MASONIC DEPARTMENT

Will masters, secretaries or members kindly inform this department of The Tribune when their respective lodges reopen? State what work, if any, or the nature of the exercises of opening night.

LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF THE GAVEL.

One by one our lodges fall in line again, and one by one the Worshipful Masters sound the gavel calling the brethren again to Masonic labor and calling upon them to perform their Masonic duty, and let it be known right here that part of a duty does not cover your Masonic obligation, for you are called upon to do all in your power to assist in the good work and contribute your share toward the success of your lodge.

It matters not who sits in the East, whether he was your choice or not, the majority of your members have spoken through the ballot and have placed him at the head of your lodge, and to-day he is your Master as well as theirs; he is the head, the "Master," of your lodge, and of all its members, and he has a right to expect all of your earnest support. And it matters not who is your District Deputy, just appointed. He represents your Grand Master, and is entitled to all your support and all your aid. Possibly you would rather have seen one of your own Past Masters in this position, and possibly dust a shade you thought you could fill the place yourself. It matters not: the Right Worshipful who is now at the head of your district will guide its destinies to the best of his ability. Give him credit for as much honesty, for as much earnest devotion and as much zeal as is lodged in your own heart; but, above all, give him all of your support, stand by him as you would, as you should, by your Grand Master and the cause of Masonry.

But your Master will pass out of the chair, and the term of your District Deputy expires next June, while your lodge and your district remain, and the glorious institution stays right here all the time. Other men will preside in your lodge, other Grand Masters will appoint other District Deputies, but the great craft goes right on; hence by supporting your present Master you support your lodge, and by standing by your District Deputy you stand by your Grand Master, your Grand Lodge and by Masonry.

Take a higher and broader view of all this, and place Masonry high above all personality. He is a true Mason who does just this, who sinks his personal ambition or personal aims in the good of Masonry, and he who does the reverse is not a true Mason. No matter what position he may temporarily occupy, the great good sense of the brethren will find him out and judge him according to his true merit and his true deserts. It may be true in Masonry, as in all affairs of life, that the best men do not always reach the top, but it is also a truism that the good man and true Mason always earns the esteem of his brethren wherever he is placed, and that the selfish or corrupt man is invariably found out, and, no matter what or where his position in the craft when he passes out, he has earned, if not the contempt, certainly the indifference, of the brethren.

Let the Masters sound the gavel, let the Masters lead, and the brethren will loyally follow in the right direction, and for the good and glory of Masonry.

LODGE NOTES.

THE TOILERS IN MASONIC QUARRIES.

Manhattan Lodge No. 62 conferred the second degree. There was a good attendance.

Pacific Lodge conferred the third degree. R. W. Dedrick, Ws. White and Williams were among the brethren.

Tecumseh Lodge began with the first degree. W. Master Otto presided, with the old standbys, Davis and Ludwig, as his mainstays.

Lotus Lodge No. 31 opened the "fall season" with a social session. W. Master William A. Johnson welcomed the brethren in cordial manner.

There are few well-informed Masons, we venture to assert, who have not had frequent occasion to notice and deplore many of the practices of their brethren, both within and outside of the lodge room.

Platt Lodge had no work at the opening night. W. Hazelton Spencer congratulated the lodge upon its prosperity and upon its bright prospects for the coming season. Past Masters Hughes and Philip Joseph also addressed the assembled brethren.

Atlas Lodge No. 316 opened the season with a social session. R. W. John W. Allison, the Master, courteously welcomed the brethren back to their Masonic home and promised that Atlas Lodge will keep in line with the good work of the craft.

A very large gathering of enthusiastic brethren greeted W. Adam Hill when he sounded the gavel in Scotia Lodge No. 634 at the opening night last Thursday. Many visitors dropped in to grasp the hands of the brethren and wish them godspeed at the opening.

Veritas Lodge No. 734, Charles A. Morrison, Master, resumed labor and made preparation for the celebration of its silver anniversary, which will take place during this season. R. W. Matthew Taylor, Eugene Brown and other "shining lights" were present.

