

AMUSEMENTS.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE. DAN RICE: THE CORNER STONE LAID. DIMENSIONS OF THE EDIFICE.

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THE MASONIC TEMPLE

THE CORNER STONE LAID

DIMENSIONS OF THE EDIFICE

Yesterday afternoon the ceremonies conducted according to the Masonic creed of laying the corner stone of the proposed temple on St. Charles avenue, between Delord and Calliope streets, were consummated in the presence of the entire order, a large audience of ladies and gentlemen, and the fellow craftsmen of the various lodges in this city.

The laying of a corner stone according to the Masonic rules has been reduced to a science. No form is more exacting than those prescribed. The very thing to be done, and the precise words to say, are down in the books. Hence, the record of this particular laying of the stone is alike to all other ceremonies, with the exception of certain events, which we will proceed to describe.

Over the site of the proposed structure a large platform had been erected, under the superintendence of Samuel B. Haggert, Esq., for the accommodation of the Order and the audience. This was about sixty feet in depth, and sloped downward toward the stone, which swung lazily from a derrick in the shape of a tripod, the ends of which were joined in a manner similar to that in use on such occasions. A sketch of the grand stand, which was built in front of the main platform, is appended:

The arches were trimmed in evergreens and wreathed with flags, and from the centre of the middle arch hung the golden letter G. The accommodations for visitors had been provided on a spacious plan, the platform being amphitheatrical in shape, sloping toward the stone. It had been skillfully devised, and preparations made for seating at least two thousand persons, some of whom at an early hour began to fill their allotted space. The stairs leading to the grand stand were laid with carpeting. The trimmings of the stairs, of the reporters' table (at which, by the way, there were ample accommodations), even the giant derrick, were all in blue, the front of the grand stand, however, having a belt of red and white, to contrast with the prevalent color. Every object was trimmed with cedar and ornamented with wreaths.

The new Temple is destined to be one of the ornaments of the city, and its speedy construction is anticipated. The front is about 110 feet, is elevated on St. Charles street, and extends from the point where the street leaves the rectilinear and describes the northeastern curve of Tivoli street toward Calliope street. The ground floor front will be divided into four stores, with the grand entrance situated midway, each store to be 27 1/2 feet wide, 70 feet deep and 30 feet in height. To reach the grand entrance a portico of 9 feet projection and 30 feet in width is crossed, and the entrance itself is 24 feet wide. The elevation is on a consist of the Corinthian order, with pilasters, columns and full entablatures, and will rise at least 80 feet, so presenting an imposing appearance both from St. Charles below the circle and above, beside casting a shadow thenceward Carondelet street in the rear. The edifice is to be three stories in height in front, four in the rear, the first or ground floor occupied by stores, the second by the whole length of the ball room, the third by lodge rooms.

The ballroom is reached through the grand entrance by a stairway, the first landing of which is spanned by three arches. Passing under the arches, the main entrance of the ballroom is reached by a short flight of steps, facing the doorway of the ballroom on the right is the supper room on the left the cloak room, and ladies' parlor. It is intended to make the ballroom one of the handsomest in the country, the ceilings to be frescoed of the best material, and the walls to be ornamented in the most tasteful manner. The dimensions are: Length 140 feet, width 70 feet, height 36 feet. That portion of the right wing in the rear of the stores is reached on the lower floor by passing through the grand entrance and turning to the left, and is to be divided into lumber, janitors, and supper-room. The grand secretary's office, the gentlemen's room, the grand master's room and the library are all on the right. A portico and entrance is on the right, looking toward Delord, and on the left, in the direction of Calliope street, is another portico, allowing entrance in three different directions.

The procession of the entire fraternity who were to participate in the ceremonies started from the hall at twelve o'clock, and took up their line of march through the principal streets in the following order: Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Louisiana, and Six Knights as escorts. Entered Apprentices. Fellow Crafts. Two Masons with rods. Secretaries of Lodges. Past Masters. Masters of Lodges. Royal Arch Masons. Grand R. A. Chapter of Louisiana. Royal and Select Masters. Grand Council R. and S. M. of Louisiana. Knights Kadosh as escort. Grand Consistory R. P. of Louisiana. Music. Grand Tyler, with drawn sword. Grand Stewards with white rods. Architect, with square, level and plumb. Grand Scribe, with drawn sword. Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Holy Bible, square and compass, carried by a Master of a Lodge, supported by two Stewards. Grand Chaplain and Grand Orator. Past Grand Wardens. Representatives of sister Grand Lodges. Past Deputy Grand Masters. Past Grand Masters. Grand Wardens of the City. Mayor of the city. Junior Grand Warden, carrying silver vessel with wine.

