

Gen. J. W. Wheeler

LINCOLN COURIER.

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POE'S RAVEN.

[We comply with the general wish, and give place this week to "The Raven," a poem in which Edgar A. Poe, recently deceased, displayed that peculiar imaginative style, so characteristic of all his writings. It has not appeared very recently in any publication; but the copy from which this is taken was corrected by Poe himself.]

The Raven.

BY EDGAR A. POE.

Once upon a midnight dreary,
While I ponder'd weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious
Volume of forgotten lore,
While I nodded, nearly napping,
Suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping,
Rapping at my chamber door—
"Tis some visitor," I mutter'd,
"Tapping at my chamber door—
Only this, and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember,
It was in the bleak December,
And each separate dying ember
Wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wish'd the morrow;
Vainly I had tried to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow—
Sorrow for the lost Lenore—
For the rare and radiant maiden
Whom the angels name Lenore—
Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken, sad, uncertain
Rustling of each purple curtain
Thrill'd me—fill'd me with fantastic
Terrors never felt before;
So that now, to still the beating
Of my heart, I stood repeating
"Tis some visitor entreating
Entrance at my chamber door—
Some late visitor entreating
Entrance at my chamber door—
This is it, and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger;
Hesitating then no longer,
"Sir," said I, "or madam, truly
Your forgiveness I implore;
But the fact is I was napping,
And so gently you came rapping,
And so faintly you came tapping,
Tapping at my chamber door,
That I scarce was aware I heard you,"—
Here I open'd wide the door:
Darkness there, and nothing more!

Deep into that darkness peering,
Long I stood there wondering, fearing,
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal
Ever dared to dream before;
But the silence was unbroken,
And the darkness gave no token,
And the only word that spoken
Was the whisper'd word: "Lenore!"
This I whisper'd, and an echo
Murmur'd back the word, "Lenore!"
Merely this, and nothing more.

Then into the chamber turning,
All my soul within me hurrying,
Soon I heard again a tapping
Somewhat louder than before,
"Surely," said I, "surely that is
Something at my window lattice;
Let me see, then, what that threat is,
And this mystery explore—
Let my heart be staid a moment,
And this mystery explore;
'Tis the wind and nothing more!"

Open here I flung the shutter,
When, with many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately raven
Of the saintly days of yore;
Not the least obeisance made he;
Not an instant stopp'd or stay'd he;
But, with mien of lord or lady,
Perch'd above my chamber door—
Perch'd upon a bust of Pallas
Just above my chamber door—
Perch'd and sat, and nothing more.

Then the ebony bird beguiling
My sad fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stern decorum
Of the countenance it wore,
"Though thy crest be shorn and shaven,
Thou," I said, "art sure no craven,
Ghastly grim and ancient raven,
Wandering from the Nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is
On the Night's Plutonian shore!"
Quoth the raven "Nevermore."

Much I marvel'd this ungainly
Fowl to hear discourse so plainly,

Though its answer little meaning—
Little relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing
That no living human being
Ever yet was bless'd with seeing
Bird above his chamber door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptur'd
Bust above his chamber door,
With such name as "Nevermore."

But the raven sitting lonely
On the placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in
That one word he did outpour.
Nothing further then he utter'd—
Not a feather then he flutter'd—
Till I scarcely more than mutter'd
"Other friends have flown before—
On the morrow he will leave me,
As my hopes have flown before.
Then the bird said "Never more."

Startled at the stillness broken
By reply so aptly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters
Is its only stock and store.
Caught from some unhappy master
Whom unmerciful Disaster
Follow'd fast and follow'd faster,
Till hissing one burden bore—
Till the dirges of his Hope the
Melancholy burden bore
Of 'Nevermore,—of Nevermore,'"

But the raven still beguiling
All my sad soul into smiling,
Straight I wheel'd a cushion'd seat in
Front of bird, and bust, and door;
Then upon the velvet sinking,
I betook myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking
What this ominous bird of yore—
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly,
Gaunt and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking "Nevermore."

