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SEMI-MONTHLY
GREENSBORO, N. C.

E. A. WILSON, Editor & Proprietor.

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E. A. WILSON, Editor & Proprietor.

JOURNALISTIC.

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PAY UP.—With this and the succeeding issues of the JOURNAL many of our subscriptions fall due (and a number are over due) and we send out bills requesting renewal. Will not each brother kindly heed the notice and promptly remit us \$1.50 for another year? We are told on all sides, "We cannot do without it." We esteem this appreciation of our labors and feel nerved for renewed efforts to please; but, brethren, it is impossible for us to publish a paper without money. Our means are very limited, and everything connected with the publication of the paper is strictly cash, therefore we hope all will rightly appreciate our motives and necessity when we appeal to them to be prompt in making their remittances for renewal. Remember, it is the cheapest strictly Masonic paper published in the United States—only \$1.50 per year, postage prepaid.

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POMEROY'S DEMOCRAT.—This certainly is one of the great papers of the age, and carries on its pages more of real hard work and solid worth than any of the metropolitan weeklies that reach this office. It is an eight page, fifty-six column paper, nearly every column of which is filled with choice reading of a

substantial character, and treats of more different subjects in each number than any other paper in America. The warmest corner in the whole paper is that containing the "Saturday Night" chapters, which, in the production of real happiness and usefulness, is worth ten times the price of the paper. In fact, do you want to know any thing on any subject? then go to *Pomeroys Democrat*, or write to Mr. Pomeroy and you are sure of a valuable opinion. Its politics is democratic, but of such straight-forward, high toned character that all may read it with pleasure and profit. Terms \$2.20 per year postage paid, Chicago, Ill.

Masonic Popularity.

It is an observable fact that Freemasonry is becoming too popular, and the profane world is becoming as familiar with our masonic vocabulary, both in the definition and application, as are many Masons themselves. This was not always so; for we remember when a boy that the names of Freemason and Lodge carried with them such a great weight of mysterious awe as made the young folks bate their breath when passing that secluded building, and so quiet and unobtrusive were those brethren of the secret tie that it was scarcely known who of the community were of its membership. But how changed! Now, there is scarcely a family in any community that is not represented in some masonic Lodge. Then, Masonry was unpopular because of its unobtrusiveness and the little that was known of it; but having permeated all the better classes of society to such an extent it has become the most popular Order on the face of the globe, and old and young have learned to look upon it with the greatest favor and to speak of it in the highest praise.

A very striking feature of its popularity is, that almost every society that has sprung up in these latter days is dubbed with the dignified and ancient term of Lodge, thus borrowing prestige from our ancient Institution. Of course, we appreciate all such special recognition of the high dignity of the masonic nomenclature, and of the mystic vocabulary, &c., generally, but if those organizing these new societies had a better knowledge of our language and symbolisms we think they would not be so lavish in their appropriation of those terms and symbols of which the very use of them proves them to be ignorant. We beg all such new designers not to be so hasty in their misappropriations. Our venerable Institution is hoary with age, but its existence will prove co-equal with its universality, and they will never get even a quit claim, much less a fee simple title to any of our time worn property.

Again, while on this subject, we will refer to the fact that Masonry is becoming too popular, generally, for its own good, and the rush for admission into its fold just now is greater than is to be desired. Much of this rush is the result of mere curiosity, personal popularity or individual gain, all of which is the "bias of mercenary motives" and should be guarded against by the Lodges, as with this flood tide of petitions much of the above mentioned drift wood will be sure to find its way to the door of the Order. The recent war record of the Order in this particular should be a sufficient warning; as it is tenfold easier to take bad material into the building than to get it

out when once there.

With these views of the case the uninitiated will excuse us if we do not invite them to join us, or even if we seem to look upon their applications with distrust. These are rushing times, and Masonry must guard with a jealous eye all material that is presented for our mystic edifice. We enjoin this duty upon all Masons, and those who have taken the impressive Mark Master's degree will need no other reminder.

Cryptic Masonry.