Continental Lodge resumed labor Wednesday evening. R. W. William H. Johnson, the Master, presided, and cordially welcomed the brethren back to the pleasant precincts of the lodge, and urged them to renewed efforts on behalf of the lodge and Masonry.

Tabernacle Lodge's work Friday evening began with the true Masonic work, that of charity. There was no degree conferred, but a degree of Masonic sympathy and friendship was shown which does credit to the brethren of Tabernacle Lodge and W. Thomas Orr, its Master.

Sagamore Lodge No. 871 opened up Wednesday evening. W. William F. Browne, the Master, plunged right into Masonic work. The first degree was conferred. Past Master Johns explained the working tools, and W. Rudolph Holde presented the apron. R. W. Herbert P. Dedrick also assisted. W. Frank L. Hamilton, of Polar Star, was among the many visitors.

Pyramid Lodge No. 490 conferred the first degree with W. James H. Kennedy in the East, assisted by W. William Hall, who presented the apron. Past Master John Watt explained the working tools. W. F. E. Davis, Alexander Sharp and Robert L. Smith were among the distinguished visiting brethren. Brother Dan Quinn and Andrew Howard entertained the brethren during recess.

Mariners' Lodge conferred the third degree Monday night in the presence of a large gathering of brethren and as well as visitors. W. Robert S. Luqueer presided, and W. Ralph Mayers, of Greenwich, acted as senior deacon. Brother Sheeley, of New-York Lodge No. 339, gave the historical lecture. W.'s Washington Alexander and William A. Wallace, of Hope; W. Eugene Browne, of Veritas, and R. W. Matthew Taylor, P. D. D., of the Fourth, were among the visitors.

The Masonic fraternity is not a mere social combination having no higher objects than to meet at stated periods and spend a certain number of hours in conferring the various degrees. It was originated by wise men far back in the history of the world to benefit mankind, to make them wiser, better and consequently happier; and every Mason is bound to bear constantly in mind that its reputation rests with him, just in proportion to his ability, and the influence he may possess among his fellows.

W. George A. Ferris, Master of Sandy Hill Lodge No. 372, received the commission as Assistant Grand Lecturer for the Twentieth Masonic District, which includes the counties of Washington and Saratoga. This honor comes to Bro. Ferris and to Sandy Hill Lodge unsolicited and unexpected. Accompanying the commission was a personal letter from the Grand Lecturer, R. W. William M. Whiting, of Rochester. Sandy Hill Lodge has the credit of being the most thriving in point of new membership of any in the Twentieth District.

COMMANDERY NEWS.

York Commandery's outing was an immense success. The only open question is whether the trolley ride or the banquet or the beach walk was most enjoyed by the Sir Knights. There were also a theatre party and numerous "side issues," all tending toward the pleasure and enjoyment of the Sir Knights. About one hundred and fifty were in the party, and the Commander, Eminent Sir George Knipe, was congratulated upon the great success of his enterprise.

Morton Commandery has secured a special vestibule train for the coming pilgrimage to Jamestown, with a sleeping and buffet car attached and all possible accommodations. This train is entirely at the disposal and at the command of the Sir Knights. It will go with them, come back, and at all times await their pleasure. The commandery will leave New-York City on Monday, September 13, at 7:40 p. m., via the Erie Railway. Last boat to connect with the train leaves foot of Twenty-third-st. at 7:00, and foot of Chambers-st. at 7:15. Headquarters in Jamestown will be at the Sherman House.

ALBION LODGE NO. 26.

A STUDY IN NEW-YORK LODGE HISTORY BY PETER ROSS, LL. D., HISTORIAN OF GRAND LODGE.