THE CORNER STONE LAID

DIMENSIONS OF THE EDIFICE

Senior Grand Warden, carrying silver vessel with wine. Deputy Grand Master, carrying golden vessel with oil. Master of oldest Lodge, carrying Book of Constitutions. Grand Master. Supported by Grand Procession with rods. Grand Sword Bearer.

The procession marched down St. Charles street to Canal, thence to Camp, thence to Julia, then into St. Charles again, when they reached the site of the new Temple.

Order of Proceedings. The long line, as they filed into their seats, headed by the Grand Lodge, presented that imposing appearance which particularly belongs to the order whenever a ceremony of this kind is to be performed. The insignia and jewels, on which the sun's light flashed, the waving banners, whose silken folds bore resplendent devices, the uniforms of the Templars, the golden chains with golden symbols of the Grand Lodge, and the discipline and gentlemanly carriage of the individual members, all united in making a deep impression on every beholder. The Grand Lodge having ascended the stand and accommodated themselves into their various positions, Mr. Samuel Manning Todd announced the object of the day, and the choir sang the opening ode.

The concluding verse of which is as follows: O thank, O thank those great names we bend, To Whom our thoughts we pay, God over all; in love descend, And bless the day we live.

When the last notes of the song had died away, Mr. Todd made the introduction of the Rev. Brother W. V. Tudor, who made the day's oration in a style at once impressive and clear in delivery, original in body, and common sense in its application.

Mr. Tudor alluded to the age of Masonry, intimating that the labor required to find out its exact antiquity would be insurmountable; that it antedated the building of Solomon's temple, as, according to the researches of Sir William Jones, the antiquarian records showed its existence four thousand years back; and these researches establish its remote origin to be even as far as Adam himself. Its history in England was found in records of the time of the Saxon Heptarchy, located at York and London, and on its rolls are included the names of historic bishops, dukes, earls and lords. The proud temple of Freemasonry was built upon the foundation of great and good men, and truth was its cornerstone; the order at the present day containing five hundred thousand on its rolls of membership, and consisting of a thousand lodges, of which there were in this city thirty-two lodges and three thousand members. The orator paid a handsome and deserved tribute to the ladies, a large number of whom traced the assemblage. Proceeding to explain the chief characteristics of the Order, the orator, in his sledge hammer delivery, divested his theme of its cobwebs, and put himself in communication as well with the lowest as the highest order of intelligence within hearing.

In the course of his oration Mr. Tudor alluded to the characteristics of Masonry, in never soliciting any one to become a member; that it stands upon its dignity; that its scope contemplates the whole world of mankind; that it does aim in secret and carries its charitable ministrations everywhere. The allusions to the famous inquiry of Henry VI., "Are Masons greater than other men?" closed in the answer as found in one of the Bodleian manuscripts to the advantage of a Masonic training. His explanation of the secret has been by the fair ladies, whose curiosity was only as large as their love for the members of the Order; was happy—the secret included every signal of distress from the appeal made by an infant in its cradle to the union down of a sinking ship. The silence of Masonry, he went on to say, had been copied from the God of Nature, all of whose greatest works were consummated in stillness. A boy's rocket shot into the air made more noise than the formation of all the constellations in the heavens. The great principle underlying all the operations of Masonry was not to let the right hand know what the left hand doeth.

BY TELEGRAPH.

LATEST NEWS FROM ALL POINTS

SHREVEPORT A POINT OF DELIVERY

It has ascended a foot from the ground. An attendant takes the box in his hand, stoops down, and the sharp, ringing click of the springs tell the story that it is in its place, imbedded. The ceremony of testing then begins.

Mr. Angus Kent, of St. Helena, Deputy Grand Master, descends the steps of the stand, and applies to the stone, which has been lowered into its bed, the square, and makes report. Senior Grand Warden Robson applies the level, Junior Grand Warden Sorappra applies the plumb, return, and make report, when the Grand Master announces that the stone has been tested, and found true according to the craft. The ceremony of consecration is then fulfilled.

Deputy Grand Master—I scatter this Corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessing of bounteous Heaven be showered upon men all like fraternal and benevolent undertakings, and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom and gratitude. May the God of the Universe bless the people of this State, and may it become a bond of friendship and brotherly love that shall endure through all time.

Senior Grand Warden hands cup of wine to P. G. Master—I pour this Wine as an emblem of joy and gladness. May the Great Ruler of the Universe bless and prosper our State, and may the City Government, endowed then with wisdom and virtue from on high, preserve the union of the States, and may it become a bond of friendship and brotherly love that shall endure through all time.

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