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Opening Ode for Royal Arch Chapters.

Where burns the Sacred Fire,
 Each heart, with pure desire,
 Bring thoughts of Love!
 Who with affections cold,
 Would highest praise withhold,
 When Hope's best joys unfold,
 The bliss above?

CHORUS.—Who, with affections, etc.

While to our Heavenly King,
 Hearts filled with love we bring,
 Come join in praise.
 'Neath Heavens' broad arch of blue,
 Where dwell the free and true,
 There our best vows anew
 In anthems raise!

CHORUS.—'Neath Heaven's, etc.

Death in a Dishcloth.

A lady says in the *Rural World*:—When some of you are sure to be down with typhoid fever; when neighbors are neglecting their own work to nurse you; when doctors are hunting in cellars and old drains for the cause, let me whisper in your ear. Look to your dishcloths. If they be black and stiff and smell like a "bone yard," it is enough—throw them in the fire, and henceforth and forever wash your dishes with cloths that are white, cloths that you can see through, and see if you have that disease again. There are sometimes other causes, but I have smelled a whole house full of typhoid fever in one "dishrag." I had some neighbors once—clever, good sort of folks; one fall four of them were sick at one time with typhoid fever. The doctor ordered the vinegar barrels whitewashed, and threw about forty cents worth of carbolic acid in the swill pail and departed. I went into the kitchen to make gruel—I needed a dishcloth and looked about and found several, and such "rags!" I burned them all, and called the daughter of the house to get me a dishcloth. She looked around on the tables. "Why," said she, "there were about a dozen here this morning;" and she looked in the wood box and on the mantelpiece, and felt in the dark corner of the cupboard. "Well," I said, "I saw some old, black, rotten rags lying round, and burned them, for there is death in such dishcloths as those, and you must never use such again."

I "took turns" at nursing that family four weeks, and I believe those dirty dishcloths were the cause of all that hard work. Therefore, I say to every housekeeper, keep your dishcloths clean. You may wear dresses without ironing, your sunbonnets without elastics—but you must keep your dishcloths clean. You may only comb your head on Sundays, you need not wear a collar, unless you go from home—but you must wash your dishcloth. You may only sweep the floor "when the sign gets right;" the window don't need washing, you can look out at the door; that spider web on the front porch don't hurt anything—but, as you love your lives wash out your dishcloth. Let the foxtail get ripe in the garden (the seed is a foot deep anyway), let the holes in the heels of your husband's footrags go undarned, let the sage go ungathered, let the children's shoes go two Sundays without blacking, let two hens set on one wooden egg—but wash your dishcloth clean.

A Modern Lady Freemason.

A curious case has occurred in Hungary, where a Countess Hadick has been received as a Freemason in an Hungarian Lodge, under the Grand Orient of Hungary. She is described as "a highly educated lady, and well versed in Masonic literature" especially having studied Masonic history and ritualism, she applied for initiation; we are further told she was "ballotted for and regularly initiated." On the fact coming to the knowledge of the Grand Orient of Hungary it "declared the initiation null and void" on the ground that a woman was "incapable of being a Freemason." So the case stands at present; but a question has arisen, whether, as she has been actually initiated, she can be refused admission into a Freemason's Lodge. When we consider the case carefully, two main points present themselves, namely, the theoretical and the practical side of the question. Theoretically, we apprehend the act of the Lodge and of the members was *ipso facto* illegal, no woman being capable of admission properly, and the rules and laws of Freemasonry only contemplating and dealing with men. But a question comes in here almost necessarily—has the Grand Orient of Hungary taken altogether the right view of the case, and dealt with it entirely "*jure latomico*?" Much of course must depend upon the laws of the Grand Orient itself, but we are inclined to think that a doubt may fairly arise as to the actual power of the Grand Orient to declare the initiation "null and void." It is one thing to condemn a W. M. and a Lodge for an act of illegality *per se*; it is quite another thing to declare an act, even if illegally committed, "null and void." And especially is this the case as regards an initiation. "Once a Mason always a Mason" is an old Masonic adage, and we confess that we do not exactly understand how the countess' initiation, performed in open Lodge, can be declared "null and void," or how, having been formally (if illegally) made a Mason, she can be unmade by any "*ex post facto*" decision. The Grand Orient of Hungary could, we apprehend, order the initiation to be repeated, but can it declare it "null and void." In England we sometimes repeat ceremonies on account of informalities, or technical defects, but we are not aware of any decision declaring an initiation and the like "null and void" on any ground. In fact, we do not see how that can be done. It is competent for the Grand Lodge to refuse a certificate on the ground of an improper reception, without which Countess Hadick could not gain admission into a regular Lodge, but she then continues a "Mason unattached."

The whole blame, of course, lies on the W. M. and the Lodge, as they must have known that they were acting in defiance of the unchanging Masonic law on the subject. No one could, we feel strongly have found fault with any decision which the Grand Orient of Hungary could have come to, as to the actual wrong-doing of the Master and Brethren of the offending Lodge. But there come in here further and wider questions. Is Countess Hadick, by the decision of the Grand Orient precluded from all Masonic membership with any Lodge? Is the original wrong of this admission so great that nothing can repair it? Does the sentence of the Grand Orient of Hungary so annull Countess Hadick's initiation, that she must still be considered as a profane?

