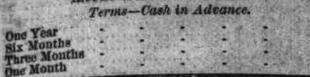


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[For the New Bern Republican.] MASONIC. AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE.

BY J. O. WHITTEMORE.

Vol. I.-No. 18.

MR. EDITOR :-- I am well aware that the sentiments expressed in the following communication will meet with opposition umns I will endeavor to do battle for my on my mind for years. I have studied it in all its phases; have argued against it; but have invariably had to acknowledge that, to judge by the standard of Masonry, we are wrong in refusing "justice" to the class of men in whose behalf I make this appeal.

I had no idea of becoming the open advocate of the principle until it was suggested in conversation with some well-informed brethren, and in reading the articles of our R. W. Brothers Coffinsburgh, of Michigan, and Albert Pike, of Arkansas, and other articles which have appeared from time to time in the in we again find the word "freeborn." columns of the "Square and Compass," on the benign influences of Masonry, and state of the times, and that it did not the powerful lever it was for promoting apply to the blacks, who are the only peace, harmony and good-will amongst race to whom we now apply the restricmen. The conviction then fastened itself tion. In again referring to history we on my mind with renewed energy, that in the United States the Masons, as a body, do not practice one of the four cardinal virtues which are held so prominently up to the view of all candidates mutual support and protection, who, by f or our honors, viz: "Justice." We teach the newly initiated that not in their circles, and were called free- of stone, if the Frenchman has not in-"justice" is that boundary or standard of men. Children born of such parents were right which enables us to render unto denominated freeborn, and were by their every man his just dues, without distinction. Yet, in the face of this teaching, there are thousands of men who have taken upon themselves the same vows, are bound by the same ties, and have drank from the same fount of knowledge aid, support and protect each other." dispute:. 1st. That man in his original state is was thereby enhanced, for Masonry was descend the steps in the heat of the day, freeborn. 2d. That our Supreme Grand Master were allowed to work on a building walls are in every part sculptured and never ordained any race of men to bear | except they were regular members of the craft. And our forefathers have handed the eternal curse of slavery. 3d. That if by force of might one race down to us as a land mark, a dogma of mountains produced upon me was one of compels another to serve them, that the the dark ages ; when Kings were children born while the parents are in thought to rule by divine right, and the that state of forced subjection, possess the people had no rights but what their rule rs morning I climbed the winding stair-case inherent right of freedom. morally exist. our Fraternity.

NEW BERN, N. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1867.

BERN REPIBLI

cation at that time was confined to the representation at the next communicapriests, or a few of the privileged class, tions of the several Grand Lodges will the serfs became ignorant and debased, pass an edict, recognizing the colored the evidence of which can yet be seen in Mason and proving to the outside world their descendants-the lower classes of that it is indeed the interest and not the England.

about that period were mostly from for-eign countries, and being desirous of bring the colored Mason under this sukeeping the mysteries of Masonry, or the pervision and fostering care; pass them Science of Architecture, which to them through the healing process and remove stood, and not liable to get out of order. from many, and ridicule from some; but was the means of an honorable livelihood, from them the stain of clandestinity, and if you will allow it a space in your col- in the hands of a select organization, they at the same time remove a source of irrimade certain restrictions on the admis- tation which has existed for years in sion of members, amongst which was having lodges among us who are working position on the broad field of Masonic that they should be freeborn. Well, to under charters granted by other Grand whom did the term apply? It is evident Bodies than the jurisdiction in which it was not to the black race, for we have they are located; appoint competent no account that any of them had reached brethren to visit them and to correct the shores of Britton. It must then have their errors; extend to them the princibeen meant for those who were held in ples of friendship, morality and brothersubjection by the feudal or military pow- fy love, and by the powerful influence of er, who by force of arms held their fellow our fraternity cool and calm down much creatures in a state of bondage. Our an- of the bitterness and hostility which exist cient brethen then meant that the candi- between the races in this country. When date should come from the dominant or this is done, it may be truly said that ruling class.