There is no more delightful department of study to the student of New-York's Masonic history than that which unfolds the story of the individual lodges. It is not only full of interest and suggestion, but it is replete with points which are often of the utmost importance to the most practical brethren of the present day—the brethren who are leaders in the triumphal onward march of the Masonic column. By thoughtlessness in the past much of the history of our earlier lodges has been forever lost, while of many which have ceased to be operative nothing new remains but their names to show that they once existed and flourished, as doubtless even the least of them did, some influence upon the history of Freemasonry in this State. It must be confessed, too, that carelessness on the part of the present generation is leaving much unwritten that might prove of interest to future historians, for, although our modern secretaries keep their minutes with a degree of fulness which was foreign to the Masonic mind still a century ago, still even the best of our modern minutes are little better than skeletons, and leave unsaid, or say but imperfectly, the very matter which is likely to be of the greatest interest to the Masonic historian of, say, 1997.

These reflections are prompted at this time by a perusal of an interesting manuscript history of Albion Lodge No. 26, one of the most popular of our earlier lodges, which was written about 1862 by Isaac Phillips, one of the old leaders around whose name much that is stirring in the Masonic history of the State evolves. It is by no means a formal history; it is rather a sort of putting together in a plain, informal fashion what he had learned from older brethren regarding the story of the lodge, and yet even in its unconventional dress it bears the stamp of literary merit and proves its writer to have been a man of more than ordinary ability. Much of what he relates regarding the early history of Albion Lodge has been proved by later research to be wrong, but, in spite of that, the broad outlines are correctly given. We can pardon the removal of a stone from a hillside or even overlook its disappearance altogether, if the hill itself is not blasted until its fair proportions are dwarfed or disturbed by the evil effects of human wildness or by the perpetual hunt after the Almighty Dollar.

Isaac Phillips was indeed no ordinary man. Born in New-York in 1812, a lawyer by profession and a literary man in his moments of recreation, he rose in life by his own unaided efforts and his indomitable spirit. His early education was meagre, but by dint of application and by constant study throughout his long life he fitted himself for the society of the best-educated men in the metropolis. Into whatever sphere he entered he devoted himself heart and soul, and even in the most ordinary affairs of life he devoted the most scrupulous care to details which to most men would seem trivial and commonplace. This is shown in the manuscript before us, with its clear calligraphy, its methodical arrangement, its precise statement of facts and its evident desire to commemorate to whomever chose to read all that his writer really knew on the subject of which it treats—a subject that was evidently dear to his heart. Of his Masonic honors we need not here speak. He was the moving spirit in the schism which is known as "The Phillips Grand Lodge," and was its Grand Master from 1846 to 1853. He died in this city in 1869.

The purpose which prompted the preparation of the sketch now under notice is thus told in the writer's introductory words, addressed to M. W. Joan L. Lewis, of Penn Yan, possibly the most enthusiastic of all New-York's Masonic students: "The lodge of which I am a member (Albion No. 26) has placed in my hands the circular of our friend Master of 19 January (1862), calling for information for compiling a Masonic history of this State, to be transmitted to you, with the request that I would comply with its subject as far as practicable. I regret to say, however, that owing to the irregular manner the books of the lodge were kept prior to and for some years after my joining—some destroyed by fire or mislaid in frequent removal of the lodge's place of meeting—we have the means of furnishing but very little of the information required, and even as I can and shall now give I take from memorandums made by me some years ago."

This same statement might be made regarding the lack of material, or loss of material, by very many of our older lodges, and, imperfect as Phillips's sketch is, it contains much that should even now have been lost had not his interest and duty prompted him to make his inquiries at the time he did. I propose here briefly to sketch the early history of Albion Lodge, using the Phillips manuscript as a guide, but without blindly following it. At the same time I am free to acknowledge that but for his labors the unfolding of the lodge's history would have been more fragmentary and disappointing than here presented.

