

CHARLOTTE GETS L. O. O. F.

It seemed to work and the feelings between North and South, between Union and Confederate sympathizers had been wrought to a pitch of acute and violent antagonism. With these conditions prevailing, in 1861, 1862 and 1863 at Baltimore and again in 1864 at Boston, the Supreme Council of the Order assembled in annual convocations, called the representatives of the Southern Grand Lodges and assigned to them seats which were carefully preserved for their exclusive use, although they remained empty for four successive sessions.

Immediately after the cessation of hostilities, May 24th, 1865, Grand Sir L. M. Vetch issued an unbroken unity of the order and declaring that fraternal relations between all Grand Jurisdictions had never been severed but only temporarily suspended through force of circumstances. He earnestly urged all Southern Jurisdictions to resume work under their existing charters and to send representatives to the next communication of the Grand Lodge of the United States, which was to be held at Baltimore in September of the same year. Nearly all the Southern States sent delegations who were welcomed with the effusion displayed towards loved kinsmen on the return home after a prolonged absence. If brotherly love can resist the corrosive influence of sectional hatred and survive for years of internecine conflict, it can surely find full expression when these deteriorating agents are not at work and so it does—Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati, Memphis, Shreveport, St. Louis, Brunswick, Galveston, San Francisco and other cities whether scourged by fire, water, pestilence or the convulsions of nature, will say how far their cry of "brotherhood" and how prompt was the answer. Readiness to promptly send workers and supplies where disaster has struck a heavy blow does not cause the different lodges to relax in the care of their immediate household. Improvements and elevation of the human family, visiting the sick and afflicted, relieving the distressed, burying the dead and caring for the orphan are daily watch-words regulating the life of an Odd Fellow who understands his obligation.

THE ORDER'S GROWTH. Precepts allied with practice like these could not fail to commend themselves to persons of morality, thought and discernment. In 1879, the membership of the order has now increased to 1,512,000 of whom 268,000 are women whose devotion to principle emulates and often exceeds that of members of the order. With the increase in membership, the ability to relieve and the opportunity to extend relief have augmented in about equal proportions. There are now 40 homes belonging to the order, representing an actual value of nearly \$2,000,000 and sheltering nearly 3,000 inmates, widows, aged and infirm Odd Fellows but mostly orphans who are educated to make of their lives useful women. In addition to this there are 12 more homes projected, for the erection of which sums aggregating \$118,000 have already been collected and are held in trust for the order. The order is annually disbursed by the order for relief.

To become an Odd Fellow does not entail any change of opinion either religious or political. It involves the adoption of a new creed. Belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, Creator and Preserver of the Universe, a good moral character and freedom from disease at the time of application are the only technical requirements of a candidate. While a large percentage of the membership is composed of Christians belonging to our various denominations, among which are not a few ministers, the order is strictly non-sectarian. Religious as well as political controversies are wisely excluded from the lodge room, matters pertaining to the temporal welfare of humanity are ever welcome subjects of discussion. Odd Fellowship does not fear itself in opposition to the Church nor does it pretend to offer a substitute for it. Leaving to the latter the duty of ministering unto the spiritual wants of men; it modestly labors in a lesser sphere and attends to their material needs.

There are some in the ranks of Odd Fellowship who never openly professed religion nor affiliated with any church but who by habitual deeds of loving kindness, by their selfless following in the footsteps of Him whose life was love and who shall say that to them will not be addressed these words of ineffable comfort: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

THE ORDER IN THIS STATE. While the order in North Carolina has not grown as rapidly as it has in some of the larger jurisdictions, it has in proportion to its numerical strength the means at its disposal, accomplished very nearly as much as it did anywhere else. The first lodge in North Carolina was instituted at Wilson on the 26th day of April, 1841, with seven charter members. In 1850 the jurisdiction numbered 22 subordinate lodges and 1,046 members. During the civil war these lodges became almost totally extinct. In 1865 the Grand Lodge re-assembled and made a new start with 11 subordinate lodges and 228 members. There are now 231 subordinate lodges in North Carolina with nearly 14,000 members and 26 Rebekah lodges with 1,600 members, 900 of whom are ladies. In the years 1856 and 1857 the question of establishing an Odd Fellow home in North Carolina for the care of orphans was agitated in Cape Fear Lodge No. 2, at Wilmington, and favorable action was taken thereon by the Grand Lodge at its session of 1855, when the membership in the jurisdiction was about 1,500. A committee was appointed to solicit funds for the purpose and report progress from time to time. Three years later, with less than \$1,000 in cash, but with an unflinching confidence in the future and the worthiness of the cause, the Grand Lodge instructed the committee to locate and establish the home. Generous offering of the best advantages, and being at the time approximately \$100,000.