> derson, by authority of the Grand Lodge found. There are many points left unof England, made a compilation of all the touched, but as this article, has now laws and regulations of Masonry, not only reached a greater length than I intended, in England, but, in the language of those I will close, hoping to resume the subject days, of the Lodges beyond the sea, which at a future period. compilation was published in 1723, where-

Let us see if we cannot again find a

extreme qualifications that recommend The Masons who were in England a many to become a Mason. Let the Masonry encircles the whole human Again, we find that in 1721 Dr. An- family and beams wherever civilization is

## Wonderful Ruins in Siam.

Gen. Perrin, a Frenchman who has been placed in command of the army of the King of Siam, has recently written a letter to a Paris paper, describing the ruins of a city in that country, and of temples and monuments contained in it, Egypt and Baalbee, or those traced and described by Stephens in Yucatan, Palengue, and Chuiapas, or the gigantic Coliseum of Rome, are trifles, mere splotches vented a good deal of the wonderful discovery he relates : "For six days' journey of an elephant I have traversed the ruins of Ancor-Niat, only penetrating them at intervals, where explorers had been before. What I have seen of monuments, temples, palaces, columns, staircases, and piles of marble, cannot be told. They would not believe me. The people of the country say that the ruins are spread over a circle of from ten to twelve leagues in diameter. What was the city that existed there, and of what empire was it the capital? I have seen temples in a good state of preservation (except the vegetation that had sprung up in them,) which measured not less than a league round. There are forests of marble columns; everything is of marble. Although some may have disappeared beneath the soil, what remains is far above what we see at Versailles or elsewhere. In some places they are as solid as if built but yesterday. But for the undergrowth and the effect of lightning, these monuments, which the people say are from four to five thousand years old, might be to-day in complete preservation. I regret that I had no photographic apparatus, I assure you, and believe me or not, that the most celebrated monuments of ancient and modern Europe are as mere barracks compared with these, while our palaces and basilicas, the Vatican and Coliseum, are little better than dog-kennels in comparison. I wished to ascend to a temple which appeared to be in a good state of preservation. There were eleven staircases, of I know not how many steps, which must be ascended to arrive at the first of the five peristyles. I commenced my upward journey at half-past six o'clock in the morning, and at halfpast seven I had scarcely entered the number as their own pecuniary profit ower halls; fearing that I might have to am prepared to offer SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS to then an operative institution, and none I was compelled to shorten my visit. The

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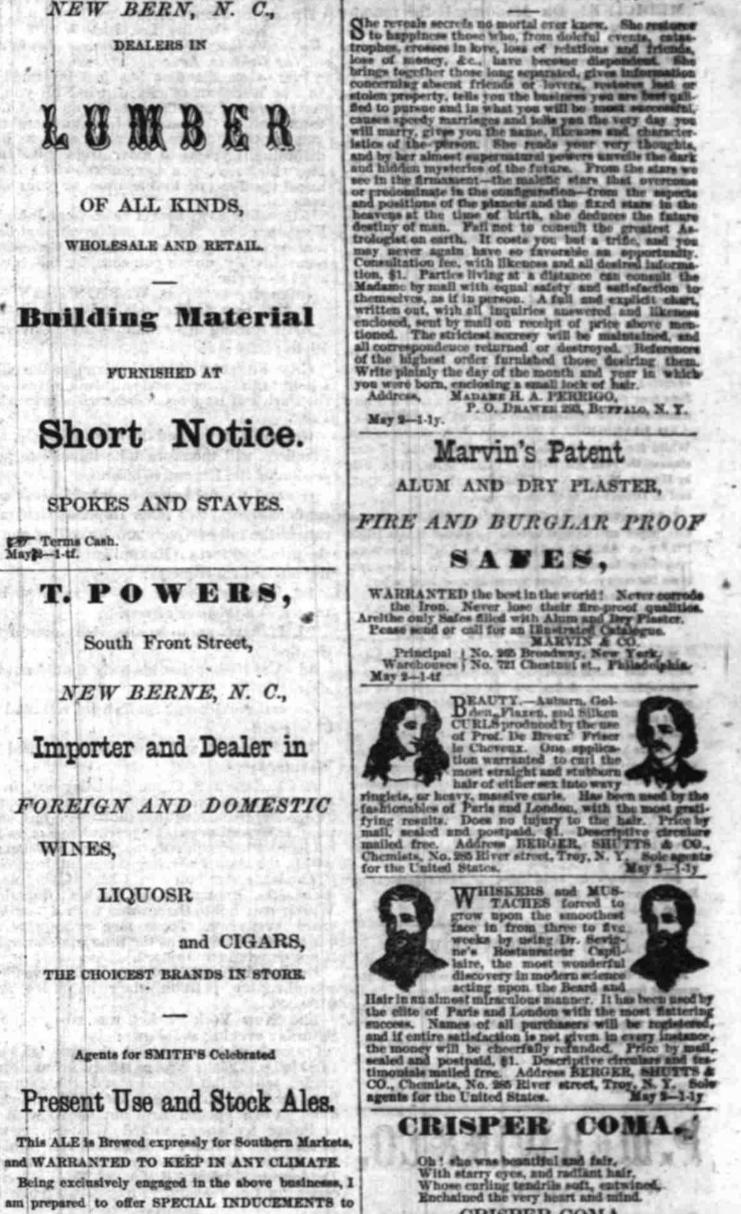
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WALTER G. WEST (Successor to) I. EDWIN WEST, WEST'S BOOK STORE ---- AND -----NEWS DEPOT