Albion Lodge was warranted on March 26, 1804, and John Lovett was named as Master, William Jones as Senior Warden and Joseph Wallace as Junior Warden. The charter was signed by quite a brilliant list of grand officers: Jacob Morton, Grand Master; Martin Hoffman, Deputy Grand Master; P. S. Van Rensselaer, Senior Grand Warden; Cadwallader D. Colden, Junior Grand Warden, and Daniel D. Tompkins, Grand Secretary. Jacob Morton, the Grand Master, although a weak man compared with his predecessor, Chancellor Livingston, or his successor, the immortal De Witt Clinton, was an eminent citizen. He was major-general of the militia forces in this district, and a lawyer by profession. Filled for many years the office of clerk to the corporation of the city. Martin Hoffman, afterward Grand Master, was at the head of the leading auction-house in New-York and a man whose business standing and cool, conservative judgment did much to steer the Masonic craft in safety through the troublesome waters of 1825-'26. Philip S. Van Rensselaer, the Albany statesman, is too prominent in the general history of the State to need more than mere mention here. Cadwallader D. Colden became Mayor of New-York in 1818 and served until 1821, with much credit to himself. His grandfather, a sturdy Scotchman, was Lieutenant-Governor of the Province—virtually its Governor—for fifteen years prior to the Revolution, and died of a broken heart, on Long Island, when he realized that the government in New-York of King George III—or any foreign power—was forever at an end. Daniel D. Tompkins, the Grand Secretary, afterward Governor of the State and Vice-President of the United States, was an accomplished politician, and for many years was active in Masonic circles, although I must confess I have never entertained any admiration for this man's Masonic or public career. He was prominent in Masonry and in politics simply to advance his own selfish interests, and had nothing about his make-up of that broad, patriotic spirit which developed De Witt Clinton into a statesman of whose memory the Empire State is so justly proud.

Such were the Grand Lodge officers who signed Albion's warrant, and with all their shortcomings the Grand Lodge never had a brighter group in its official records.

As might be judged from the name, Albion Lodge was at first mainly composed of English residents, and the opening meeting was held in a room at No. 2 South-st., a few yards from the Battery. There, on March 26, 1804, says the Phillips manuscript, "the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York was opened in due form, with Deputy Grand Master Hoffman as Grand Master, A. S. Glasse as Deputy Grand Master and Daniel D. Tompkins, Grand Secretary. The latter read the warrant, the officers named were duly installed, proclamation was made, and after an address by the Grand Master the Grand Lodge closed. Albion Lodge then proceeded to business, when W. Brother Lovett installed the appointed officers." The only one of these whom Grand Master Phillips knew was the tyler, Joseph Jacobs, "who was afterward Grand Pursuivant, and died at the advanced age of ninety years."

The lodge started off on its career with sixteen members. Its first celebration was held on the "day" of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1804, when the members enjoyed a "cold collation" and liquors at $2 for each brother, provided by Brother Hughes, at No. 67 Fair-st. (now Fulton-st.), in a pleasing style. The day was also celebrated by most of the city lodges, for it appears that during the evening Albion was visited by delegations from St. John's No. 1, Independent Royal Arch No. 2, St. Andrew's No. 3, Erin and St. John's No. 8, Hiram No. 7, Adelphi No. 18, Phœnix, Holland, Warren, Abrams, Morton, Trinity and L'Union Française. At 8 o'clock the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary were received with due honors. For many years the lodge celebrated the days of both Saints, the Baptist and the Evangelist. That of the former, being on June 24, was generally observed at Bloomingdale by "a hot dinner at twenty shillings per head, including liquors." The December celebrations were held in the city, No. 43 Maiden Lane being the favorite "howff." It was there held in 1807, in which year the lodge had moved to more spacious quarters at No. 87 Nassau-st., so that the "howff" was convenient to the usual meeting-place. The lodge continued to meet at No. 87 Nassau-st. until 1812, when it removed to Tammany Hall, then at the corner of Frankfort-st. and Park Row. In 1819 one of the members, Brother Reynolds, presented the lodge with a gavel which was used by the successive masters for some seventy years, and is still preserved. In the records of the following year we find an item which recalls the early interest of the Grand Lodge in education. It was at one time proposed to establish a Masonic school in New-York. This proposition, however, after much discussion, was not deemed practicable, and the Grand Lodge finally subscribed to the existing public school for the education of fifty children each year, the children being mainly Masons' orphans or sons or daughters of those who had "fallen by the wayside" in the struggle for existence. The plan worked well for several years. The various lodges then in the city (twenty-two in all) had the privilege of each nominating two children to the school, and the Grand Lodge nominated all necessary to make up the full number, while each lodge which sent a child was supposed to attend to its clothing, although this duty was often generously performed by the Grand Lodge. To this arrangement Albion Lodge in 1811 nominated at least one boy, "Stephen Outerbridge, aged nine years," and it is a pity that his future career or that of others of those who were the beneficiaries of this practical Masonic charity could not be traced. The education scheme was abandoned as the progress of the public school system of New-York began to make such efforts superfluous.