VALUED SAME AS GOLD. Dr. G. Stewart, a merchant of Cedar View, N.C., writes: "I have used your Life Pills they got the worst of that much gold in weight, it afflicted with rheumatism, malaria or biliousness—found under guarantee at all drug stores."

mainly the centre of Odd Fellowship in the State, was decided upon at the site, and in 1852 the home was opened for the admission of orphans. The need of a larger building was so apparent that in 1856 the corner-stone was laid for the handsome brick structure now on the ground. In 1896 another brick building for the care of the aged and infirm was completed and has now several inmates. The interest of North Carolina Odd Fellows centers upon their institutions at Goldsboro from which, for several years past, a number of estimable young men and women have gone to assume their places in the world, and the Odd Fellows who still look upon them as their sons and daughters encourage and applaud their success through life. There are now 45 orphan and infirm homes and the facilities for housing them properly are taxed to the limit.

CONVENTION WAS LILY-WHITE. In the Second District, Where the Negro Formerly Ruled, He Was Given the Cold Shoulder by the Republicans Yesterday—As in Other Districts the Blacks Have a Rival Meeting. Special to The Observer. Kinston, May 14.—The Republican congressional convention of the second district was held here this afternoon. J. M. Mewborn, of Lenoir county, was chairman and John D. Mears, of Wilson county, secretary. There were negro contesting delegations from every county in the district except Northampton and Lenoir. The negroes were represented by such prominent negro politicians as Sam Vick, of Wilson, Lee Person and Bill Watson, of Edgecombe, and Scott and Harris, of Halifax, and about twenty-five others. A credentials committee took up the contests from each county, wrote down the evidence and then reported to the convention in June, wholly on account of color. After this curt threat he marched out of the hall and was followed by every negro present, going to the negro Odd Fellows Hall. There they effected a permanent organization, electing H. H. Vick, ex-postmaster of Wilson, as chairman and Lee Person, secretary. Resolutions were adopted endorsing Senator Foraker, of Ohio. Lee Person and Bill Watson, of Edgecombe, were elected as delegates to the Chicago convention. A district executive committee was selected and the naming of a candidate for Congress and a presidential elector was left to it. Person is a speaker of no mean ability and makes things sizzle for his lily-white friends before the national credentials committee.

The whites proceeded to business by adopting resolutions endorsing Roosevelt policies. W. H. Taft for President and E. C. Duncan as national committeeman from North Carolina. D. W. Patrick, of Greene, and W. F. Hannon, of Northampton, were elected delegates to the national convention with R. H. Norfleet, of Bertie, and S. W. Isler, of Lenoir, as alternates. A district executive committee was selected with J. M. Mewborn as chairman. The selection of a candidate for Congress and the naming of the elector was left to the executive committee. This was strictly a Jim-Crow Republican convention, the whites being away over on one side of the hall and the blacks over on the other side as far away as possible. The typical old-time negro and district Republican convention would have had about three white men and twenty-five negroes on the judge's stand and the auditorium filled with a few whites and two hundred negroes and the atmosphere—hot and reeking with vile odors and smoke. In a few minutes it would have been a howling mob. This time at any time you have heard a pin drop and frigidly was in the air.

Sixth Congressional Convention June 12th. Special to The Observer. Wilmington, May 14.—The Democratic executive committee of the sixth congressional district met here to-day and decided upon a night ride to Raleigh on Friday, June 21st, the date for the congressional convention. Members of the committee present were Chairman George H. Bellamy, of Brunswick; W. E. Springer, of Haverhill; and R. H. Taylor, of Harnett. The lion was unanimous in every respect.

SHOULD HE BE DEAD. If He Be, He Went With Faith in His Kind and a Smile on His Lips. Asheville Citizen. One of the cleverest contributors The Citizen ever had was a young man who went to Texas for the sole purpose of dying. The mercenary hand of a ravaging disease caused him to know that his days were numbered, but he awaited the end with a fearlessness, nay, even a hope, which told of a life well spent and good done. His spirit was ever optimistic; though he looked always to the setting sun, he sang of starlight, and never ceased to preach the doctrine of peace and good will to men. If at times he grew bitter, it was to arraign the gossip and scandal-monger; for all others he had ever a flower. He decried the thoughtless word and the scoring of the absent brother. Once in a personal letter to the writer he said: "I have known thoughtless words and rash judgments to draw the blood of a life well spent from an assassin's dagger." Only those who have been stabbed by the force of that utterance. The Citizen never believed that there was much hope of eternal salvation for the character assassin. When the God of human destinies shall see our hands, he who murders hope shall find that he who murders the man. The former is guilty of bringing on the living death.

But we are wandering from our subject. To return to the young man under discussion, we will say that we are not writing his obituary. Whether or not he is dead, we do not know. But the long silence of months leads us to believe that his song is finished. The last letter from him spoke of the radiance of a distant shore, and doubtless he died as he lived—smiling. He believed in the resurrection, did our friend, for he was a very dear friend. And with such faith death has no terrors. It is said that the world's greatest violin-makers would break and mend, and crash and rebuild again. Oh, yes. There are nights when the stars refuse to shine. There are hours when the poor heart is left bleeding and torn. Who knows? It may be that we must shatter, but the Skillful Hand that breaks the instrument can rebuild it. He shows us a way that shall bring out of life its greatest harmonies, its softest melodies.