On the strict letter of the law she was inadmissible for initiation, but having been duly (though improperly) initiated, what then? Our readers will see what a nice point of Masonic jurisprudence crops up. Now we venture to say, looking at the matter fairly, broadly and liberally, that we are inclined to think the best course for the Grand Orient of Hungary will be to make an exceptional case of it, to recognize the "fait accompli" though with the distinct declaration that the act, being absolutely illegal *per se*, would entail exemplary punishment on any Lodge and Master so offending again, and, if need be, to enact a special law on the subject. Such a course of proceeding would be better we think, than the declaration that the act is "null and void" *per se*, as in that case much may be advanced by Masonic casuists we apprehend, which may give rise to many and somewhat difficult questions. At the same time this initiation of a lady is a curious fact in itself, at the present time, and deserves to be brought before the knowledge and attention of our many intelligent readers and we shall be glad to hear the opinions of any of our Brethren on the subject.—*London Freeman*.

A LONG BEARD.—A member of the Humboldt (Pa.) county pioneers has a beard five feet in length. It has been growing 10 years, and had it not been for an attack of sickness it would be several inches longer. Already it is almost to the ground, and as the owner walks the streets a crowd of people surround him at every turn, and bore him with interrogative incident to such a strange sight. The pioneer who boasts of this beard signifies his intention of exposing it to the public gaze only upon each anniversary of the society of which he is a respective member.

Recently, at Saratoga Springs, New York, while Harper, the clown of Barnum's Circus, was passing up Broadway, a little child slipped from a three story window, and came headlong toward the pavement. Harper, at the instant, and, as it would seem providentially, caught sight of the child as it left the window above, and with the alacrity of a cat placed himself in position to break its fall. When it came down to him he caught it with a firm grasp, and not only broke its fall, but held it from going to the pavement. The act was bold and dangerous, but successful. The athlete suffered some little injury, but not enough to speak of in connection with so extraordinary a feat.

THE DOCTRINE OF TRANSMISSION.—A boy had been punished by his father with solitary confinement for lying. He showed on his release that he had been employing his time in theological reflections, instead of using it for self-mortification. He asked his father, "Pa, did you ever tell lies when you were little?" The father, perhaps conscience smitten, endeavored to evade the question. But the child persisted. "Did you tell lies when you were little?" "Well, no," said the father; "but why do you ask?" "Did ma tell lies when she was little?" "I don't know, my son; you must ask her." "Well," retorted the young hopeful, "one of you must have told lies, or you could not have had a boy that would do it."

He was a tramp. "Of what use is the casket when the jewel is gone?" he remarked, as he quaffed the contents of a half-pint flask, and then shied the bottle at a cat.

CLIPPINGS.

- ... Leaves are falling.
- ... Paris contains 150,000 dogs.
- ... An angry man opens his mouth and shuts his eyes.
- ... Edwin Adams, the actor, is reported dying in Australia.
- ... Few London tradesmen get at their stores before 9 A. M.
- ... Small faults indulged are little thieves that let in greater.
- ... The fashionable Newport peanut dealer sells twenty bushels a week.
- ... Harrison county, Texas is developing as a tobacco-growing section.
- ... A large shoe factory in San Francisco has discharged all its Chinese help.
- ... The curfew is still tolled at Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace.
- ... Cider apples in any quantity can be bought at Franklin, Mass., for ten cents a bushel.
- ... A Springfield (Mass.) teacher has been absent from his school only four times in 16 years.
- ... The wages of the operative in the Wilkinsonville (Mass.) mill, have been raised 16 per cent.
- ... The Japanese Government is about to prohibit all business partnership between natives and foreigners.
- ... The centennial judges appear to have succeeded in displeasing everybody and pleasing nobody in awarding their prizes.
- ... Score one more for Yale. One of this year's graduates has accepted a position as palace car conductor on a Massachusetts Railroad.
- ... As an evidence of woman's confiding nature, it is mentioned that a young lady in Indianapolis was married the other day to a Mr. Forget.
- ... Distrust is the death of the soul, belief is its life. The just shall live by faith. Infidelity is the abandonment of life, a suicide of the spirit.
- ... In the history of the jurisprudence of the State of Virginia the Supreme Court's records show that but one case of divorce was ever brought before it.
- ... A Texan has a musk hog, or peccary that follows him like a dog. Its kind were once numerous in Texas, and very ferocious in their wild condition.
- ... The graves of Gen. Lee and Miss Agnes Lee, in memorial chapel, Lexington, Va., are ornamented with fresh flowers every morning, winter and summer.
- ... One beautiful trait in a woman's character is her invariable readiness to smooth her husband's temperament, even if she has to do it with an aching heart.
- ... When you see a young lady with diamond earrings and a trail going along the street, with a pound of cheese neatly done up in brown paper under her arm, there's something wrong somewhere, depend upon it.
- ... There lives at Boston Highlands, Mass., a venerable dame named Harriet Hawley, who is 103 years old, and who has never visited a theatre nor ridden in a railroad car. Her father stood by the side of Gen. Warren when he fell at Bunker Hill.
- ... When a man opens a newspaper on the pictures of a dozen coal stoves, each one warranted to be the best ever made, and all others declared to be base impositions, he doesn't care for a moment whether coal is up or down.—*Detroit Free Press*.
- ... A fish dinner is shortly to be given by a New York gentleman interested in sea food. Bread made of fish meal, the product of Sweden, pickled sharks' fins from China, and a fish preparation from Japan, will be among the delicacies.
- ... A Kansas youth of 28, who wanted to marry a widow of 36, with six children, was deterred therefrom by the lady's friends, who visited him one night armed with shot guns and pitchforks, and requested a discontinuance of his attentions.