find that there existed, in most of the cities of Europe, associations or guilds, not only of Masons, but of the artisans of before which the colossal remains of nearly every branch of mechanical industry, who banded themselves together for the powers of association, had obtained certain rights and privileges over those birth entitled to greater privileges than

Again we find that certain of the European cities, at different times, incorporated in their charters certain rights to citizens born within their limits. For instance, the city of London gives to a citizen born within the sound of Bow as ourselves, whom, by the edicts of our Bells, greater right and privileges than Grand Lodges, we are forbid to recog- to one born without her walls; and the nize, terming them clandestine. And why holders of these rights are denominated are they clandestine? Because the com- freemen, and it is a common remark petent authority refuses to authorize them among Englishmen in speaking of a in a legal Masonic manner. And why Londoner, to say he is a freeborn citizen are they placed under a ban? Because of London. Our brethren of that period the Great Architect of the Universe, in in adapting the phrase freeborn, were inhis all-wise providence, has seen fit to fluenced by the spirit of the times, and give them a skin of a darker hue than our its insertion in our regulations can be own. How, I would ask, are we to re- attributed to the peculiar status of soconcile this action with the doctrine ciety. In making this append, I may be which we see so often alluded to, "that | charged with attempting to remake a Masonry knows neither country, sect or landmark; well that may be so if what opinion?" And what are the teachings is considered by many good men and of the first of the three tenets of our pro- masons as an error, is a landmark. But fession, as Masons? Why, that "broth- I feel that I am right. I feel that I shall erly love teaches us to regard the whole be sustained in my position, on the full human species as one family, who, as principles of Masonry, by some of the created by one Almighty Parent, are to ablest minds in the country; that every candid reasoner on our sublime teachings The only argument I have ever heard will agree with me, that every Mason advanced against allowing the black race who will divest himself of the prejudice to participate in the rights and benefits of the past will say I am right. For I of Masonry, is that he is not freeborn. hold that the word was wrongly inserted. Well, as that is likely to be the main That in allowing it to be so, Masonry argument of those who will oppose this truckled to the then present state of act of justice, let us look into it, and see society, when conservetism was in the by what right or authority the term was ascendancy; when the prevailing disposiincorporated in our laws; whether it is | tion was to keep knowledge of all kinds founded on the eternal principles of in the hands of a select few, that through Truth and Right, or in obedience to the that knowledge they could more easily peculiar views of society at that time, rule and govern the masses. When it and at the instigation of self-interest. I was a matter of self interest to the craft hold the following points to be beyond to retain their secrets among a small