Don't fail to see Blue Bonnet at Don's.

THE STRAWBERRY CROP.

Dealers Predict a Bountiful Supply at a Price Within the Reach of All—How to Eat Strawberries and Enjoy Them. A glut in the strawberry market is the prediction of fruit dealers in nearly all sections of the country. Reports from the growers of berries in Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey indicate that the coming crop will be better than for many seasons and show that a larger acreage has been devoted to the fruit. It is predicted that lovers of this succulent fruit in many Northern cities will be able to eat all the good berries they want at six cents a quart, or perhaps five.

To suggest that some persons cannot eat the raw strawberry as it comes from the garden without stomach distress may seem almost unparliamentary every American thing. It is a patriotic duty to eat strawberries, whether they "agree" with him or not. It is a fact, however, that many persons cannot eat them without discomfort. The full enjoyment of this delicious berry is denied to thousands whose stomachs do not take kindly to the peculiar acid and the numberless little seeds which it contains. For these persons the soggy white flour dough of "short-cake" makes a bad matter even worse. Almost any person whose stomach has not gone out of business entirely can eat strawberries and shredded wheat biscuit with perfect safety and fullest enjoyment. The best way to prepare them is to heat the biscuit in an oven until the shreds are crisp, then crush a cavity in the top of the biscuit and fill this with the berries in their own juices; then pour milk or cream over it and sweeten to suit the taste. There is something about the porous shreds that neutralizes the fruit acid and the combination makes a most wholesome and delicious dish—more easily digested and much more nutritious than the ordinary short-cake.

You can make the same wholesome combination with raspberries or any kind of fresh fruit. A favorite summer noon-day dish at the Union League Club of Chicago is made by partly filling a small bowl with raspberries, then covering with a layer of shredded wheat biscuits, made by crushing two crisp biscuits in the hand, then adding a little cream and sugar. Such a lunch is wholesome and easily digested. The shredded wheat itself contains more real nutriment than meat or eggs and costs much less—while the fruit adds to its healthfulness and palatability. A more ideal summer diet could not be imagined.

THE WEATHER.

Washington, May 14.—Forecast: Virginia, rain and colder Friday; Saturday fair; fresh north wind. North Carolina, fair Friday; Saturday rain and cooler; light variable winds becoming northeast on the coast. South Carolina and Georgia fair Friday and Saturday, except showers Saturday in north portion; light variable winds. Tennessee and Kentucky, fair in east, showers in west portions Friday; Saturday showers. East Florida, fair Friday and Saturday; light south wind. West Florida and Alabama, probably showers and cooler Friday; Saturday fair; light to fresh south winds. Mississippi and Louisiana, showers Friday; Saturday fair, fresh southeast winds. East Texas, fair Friday and Saturday; fresh south wind. Oklahoma and west Texas, fair Friday and Saturday. West Virginia, showers Friday and Saturday.

LOCAL OFFICE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU. Charlotte, May 14.—Sunrise 5:30 a. m.; sunset 7:30 p. m. TEMPERATURE (in degrees). Highest temperature 83. Lowest temperature 63. Mean temperature 73. Excess for the day 10. Accumulated deficiency for month 43. Accumulated excess for the year 158. PRECIPITATION (in inches). Total for 24 hours ending 8 p. m. 0. Total for the month 0.32. Accumulated deficiency for month 1.63. Total for the year 16.02. Excess for the year 14.39. Prevailing wind direction S. S. W. W. J. BENNETT, Observer.



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Despite the increase of banking facilities during the last few years, there is still a surprisingly large number of persons who fail to avail themselves of the convenience of bank accounts. Doubtless there are many busy workers who do not become bank depositors because they are unable to accumulate a respectable balance, yet there are also very many others who, although possessing sufficient means or income to make the matter of a balance a secondary consideration with them, fail to establish connections with a bank, but make payments in cash in the course of their few business dealings and in the settlement of household expense accounts, or else by other checks which may come into their hands. Such methods of payments are tedious and cumbersome. Settlements in cash necessitate in practically all instances that the debtor and creditor shall meet whenever a bill is to be paid, or, at least, their representatives shall attend to the matter. Upon these occasions there is nearly always difficulty about making change, causing delay and irritation. Payment by check avoids all of this trouble. A check can be sent by mail without fear of loss, and it can be drawn for the exact sum of a debt, so that no bother ensues about changing money. The debtor need not even worry if he fails to get a receipt; by return mail, because the endorsement of his check is a receipt in itself. In this way alone payment by check saves time as well as trouble, but it also saves much to the man who draws the check, in that, unless he is conducting a business, he need keep no other account than his check book. That volume will show both his income, in the form of bank deposits, and his outgo, in the shape of checks. Open an account with the Commercial National Bank. Capital and surplus \$500,000.00.

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