From its inception Albion Lodge had plenty of Masonic "work." At the same time it appears to have been careful to comply with all the requirements of the fraternity and to have been very particular as to the material it introduced to the craft. To the meeting of the Grand Lodge on June 10, 1806, it reported that a candidate had been proposed who had been wounded in the knee, so that the limb could not be bent, and asked what it should do in the circumstances. The matter was conveniently referred to a committee and was not settled for a long time, but it is probable that the stiff-kneed man was not initiated. Possibly he got tired of waiting long before a decision was reached, and so relieved the lodge of what was then undoubtedly an embarrassing situation.

One of the most interesting points in the history of Albion Lodge arose in connection with the War of 1812. When that conflict started "Albion" was by no means a popular name in New-York, and as the trouble progressed that unpopularity gradually became more marked. Albion Lodge soon began to feel the effects of this condition of things, and in January, 1814, a committee was appointed to suggest a change of name. After a lengthy discussion of the merits of such cognomens as "Fraternal," "Temple," "Hope" and "Meridian Sun," the first was selected, and, as a result of a petition to the Grand Lodge, Albion became officially known as Fraternal No. 21, the number being afterward (1816) changed to 167. Still further to evince its patriotism, the lodge was one of the first to volunteer to proceed with the Grand Lodge to Brooklyn and give a day's work on the fortifications of which Fort Greene was the centre. It accordingly met the Grand Lodge in the Hall Park on September 1, 1814, and joined in the procession, "duly clothed," and did a good day's work on the redoubt called, in honor of the laborers, "Fort Masonic." It was possibly the only occasion when a Grand Lodge ever took part in such a warlike demonstration, and it seems a pity that the site of Fort Masonic it could easily be ascertained—should not be marked by a brass tablet. Such a task should commend itself to our Brooklyn brethren, who are always so anxious to do aught that can add to the honor of our beloved fraternity.

In 1824 the lodge became tired of its adopted name, and, the bitterness of the conflict of 1812 being over, it petitioned the Grand Lodge on September 1 of that year for permission to use its former designation. The petition said "that the said lodge (Fraternal) was chartered in the year 1804 by the name of Albion Lodge, and was chiefly composed of natives of Great Britain; that upon the breaking out of the recent war between that country and America, it was considered by the members then composing it advisable and proper to remove from the lodge everything like a National characteristic, and by the permission of the Grand Lodge the name was according ly changed to Fraternal Lodge; that since its removal, in May last, it has been very fortunate in having a very considerable accession of numbers, most of whom, being natives of Great Britain, indulge a predilection for the name by which the lodge was originally designated, and which particularly strengthened by the consideration that the furniture, jewels and property all bear the mark of Albion Lodge, has induced them to pray our R. W. body for leave to assume their original name, and that the lodge may hereafter be known and distinguished by the style and appellation of Albion Lodge No. 167."