Thus I sat engaged in guessing,
But no syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now
Burn'd into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining,
With my head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet lining
That the lamplight gloated o'er;
But whose velvet violet lining
With the lamplight gloating o'er,
She shall press, ah, never more!

Then, methought, the air grew denser,
Perfum'd from an unseen censer,
Swung by angels whose faint foot-falls
Tinkled on the tulle'd floor.
"Wretch," I cried, "thy God hath sent
Thee
By these angels he hath sent thee
Respite—respite and repentance
From thy memories of Lenore!
Quaff, oh quaff this kind repentance,
And forget this lost Lenore!"
Quoth the raven "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil—
Prophet still, if bird or devil!
Whether tempter sent, or whether
Tempest toss'd thee here ashore,
Desolate yet all undaunted,
On this desert land enchanted—
On this home by Horror haunted—
Tell me truly, I implore—
Is there—is there balm in Gilead?
Tell me—tell me, I implore!"
Quoth the raven "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil—
Prophet still, if bird or devil!
By that heaven that bends above us—
By that God we both adore—
Tell this soul with sorrow laden
If, within the distant Aidenn,
It shall clasp a sainted maiden
Whom the angels name Lenore—
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden
Whom the angels name Lenore."
Quoth the raven "Nevermore."

"Be that word our sign of parting,
Bird or fiend!" I shriek'd, upstarting,
"Get thee back into the tempest
And the Night's Plutonian shore!
Leave no black plume as a token
Of that thy soul hath spoken!
Leave my loneliness unbroken—
Quit the bust above my door!
Take thy beak from out my heart,
And take thy form from off my door!"
Quoth the raven "Nevermore."

And the raven, never flitting,
Still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas
Just above my chamber door;
And his eyes have all the seeming
Of a demon that is dreaming,
And the lamplight o'er him streaming
Throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow
That lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted—never more!

The house of councillor B. was broken into and plundered. The following morning in court, Mr. Curran was asked if he had heard of Councillor B's robbery. "No," he replied, "whom did he rob?"

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS Of Lincoln Division, No. 55, Sons of Temperance.

Art. VIII. Regular Quarterly Terms shall commence on the first of October, January, April and July. Officers elected previous to the expiration of half the Term, shall be entitled to the full honors of the Term; those elected after half the Term has expired shall not count the honors, except where they may be elected to fill vacancies occasioned by resignation, suspension, expulsion, or death, in which case the brother who serves the residue of the Term shall be entitled to the full honors, and he who resigns, or is suspended or expelled, shall forfeit his claim.

Art. IX. Sec. 1. After a division has been instituted three terms, no brother shall be eligible to the office of W. P., unless he has served a regular quarterly term as W. A., nor shall any brother be eligible to the office of W. A., unless he has served two terms in a subordinate office or offices.
Sec. 2. No brother shall serve two terms in the same office, during the term of one year, except in the offices of R. S., F. S. and T.

Art. X. Sec. 1. Any brother who knows a brother to have violated Article II, and neglects to prefer the charge and specify the offence to the Division within three weeks after the violation shall have come to his knowledge, shall be fined one dollar.

Art. XI. Sec. 1. Any brother who knows a brother to have violated Article II, and neglects to prefer the charge and specify the offence to the Division within three weeks after the violation shall have come to his knowledge, shall be fined one dollar.

Art. XII. Sec. 1. The committee shall organize by appointing a chairman and secretary. The secretary shall make a correct record of the proceedings, with such testimony as may be presented, which record shall be produced to the Division on the call of any member, after the committee have reported.

Art. XIII. Sec. 1. If the committee agree that the charge is sustained, they shall report the fact to the Division, by resolution, with a second resolution to the effect that the brother be reinstated or expelled, as the case may be—which report and resolutions shall lie upon the table a least one week, and the offending brother shall be notified of the character of the resolutions, by the R. S., and requested to be present at the time appointed for considering the same, with a view of giving him an opportunity to make a defence.

Art. XIV. Sec. 1. If the committee agree that the charge is not sustained, they shall report a resolution to that effect, and if the resolution be adopted, the charge shall be dismissed.