BRO. J. L. POWER, Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, R. & S. M., of Mississippi, under instruction of that Body has issued a circular inviting attention to a report of a committee, recommending the abandonment of Grand and subordinate Councils and attaching the cryptic degrees to the Chapters. This action grew out of a recommendation of the M. I. Grand Master in his annual address, bearing on this subject, and which if it can be accomplished we heartily endorse. In our sister State of Virginia, and perhaps one other, we have a sufficient precedent as to the successful working of these degrees with the Chapter, and we agree with Comp. Walter that it should be the one desire of Masons to get back to the primitive beauty and form of the degrees. We hope our Grand Bodies will give due attention to this subject. Here is what Comp. Walter says on the subject:

"The Royal Arch Degree, stripped of most of its real beauties by the severance of the Royal and Select Degrees from it, proves of but little attraction to its recipient. Dissatisfied with the Exalting Degree, he seeks no further advancement in Ancient Freemasonry, and without any knowledge of the real beauty and value of our Degrees, hastens to the more attractive, but, perhaps, not less beautiful and in structure Degrees of the Encampment. The result is that many Royal Arch Masons are such in name only, possessing the form but destitute of the spirit of the Degree. The evil is a serious one. What shall be the remedy? I can but repeat, in part, what I said in closing my address a year ago. In my opinion, the crying evil of our Order is the splitting of degrees and the multiplication of Grand Bodies. Had I the power I would blot out every Council and Grand Council in existence as independent organizations. I would yield the Past Master's Degree to the Grand Lodge, where it properly belongs, as an honorary Degree, and would blend the Most Excellent Master with the Master's and the Royal and Select Master with the Royal Arch, making it the Royal Degree it should be, and giving to it its ancient form and beauty. I would create Grand Chapters that would work this and the Mark Degree alone. I would cut down the Reports of Proceedings, and Committees of Foreign Correspondence, and would no longer tolerate our many Grand Bodies to eat up the substance and waste the charity funds of our order, and from this saving would erect some grand charity that would gladden the hearts of the helpless orphans and destitute widows, and that would challenge the respect and win the admiration of mankind. This change of ritual and organization cannot, however be done by this Grand Council alone, nor do I recommend it. It cannot be effected by the joint action of the several Grand Bodies of any number of States, but they may advise, and could thus probably, secure some grand convocation of the Cryptic and Capitular Grand Bodies of all countries, that might produce uniformity of work, recall the Ancient Charges and Regulations, and make the Mason of every clime and nation confer the same Degree and speak the same Masonic language."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

The ninetieth session of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina met at its Hall in the city of Raleigh, on Tuesday, Dec. 5th, at 7 o'clock, P. M. Present, M. W.: Geo. W. Blount,—G. M. R. W.: H. H. Munson,—S. G. W. R. W.: Sam'l H. Rountree,—J. G. W. *pro tem.* R. W.: Wm. E. Anderson,—Gr. Treas. R. W.: D. W. Bain,—Gr. Secretary, and all the appointed officers and about two hundred Representatives.

Grand Master Blount read his annual address, which was referred to the appropriate committees.

D. W. Bain, Grand Secretary, and W. E. Anderson, Grand Treasurer, read their reports which were appropriately referred.

Geo. Badger Harris submitted a lengthy report on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of other Masonic Grand Bodies.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow at 10 o'clock, A. M.

SECOND DAY.

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor and proceedings of last evening's session read and approved.

An invitation from Prof. Hobgood to visit the Baptist Female Seminary was read and accepted.

Bro. John Nichols invited the Grand Lodge to visit the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, which was accepted with thanks.

W. R. Cox, Jno. Nichols, Z. M. Paschall, F. H. Glover, and John Q. Jackson were appointed a special committee on the Orphan Asylum.

A resolution in favor of Mt. Mourne Lodge, No. 347, which was burned, was passed.

A resolution in favor of Pleasant Hill Lodge, No. 168, remitting dues for the years of 1875-76, and restoring charter, passed.

A resolution in favor of Clinton Lodge, No. 124, passed.

The committee on unfinished business made their report, which was adopted.

T. S. Kenan, R. W. Best and M. S. Davis were appointed a special committee on appeals.

Committee No. 1 on charters and dispensations made their report.—Adopted.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A communication from the Grand Master of Odd-Fellows, feelingly alluding to the orphan interest, was read and received with thanks.

The committee on appeals made their report.—Adopted.

The committee on propositions and grievances reported. Adopted.

Committee on charters and dispensations reported.—Adopted, and charters granted to Durham, Moravian, Eune, Dellaplane and Double Shoals Lodges.

Committee on suspensions and expulsions reported.—Adopted.

Resolutions relative to jurisprudence were read and appropriately referred.

NIGHT SESSION.

The committee on Orphan Asylum made their report, which was recommitteed and made the special order for 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

J. H. Mills offered a resolution of instruction to the Grand Master relative to the property at Ashville.—Adopted.

H. F. Grainger made a statement con-