One phase of old lodge life in New-York is if not treated by the progress of what might be called the temperance movement in Albion. At one time the social opportunities of Masonry were duly taken advantage of, and in the early part of the century excessive drinking was not looked upon with the loathing which is now so generally bestowed upon it. The "merry Masons" fully carried out Scripture by their carousals after lodge business, and drinking songs from pure throats were sung from Horsfield's Hall even after the lodge had left the old home of many lodges. The question, as I said, did not reach the higher circles of Masonry, but they decided to have a good time when they met, and the social bowl was then a common and acknowledged commendable means to that end. The change for the better may be said to have taken place about 1820, and in this Albion Lodge can be credited with being at least one of those which led the way. As early as 1821 a special meeting was called to decide whether or not the lodge should dispense with refreshments of all sorts in connection with the meetings. There was a large attendance and a heated discussion, one on a motion being taken. It was found that the friends of refreshments had carried the day. In 1824 the matter came up again. In March of that year the treasurer declared to the lodge that "the expenses thereof were unknown and would eventually undermine the principles of the order; that for fourteen years the lodge had only expended an average of $11 per annum for refreshments." The motion restricting carried the day for temperance, and it was at once resolved in future to have refreshments only by special vote of the lodge.

In 1826 the lodge removed to Masonic Hall, No. 5 Nassau-st., and while there, early in 1828, it turned out in procession to inter in St. Paul's Churchyard, Broadway, corner of Vesey-st., the remains of Brother Major-General Richard Montgomery, who had fallen in the Revolutionary War in an attack on Quebec. After being for some forty years in that obscure city, the body of the hero was exhumed in the contemporary and laid to its final resting place in the year of old New-York, when Nassau-st. the lodge in 1829 returned to its old quarters in Tammany Hall. Next year it removed to the City Hotel, on Broadway, on the block immediately north of Trinity Church. The Phillips manuscript says: "From 1829 to 1837 can be found no records of the lodge. They were probably destroyed at the burning of the City Hotel. The lodge met there during a number of years and was then at the height of its prosperity. The use of the records leaves us in the dark as to those of interest that must have taken place during that most disturbing period of its existence. Many prominent brethren were initiated during that time, among them being Philip Hone, Mayor of the City; Francis B. Cutting, Henry Colt, David B. Dunham, Joseph Fowler (for many years British Consul), Edward Holdegrard, George Clinton Tallmadge and Moses C. Patterson. The receipts must have been very large, but the suppers were resumed and the balance in the treasury was small. In 1837 Peter Stuyvesant (a descendant of the old Dutch Governor) was elected Master, and that year the lodge removed to Masonic Hall, an edifice built by the fraternity in Broadway, opposite the Hospital (Duane-st.). The accommodations there were wretched and the building after a few years was deserted, and has since been pulled down. In 1839 two members were elected who did good service to the lodge for many years—Edward Trim, Past Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and William C. Harper, formerly of Mystic Lodge. That same year Philip Hamilton, a son of Alexander Hamilton, Washington's Secretary of the Treasury, who was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr in 1804, was elected Master, and a year later Past Master Stuyvesant was again called to the chair.

Isaac Phillips was initiated in 1841. There were eighteen members present when he received his first degree, but in 1862, when he penned his sketch, he was the only survivor of that meeting. Another notable addition to the ranks in 1843 was Thomas W. Clerke, who affiliated from New-Jerusalem Lodge. He was one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the State and in 1862 became a judge of the Court of Appeals. He delivered a notable oration at the dedication, in 1845, of the lodge rooms in the Howard House, on Broadway, to which Albion Lodge had removed, and at the close of that year was elected Master.