Art. XV. Sec. 1. When the committee report the charge sustained, and a majority of the members present at a regular meeting ballot in favor thereof, the offending person shall forfeit his membership, and the W. P. shall direct his name to be erased from the constitution. If a majority of the Division vote in opposition to the resolution, all further proceedings shall be stayed.

Art. XVI. Sec. 1. If two thirds of those voting are in favor of reinstating a member who has been found guilty of violating Article II, he shall be restored to membership by resigning the Constitution, and paying, for the first offence, one dollar, and for the second offence, two dollars, which shall be paid to the F. S. by the meeting succeeding the vote, or the member to stand suspended until the fine is paid. The power to reinstate, however, shall not extend over the term of one month from the time the offence was proven.

Art. XVII. Sec. 1. When the Division vote in favor of reinstatement, and the member neglects to come forward to sign the Constitution for one month thereafter, he may be declared expelled by a two-third vote.

Art. XVIII. Sec. 1. If a Division refuse to reinstate the member he shall be declared expelled by the W. P., and the R. S. shall give the usual notice.

Art. XIX. Sec. 1. A member convicted for the third time of having violated Article II, shall lose the privilege of reinstatement, and shall be declared expelled; and the R. S. shall give the usual notice.

the same evening, if two-thirds of the members voting are in favor thereof.

Art. XX. Sec. 1. An officer or representative to the Grand Division violating Article II, shall not be eligible to fill any official position for twelve months from the time he is reinstated.

Art. XXI. Sec. 1. A member expelled under this Art. shall not be eligible for membership under six months thereafter.

Art. XXII. Sec. 1. No alteration or addition shall be made to this Constitution, unless by a two-third vote of the National Division.

BY-LAWS.

Article I. This Division shall hold stated meeting on every Monday evening, at such time as the Division shall from time to time designate.

Art. II. In addition to the duty of officers as set forth in the Constitution, the following is enjoined upon them:

1st. It shall be the duty of the W. P. to enjoin upon all members of this Division, to treat each other during its sittings, with all due delicacy and respect; and all ungenerous remarks, personal allusions or sarcastic language, be carefully avoided, by which the feelings of any brother may be wounded, and the most prominent objects of the institution, "Temperance, Benevolence and Harmony," be diminished or interrupted—and that all discussions be conducted in that spirit of candor, moderation, and open generosity, which leads men to the altar of concord and good fellowship.

2d. The Books of the Treasurer shall be open at every regular meeting, for the inspection of members. He shall have no power to loan, or personally to use the funds of the Division.

3d. The Conductor shall serve all election and meeting notices.

Art. III. Sec. 1. The acting P.W.P., the W. P. and the W. A., shall be a Committee of Trust for their respective quarterly terms; they shall receive all moneys in the hands of the T. at the close of his term, and hold the same subject to the order of the Division.—When required by the Division, they shall loan or invest such amounts, and in the manner the Division may direct.

2d. Applications for loan or loans shall be laid in before the Society; and if the vouchers be considered good, by a majority of the members of the same, then the Committee of Trust shall be authorized to make such loan or loans.

3d. The amount of \$100 shall invariably remain in the Treasury, after such loans shall be made; and if that amount should be reduced by any contingency of the Constitution or By-Laws, then such loans shall forthwith be called in.

4th. The W. P. shall, on the night of his installation, appoint no less than three members, whose duty it shall be to visit brothers who are regularly reported sick, within twenty-four hours after receiving such information; and if the member or members are entitled to benefits, to report the same to the Division. They shall continue, during the sickness of said members, to convey to them such benefits, and give them such attention, as the Constitution and By-Laws require.

Art. IV. The Initiation Fee for members shall be Two Dollars.

Art. V. Sec. 1. No brother shall be entitled to benefits until he shall have been a member for one year.

2d. No brother who is over three months in arrears, shall be eligible to office, or receive benefits of this Division, for three months after he has paid the same.

3d. The weekly benefit to every duly qualified member, in case of sickness or disability, shall be Three Dollars; subject to the exception stated in the Constitution, Art. VI., Sec. 2d.