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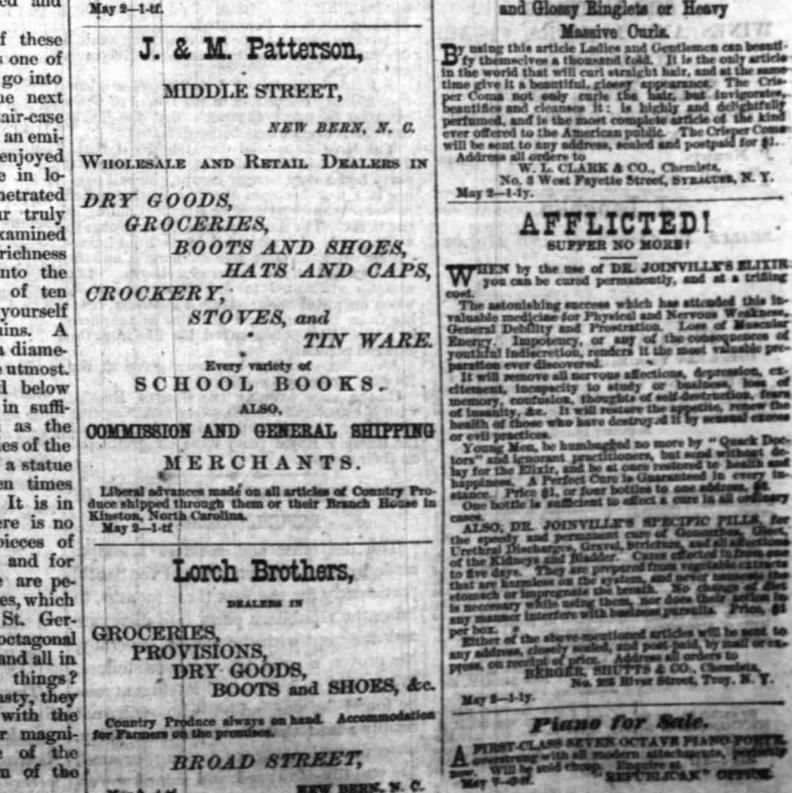
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4th. That a state of involuntary servi- dark clouds which have for ages obscured tude, except as a punishment for the the vision are being rapidly dispelled by the sight of the ruins. There are in locommission of crime, cannot legally or the bright sun of knowledge of the 19th calities where I have not yet penetrated DRY GOODS, century. The great doctrine has been 5th. That it is anti-Masonic for us to promulgated that all men are created refuse to recognize the black Masons, and free and equal, and is being impressed on contrary to the spirit and tearchings of the minds of all the world. Nations are is unrivalled, and they extend into the arising in their might in defence of the Let us take a bird's-eye view of our glorious principle. The spirit of universal own history. We have no record that at freedom and liberty is abroad in the the building of the Temple King Solo- world and will never be put down until mon made any such distinction, or that it has accomplished its mission. And as the black race were under a ban. The Masonry in bygone days has adapted Here there is on the ground, and below earliest Masonic records we have any ac- i tself to the different sentiments of the its surface, marble already hewn in sufficount of are those of Prince Edwin, of times, so it must now if it hopes to ac-England, dated A. D. 926, wherein we complish its ends. England and France giants have built here, all the cities of the find as one of the established prerequi- have acknowledged their error and have universe. I have seen the leg of a statue sites to a man becoming a Mason was made atonement in recognizing the the great toe of which was eleven times that he must be freeborn. What was the colored Masons in granting them charters the length of my hunting rifle. It is in state of society at that time? for that has and bringing them within our holy circle. marble like the rest; in fact, there is no much to do with the word, and also But it is left for the United States, our other stone near except the pieces of whether it has any right in our constitu-own beloved country, which has proudly colored marble used for borders and for tion. By the light of history we discover boasted that it is the freest nation the eyes of the statues. There are pethat there were but two classes, viz: The under heaven, to be the last of the great destals of steps reft of their statues, which landed proprietors, the majority of whom nations of the earth to recognize the are more lofty and larger than St. Gerbecome so by the right of conquest, and great principle that all men are free and main l'Auxerrols. Think of octagonal the laborers or serfs, as they were term- equal in the sight of God and the laws. pyramids cut off at the middle, and all in ed, who were held in subjection by the I would call on the individual Mason, marble. Who has done these things? strong arm of power-were deprived of on the lodges throughout the country, to If it was some illustrious dynasty, they all political rights-were not admitted, arise, throw off the shackles of despot- can have but little satisfaction with the except in extraordinary cases, even to the ism and adopt liberal views more in ac- oblivion that has enveloped their magnilower order of nobility; and who were, in cordance with the teachings of our lec- ficent mountains. The people of the fact, hewers of wood and drawers of tures; give voice to public sentiment, country have no real conception of the water for their conquerors; and as edu-

ornamented. The effect which the sight of these amazement. I am no amateur to go into

ecstacies over small things. The next thought it politic to give them. But the of an immense tower, situated on an eminence. Arrived at the summit, I enjoyed palaces of a heighth and grandeur truly colossal. With a field-glass I examined the details. Their architectural richness territory of Combodia, a distance of ten or twelve leagues. Picture to yourself how Paris would appear in ruins. A few rough stones scattered over a diameter of two or three leagues, at the utmost. cient quantities to build, even as the



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May 2-1-4