During the Morgan controversy the lodge managed to maintain its ground, but from 1837 it began to weaken very perceptibly. In December, 1847, Isaac Phillips was elected master for the second term (having been previously elected in 1839). In connection with his second election I extract the following interesting paragraph from his manuscript: "At this election only four members were present, and the affairs looked so discouraging that it was determined to surrender the warrant, and that would have been done but for the advice of Past Master George Jacks, of Holland Lodge, who happened to be present and who urged us against so doing, citing Holland Lodge as having existed for several years and only meeting annually to elect officers pro forma, so as to preserve their warrant. Whereupon the four members, Brothers Phillips, Stone, Shepward and Crassons, resolved to continue and revive the lodge, and delinquent members were notified to pay their dues or show cause at next meeting why they should not be suspended. Some attended to it, but most of them disregarded it. At the next meeting we suspended about a dozen members. This woke them up. A number came forward, paid, and asked to be reinstated, and from that time the affairs of the lodge materially improved. Seven years after that memorable meeting of four the lodge was prosperous enough to commence building up a permanent fund, a feature which should be found in connection with every lodge.

This is all, practically, as the manuscript of Isaac Phillips carries on the story of Albion Lodge. The record goes on to 1862, but it is merely a bare recital of the names of the officers elected and concludes with the names of the members of that year. They numbered twenty-six, and of these eleven had passed the chair. At a future time I may return to the subject and relate the story of Albion Lodge from 1862 until the present day. That is really the most notable period in the history of the lodge. In the work connected with the freeing of the Temple from debt its officers and members took a most active and disinterested part, and it has fulfilled all the requirements of a large metropolitan lodge, and these, we all well know, are many and exacting. Besides all this, it gave to the craft during the last two years a Grand Master in the person of M. W. John Stewart, who guided the destinies of Freemasonry in the Empire State in a manner that won him hosts of friends in every district, and who invested the high office he held with a degree of dignity, a progressiveness of spirit, and a conscientiousness of purpose which stamped him as a typical example of the highest development of Masonic teaching. The story of a lodge that produces such material deserves to be fully told.

ANOTHER MASONIC HALL.

In city and hamlet the sound of the Masonic gavel is heard, and everywhere throughout the vast dominion of the Empire State Masonry builds its altars and erects its homes and its halls.

Saturday, August 28, another cornerstone was laid, and soon another Masonic Hall will gladden the hearts of the brethren. Monumental Lodge No. 574, located at Madalin, celebrated the event of laying the cornerstone of its new hall, which will be an ornament for those enterprising and enthusiastic Masons.

R. W. Wright D. Pownall acted as Grand Master, R. W. D. Brown, of Triune Lodge No. 782, as Deputy; R. W. George H. Sherman acted as Grand Marshal. From the surrounding country the brethren and all the citizens turned out to witness the imposing ceremony, and listen to the eloquent address which was delivered by the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Wright D. Pownall. A handsome silver trowel was presented to him on behalf of the brethren of Monumental Lodge by R. W. Brother Sherman, D. D. of the Fourteenth District.

In reply the gifted brother said, in part, that the Masonry of to-day is as practical as was the operative Masonry of centuries ago. While our ancient brethren erected churches and public edifices, we of to-day must divest ourselves of much of the prevailing sentimentality and look to the practical results of our labor, and this we find in our homes, in our asylums and schools which dot the land on every side, etc.

Many of the New-York brethren accompanied the Deputy, and there were also delegations from Poughkeepsie, Yonkers, Tarrytown and Mount Vernon. It was a great day for the brethren of Medalin and Tivoli.

THE GRAND COUNCIL.

THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK MEET IN ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.

This circumscribed but important branch of Masonry met in the eighty-eighth annual assembly at Masonic Hall last Tuesday M. Ill. John F. Baldwin presided. The opening exercises were impressively rendered. Companion Albert C. Johnson presided at the organ, accompanied by Companion W. E. Sayers, cornetist. The address of the Grand Master was attentively listened to. He said in part:

Illustrious Companions: With prayer and praise to the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity, we come to the eighty-eighth annual assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New-York.

While our hearts may glow with gratitude for mercies seen and unseen, we cannot ignore the fact that the year past has been one of sadness and unusual depression, sorely affecting every department of Freemasonry and especially detrimental to the Cryptic Rite in this jurisdiction. Nevertheless we gladly clasp hands and rejoice with you in the Royal Companionship which neither success nor disaster can destroy—trusting, hoping, praying that the tide of prosperity may soon set in, and the labors of faithful workmen be amply rewarded.

