

THE MASONIC JOURNAL

GREENSBORO, N. C.

Thursday, Jan. 20, 1876

E. A. WILSON, Editor & Proprietor.

TERMS:

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TERMS—CASH ON DEMAND.

Office on South Elm Street, first door north of the Patriot Office.

The *Tar River Beacon* is the name of a new paper started at Greenville, N. C., the first number of which is to hand. It is published by Thos. B. Garner, is democratic in politics, and judging from the number before us will at once take its place among the best local papers in the State. We place it on our exchange list and wish it success.

Greensboro Lodge, 76, F. & A. M. acknowledge the courtesy of a serenade by the Cornet Band last Saturday night, while the Lodge was in session, and, as it would happen, while the interesting ceremonies of installation were being performed.

Just here we congratulate the Lodge on securing the services of brother Dodson as W. M. for the present year, and if the membership will do its duty in attending the meetings and aiding the officers to perform their duties a new era is indeed begun for the Lodge.

THANKS to an unknown friend for a copy of the able address of M. E. William Fowler, E. P., to the members of "Ancient Chapter, No. 1," New York City, Dec. 16th, 1875. The address is replete with solid information, and shows a membership of 197 Companions, and the total assets above liabilities \$3,254. Forever may old No. 1 prosper and flourish. The following are the concluding remarks of Comp. Fowler:

"My Companions, in conclusion, let me observe that, as has hitherto been the case, we should gather around us in our Chapter, only the pure and true, and generous hearted and liberal minded men, who will work with diligence and devotion, not only for a few days, but for life, not for themselves, but for the cause of their Master in Heaven, and for humanity."

THE NEWS.—Again do we appeal to the brethren, and especially to the Masters and Secretaries of the Lodges to send us any items of Masonic information that may come into their possession. We desire to make the paper more and more interesting, with each number, and the brethren can materially aid in this particular.

All should feel an abiding interest in the success of the paper and strive to extend our circulation by sending us new

subscribers. Show this number of the JOURNAL to your brethren and neighbors, and their families, and induce as many as possible to take it. A few have labored faithfully for us, and with fine success, which proves what all may do if they will. Send the money by Post Office Order or Registered Letter.

WRITE.—There are many Masons in this State, and also in the other Southern States, who have the talent and taste for writing, and if they would exercise their talent for the JOURNAL it would aid us materially in making the paper more interesting and attractive. Who of our many friends will thus aid us?

Write; and if in the judgment of the editor the article is not suited to the paper, write again. Often he has written articles that he afterward regretted having published, and hence the care and prudence exercised in seeking to supply the public needs more than is often asked for. And when writing don't have your articles too long, but rather boil down and give us the cream of your subject at once. One short article is often worth more to a newspaper than two long ones, and is more apt to secure insertion. Help us to help others.

CAPT. W. T. R. BELL.—It was a real treat last Friday evening to meet our old friend and former Associate, Capt. W. T. R. Bell, of Carteret, who was on his way West to take charge of a High School at King's Mountain. Our Western friends may well congratulate themselves on securing him, for he is one of the few young men we know who will do to tie to in all weather.

As an accomplished scholar and successful teacher he has done more than a full share in educating young men of Eastern North Carolina since the war, and as a member of the late N. C. State Senate none stood higher or was listened to with greater respect. As Associate Editor of our former paper his labors always met with the highest appreciation from a discerning public, and it affords us a real pleasure to be permitted to thus publicly accord to him what we consider his just due, and we repeat that our Western friends will find cause to congratulate themselves on securing the presence and services of such an able and distinguished gentleman.

The New Asylum.

Says the *Asheville Citizen*: "Our Masonic friends held a meeting Friday preparatory to receiving formally, from Rev. Mr. Pease, the magnificent property recently donated by that gentleman for an orphan asylum. God will surely bless the giver of such gifts."

Mr. Pease is a Northern gentleman, and a true philanthropist, and having seen the beneficial results of our orphan work has donated the valuable property above alluded to to have the branch Asylum at Mars Hill removed to Asheville, and which being a more eligible point the management have accepted and made the transfer. We would have reported it sooner had it been properly reported to us.

SPHERE OF THE PRESS.—Says the *Roanoke News*: The sphere of the press as an educator is almost illimitable and its power for good incalculable.—As the right arm of popular education, it is everywhere a necessity. It is charged with a high and important mission, not only as a medium of information, but as the guardian of the morals of the community.

The newspaper is the handmaid of civilization. No family can maintain its place in society without it. The man needs it for information about markets and politics, the woman needs it as a diversion from her household cares and family duties; the young need it for both amusement and instruction. Thousands

of families can take but a single newspaper, and that one should be commended to their consideration which best meets all their needs."

And we may add, does not the MASONIC JOURNAL fill the bill, by supplying all demands of a first-class family paper? It is a weekly, cheap and filled with the very best matter for all classes of its readers.

MASONIC JOURNAL.—We have several numbers of this new candidate for masonic patronage. It is a Weekly, published at Greensboro, North Carolina, at \$2.00 per year. We confess we like this new JOURNAL and extend to it a hearty welcome to our exchange list. There are Masons enough in North Carolina to give the Journal a living support, and if it is not done, they are hardly worth the name of Mason.