Art. VI. Sec. 1. Any travelling brother who may apply for Benefits or aid in distress, shall produce his travelling card and travelling pass-word to the W. P., or in his absence, to the W. A., or any other committee, if the Division is in session, who shall convene the Division, and lay the case before the same; whereupon, said travelling brother shall receive such relief as the Division may feel authorized to grant him.

2d. No brother desirous of travelling shall be beneficiary for a longer time than one year, and in all cases, he shall pay the regular dues of the Division in advance.

Art. VII. Sec. 1. Any brother may withdraw from this Division and demand his card, by paying up his dues and all demands that may appear against him on the books, unless there are

charges against him which are under investigation by the Division, at the time of his application to withdraw.

2d. Any brother making application to join this Division, must send in his card, when a committee of investigation shall be appointed; and if they report favorably, he may be balloted for and elected: his time to date from said election, unless he comes under Section 3d. of this Article.

3d. Any brother withdrawing from this Division may rejoin, by paying up his back dues, provided, application be made in writing, after the withdrawal.

Art. VIII. Sec. 1. Any brother receiving benefits from this Division, who may be found imposing thereon, by feigning sickness or disability, shall be fined, suspended or expelled, as a majority of the Division may determine at any regular meeting.

2d. Any brother claiming Benefits on account of a disease which can be satisfactorily proven to have been contracted and to have manifested itself previous to his initiation, shall be denied aid, or allowed such Benefits as the Division may deem expedient and proper.

Art. IX. Sec. 1. No brother shall divulge the name of any member of the Committee of Investigation, the name of any brother voting for or against any applicant for membership, the unanimity or non-unanimity of the ballot, nor the circumstances of the trial, or reprimand of a brother.

2d. Any brother violating Article IX, sec. 1st., shall be liable to a fine of one dollar connected with reprimand; or, if the Division so decide, to suspension or expulsion.

Art. X. Sec. 1. If any brother be legally convicted of Felony, Fraud, or any other crime; or if he follow any wicked or morally offensive practices, or use immoral means in procuring a livelihood, he shall be expelled.

2d. Any brother who may have the misfortune to acquire a general bad character, shall be liable to charges.

3d. Any member who shall use profane or indecent language in the Division, or refuse to obey the W. P., when called to order, or use disrespectful expressions towards the officers or members, shall be reprimanded, suspended or expelled, as the Division may determine.

Art. XI. Sec. 1. Every brother who accepts office, shall attend at the time and place appointed for meeting; and the R. S. and F. S., shall bring their books to every regular meeting.

2d. Any officer absenting himself for three successive meetings, his seat may be declared vacant by a vote of the Division, unless sufficient reasons be assigned for his absence.

Art. XII. Sec. 1. All vacancies shall be filled at regular meetings; an officer so elected, shall serve the residue of the term, and be entitled to the full honors.

Art. XIII. Sec. 1. No member of this Division, who is over three months in arrears, shall vote at the election of officers, or receive the pass-word for the ensuing quarter.

2d. Every member who shall neglect or refuse to pay his dues for the space of eleven months, shall be notified thereof by the F. S., if practicable; and if after four weeks his accounts remain unsettled, he shall be expelled.

3d. Any member who shall maliciously bring charges against a brother, which he is unable to prove, or shall knowingly propose unworthy characters for membership, shall be subject to fine, suspension or expulsion, according to the enormity of the offence, as the Division may determine.

4th. A motion to expel a member, shall prevail only upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present, at a stated meeting.

Art. XIV. Sec. 1. A suspended member, on being reinstated, shall pay the amount standing against him, at the time of suspension, together with the whole sum which would have become due, had he not been suspended.

2d. No member who shall have been suspended, shall receive Benefits for three months from the time he is reinstated.

Art. XV. In balloting for members, the ballot box shall be placed in full view of the W. P., and shall be examined by the W. P. and W. A.

Art. XVI. Should the funds of this Division at any time be exhausted, there shall be an equal assessment upon every member, for the relief of any sick or distressed member or members.

Art. XVII. Tax.—This Division shall have power to tax each member a sum not exceeding twenty-five cents,