certain in their own minds that their system of work and government is not only the best but the only correct one, and hence there is mingled with their sense of superiority a certain tender sympathy for those who do not look through their glasses and blindly insist in believing that there can be some other system just as good in itself as the one in question, and quite as applicable to the needs of the Brethren where it prevails as any other could be, and so it comes about that in every country, and for the matter of that, in every jurisdiction there are local peculiarities to which the resident Brethren cling with unyielding tenacity, and which they doubtless believe to be the true and only groundwork and plan of Masonry. It seems to us best that it should be so, and that the real interests of Masonry will be promoted by allowing the idea of complete or even approximate uniformity to remain in the state of visions for the delectation of those who are made happy by imagining the grand things that would come to us all could they make their wishes reality. We regard that attribute of Masonry which permits its forms to be varied, so long as its principles are untouched, to be one of its most attractive and essential features; for thus its autocratic government is a corrective for the tendency of some people to extreme democrat ideas, while on the other hand its leveling tendencies are to some extent at least an antidote to the idea that birth and wealth are superior to brains and honesty, and we would therefore leave it to the Brethren of any jurisdiction to model their governments in minor matters as to make things as comfortable as possible, and as near to their received ideas as may be, so long as the essential features of the institution are preserved. We think that the symbolic Lodges ought to be governed by Grand Lodges erected and controlled by their representatives, and that these Grand Lodges should not only be sovereign and independent of any control beyond that laid down in the landmarks of the Craft, but they should have the same general form as the original, from which we have our Masonic beginning; but in the matter of domestic government in any particular jurisdiction, we do not think the general membership called to interfere, except where there is some patent setting aside of Masonic precedent and requirement.

On this principle we regard the Grand Orient of France, and Grand Orients generally,

as un-Masonic in organization; the first, because it has deliberately abolished the Grand Mastership. Masonic government presupposes a Grand Master, and the whole theory of Masonic rule turns upon his administration of affairs, hence where there is no Grand Master there is no Masonic organization, and the body is foreign to the institution, and should not be recognized. We object to the Grand Orients generally because they are mixed up with other organizations, to whose deliberations a simple Master Mason cannot be admitted and hence the Craft, under their jurisdiction, are not in the enjoyment of the privileges to which they are entitled, and the principle of the General Assembly of Masons, in which even an Entered Apprentice was entitled to be consulted, is openly and flagrantly violated. We cannot, however, force these bodies to alter their ways, but we can and do refuse to recognize them on the simple ground that they are not in accord with the well defined principles of Masonic government.

We should never think, however, of insisting upon their adoption of the ritual we practice, or even the details of our system of jurisprudence, because what may suit our needs and promote peace and contentment among us, might not have the same pleasant effect in other countries and among other people. The theory of the first degree is the same everywhere, because to depart from it would be to get outside of Masonry; but the form differs from different people and the rites they practice. The Pennsylvania ritual is understood to be *sui generis* in this country, and it is quite certain that a Mason made in New York, for instance, if transported to a Lodge in Paris or Berlin, would fail to recognize in the form of conferring the first degree, any resemblance to ours except perhaps the rites of disalcation and circumabulation, and yet the result is the same, for the same doctrine is taught the newly-made Brother as he would have learned here. In the second degree the dissimilarity is still more striking; and he who imagines that these differences will ever be adjusted to any given system, is but a dreamer, who may enjoy the vision, but will never live to see it realized. We are free to say that our dreams do not run that way, and that in such matters we do not deem uniformity, beyond the bounds of a single jurisdiction, either attainable or desirable, while in the really important matters of governing Symbolic Masonry we do think, not only that there should be a general uniformity, but that if the Masons on this continent are true to themselves, it will be attained. Perhaps, however, we, too, are dreaming.—*N. Y. Dispatch.*

Dr. J. D. M. Carr, of Chicago, last week received from Great Britain a parchment of great value. By virtue of it he is made Intendant-General, unattached, of the illustrious Orders of the Red Cross of Constantine, Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Holy Order of St. John. In connection with it, he received a notification that his name had been enrolled among the Grand Cross Knights of England, the most august Masonic body in the world, including in its membership the most honorable of the world's nobility. The commission is signed by Sir Frederick Martin Williams, baronet, Grand Sovereign; Col Francis Burdett, Grand Viceroy, and William Robert Woodman, Grand Recorder. This honor has been conferred upon only three other Americans, and is the highest ever attained in this country.—*Phila. Chronicle.*

CLIPPINGS.

- Rossi will not visit us until 1877.
- Everybody can detect an error, but not a lie.
- Prairie hens and water fowl are scarce out west.
- A sea turtle caught in Vineyard Sound weighs 900 pounds.
- The *Graphic* calls Pennsylvania the Paradise of "fuels."
- Nebraska has more than doubled her population since 1870.
- Dartmouth college has had \$950,000 in donations during the last 13 years.
- The only thing we have really to be afraid of is fearing anything more than God.
- Mrs Horine of Kentucky has had seven children at three births. All doing well.
- A Massachusetts man has had just returned to him a book he loaned forty years ago.
- Some of the Ocean steamers have cotton engagements ahead for the next five trips.
- In Bulgaria now, they say heads of families can be seen stuck up on poles in every village.
- It's currently reported that a Jersey farmer has raised twelve tons of currants this season.
- "Lulu," the female gymnast, whose recent fall from a trapeze in Dublin, excited public attention, is a man.
- Wild pigeons are so numerous in the timber along the Iowa river, in Hardin county, Iowa, as to be a nuisance.
- Mr. Haight has spent \$10,000 on a mausoleum at Go-heu, N. Y. It is the work of Haight, but nevertheless a movement of love.
- The Williamsport *Banner* says there are logs enough in the Susquehanna boom, and above it in the river, to make 20,000,000 feet of lumber.
- A writer in *Blackwoods' Magazine* says that the moon has no more effect on the weather than red herring has on the government of Switzerland.
- J. Baine, of Charlotte Mich., was severely bitten by a pot bear last week. The village hotel keeper had bearsteak on his bill of fare the day following.
- Every dwelling house in St. Petersburg has to be covered with stucco, and as the climate affects it seriously, it has generally to be repaired each spring.
- The old mania for Persian cats with long tails has again broken out among the Japanese Domois. An enterprising captain recently sold three for \$4200.
- He who contents himself with simple experience, and acts accordingly, possesses a sufficient amount of truth. The growing child may be called wise in this sense.
- The California papers are telling how a woman offered \$100 for the privilege of kissing Edwin Booth, and how he took the money and the kiss, and then gave what he had so singularly earned to a starving immigrant.
- A happiness that is quite undisturbed becomes tire-some, we must have ups and downs; the difficulties which are mingled with love awaken passion and increase pleasure.
- A Mme. Lefebvre advertises in a Paris journal that she "nurses the sick, restuffs chairs, watches corpses, applies leeches, does sewing by machinery, and is an excellent cook."
- Out of four sons, Mr. Baker of Logansport, Ind., lost three by accidental death, two of them being kicked to death by fractious horses, and the other killed in a runaway accident. One son is yet living.
- A California lion eight feet long was lately poisoned at Tejon, Cal. A dose of strychnine was given to the sheep, which was left alone in the fold. Next morning the lion and the lamb lay down together and didn't get up.