There are not "too many" Masonic Journals," but there is a most discouraging disinclination on the part of the Craft to patronize them. A great number of degrees, a gaudy costume, with official position—these are the objects of Masonic ambition, instead of masonic knowledge and practical charity. We regret to say this, but it is a fact proven by the experience of more than thirty years. But brethren of North Carolina, give your "Journal" a liberal support.—*Cincinnati Masonic Review*.

Thank you, brother Moore; and we hope our good brethren in North Carolina—and all over the South—will solidly appreciate your kind, truthful remarks, and work for the JOURNAL with a spirit of determination that will at once make it a success.

By the way, the *Review* comes to us very irregularly. Can you not send us the back numbers for Sept., Nov. and Dec.?

The three legal rules of avouchal are the following: 1. I have sat with him in a Lodge of the degree now under consideration, or in the Grand Lodge which is the best of all. 2. I have legal evidence concerning him from a man whom I know to be a Mason of the degree now under consideration. 3. I have examined him by the order of the Master or one of the Wardens; and can avouch for him as a Mason of the degree now under consideration.—*Enterprise*.

Question.

A member of a Lodge stricken from the roll for non-payment of dues wishes to be reinstated. Is the Lodge compelled to accept his dues, or if not, and they do refuse, what is the status of the Brother?

Answer.—When a lodge has disciplined a Brother for non payment of dues, it reserves the right to restore him to his former membership or not, as it may please, but it does not and cannot prevent him from affiliating elsewhere, hence, when he tenders the amount of his indebtedness, the Lodge must receive it, and give him a receipt for the same; first, because it is the personal right of the Brother to place himself in position to be affiliated, and second, because it is the duty of the Lodge to avail itself of all money due it, not only to meet its current expenses, but the claims of the needy that may be presented to it.—*Philadelphia Chronicle*.

A Brother's Word.

There is a class of Masons, considerable in number, which seems to think the institution created and kept up partly for the special benefit and convenience of its members, and altogether as a general insurance against any and everything that might happen. If one of them lends money to a Brother Mason, or sells him a bill of goods on credit, and the loan is not returned, nor the merchandise paid for, their idea seems to be that the Masonic organization should assume the role of collector, and make good for them their

business mistakes. These people entirely overlook the fact that a Masonic Court has no civil powers, and can only pass upon derelictions which relate to its own affairs, or are in violation of the laws of morality, and even then its highest penalty is exclusion from the privileges of the Craft. The best authorities of the Craft have decided with great unanimity that Masonry cannot take the place of ordinary courts of law nor usurp the functions of a Deputy Sheriff. Nearly every Grand Lodge, when the subject has been brought before it, has decided, like the Grand Lodge of Illinois, that:

Lodges shall not take cognizance of difficulties of a legal character, growing out of business transactions between Brethren, nor entertain charges against a Brother for the purpose of adjusting mere legal rights, pecuniary or otherwise, unless such charges shall clearly specify fraud on the part of the alleged offender.

And Grand Masters have decided with Grand Master Thorne, of this State, that:

A Masonic tribunal will not interfere to establish the civil rights of Brethren, nor will Masonry allow itself to be made a convenient means through which a creditor may collect what is due him from his Masonic debtor.

The plain English of this means that while lawsuits and contentions among Brethren are to be avoided, if possible, still when there is a suit it must be tried before one of the acknowledged tribunals of the country having authority to enforce its decrees. Moreover, it should be understood that in business matters we are to depend on business methods, and not on some abstract and undefined power, which is expected to come to the rescue, and correct our own want of judgment.

There is another phase of this ethic which needs correction, and that is the habit some men have of pledging, and others of accepting the word of a Mason on the most trivial occasions. A loan of fifty cents, or any other equally unimportant matter, calls out the asseveration, only in nine cases out of ten to be violated from sheer forgetfulness. Now serious things should be treated seriously, and we should ever keep a watch upon ourselves that we do not needlessly trifle with them. The habit appears to be much like the habit of using profane language, which adds nothing to the cogency of an argument, or of force to a declaration. We should have considerable misgiving if a promise made to us were backed up by a needless oath, and in like manner we fear to trust a man who has a Masonic pledge always at his tongue's end to be given without thought and broken without hesitation. We respectfully submit that the habit should be corrected by the individuals given to it, if possible, and certainly by all others in considering any such pledges as mere verbiage, having no deeper foundation than the lips of the speaker. But, occasion arising where such a pledge may be given, and that pledge being willfully or even heedlessly broken, then we, having the power, would assess such Masonic punishment as might tend to sharpen the recollection of the offender. It ought to be the highest pride of a man, and especially of a Mason, to have his word equal to his bond, and when a promise made freely, needs to be backed by an oburgation or Masonic pledge, we should consider the article subject to a certain discount, and, therefore not to be taken at par, if at all. A general agreement on this subject will put an end to the evil arising from it, and save a great deal of ill-feeling needlessly evoked by a thoughtless indulgence in a foolish and undignified habit, and we trust that every reader of this article will enroll himself as one to put it down.—*N. Y. Dispatch*.