During the year two distinguished companions have been called to pass through the gate to death to find, we trust, an entrance to the place of refreshment and rest.

Past M. Ill. G. Fred Willard, after long suffering, passed away February 16. At the time of his decease he was Grand Representative of the Grand Council of R. and S. M. of Maine near this Grand Council.

Past M. Ill. John R. Sackett died suddenly June 19, 1897. Thorough, devoted, efficient, not only in the great Fraternity of Free Masons, where he had held the highest offices in the gift of brethren and companions, but in schools as teacher, and as Superintendent of Public Schools, he had won the hearts of the people of Buffalo.

Much business has been transacted by the Grand Master and his associates during the year, and a concise and exhaustive account was given. The official visits made to the various councils are recorded and M. Ill. Brother Baldwin thus concludes:

Now, companions, let us take heart and endeavor to encourage each other. Tides do not always ebb, for upon the twelve months pass by we may have the proud satisfaction of telling you of such revival of interest and increase of membership as will enable us to congratulate ourselves upon splendid results produced by persistent effort.

To our Grand Recorder, R. Ill. George Van Vliet, I again make acknowledgment for his uniform courtesy and patience. In the Oriental manner of expressing expression to admiration and affection, I will pay say: "May his shadow never grow less."

For your continued fraternal regard and consideration, illustrious companions, I again give heartfelt thanks. Although it will not be my lot to hold official relations with the Grand Council, the remembrance of the interchange of many years with you will bind and command me in loving service.

We are now ready to enter upon the work of this Grand Council and, M. Ill. the blessing of the Lord, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow" be with and direct us in our duties.

The report of the Grand Treasurer shows a healthy condition of the finances and a substantial sum is invested, bearing good interest. The report of the Grand Recorder show that 217 companions were greeted R. and S. Masters, and that the present registered membership is 4,000.

The Grand Representatives of sister jurisdictions were then affectionately greeted and welcomed, also Past Grand Masters George Scott, Knapp and Hawkins of New-Jersey. A near compliment was paid to R. E. John W. Palmer, Deputy Grand High Priest of the State, who is also a member of the Grand Council, by having him escorted to the East, where he was welcomed in a pleasing address by the presiding officer, who said that we always rejoice at honors conferred upon our members in the various branches of Masonry.

The election of officers then took place, resulting in the unanimous choice of the following:

Abraham Oppenheimer, of Buffalo, Grand Master.
Frederick Brooks, of New-York, Grand Deputy Master.
James M. Raven, of Albany, Grand C. of W.
Peter Stewart, of New-York, Grand Treasurer.
George Mallory, of New-York, Grand Recorder.
Thomas M. Parker, of Syracuse, C. of G.
John P. Lewis, of Troy, C. of G.
Theodore W. D'Arville Davis, of Rochester, Grand Chaplain.
William S. Bridgs, of Rochester, Grand Marshal.
William H. Burr, of Hammondsville, Grand Steward.
Henry McDowell, of Palmyra, Grand Lecturer.
George Skinner, of New-York, Grand Sentinel.

The officers were installed by M. P. Charles M. Ostrander, P. G. C. M., assisted by P. G. M. Alexander R. King, after which the thanks of the Grand Council were tendered to the retiring Grand Master, John F. Baldwin, for the kind yet firm and efficient manner in which he presided and conducted the affairs of the Grand Council during the six years last past. The next meeting of the Grand Council will be held at Masonic Hall, New-York City, on Tuesday, August 30, 1898.

THE GRAND MASTER OF R. AND S. M'S.

Companion A. Oppenheimer was born in Germany, where he passed through the public schools of his native town, and came to America, arriving in New-York before he was fourteen years of age. He apprenticed himself as a cigarmaker, learning the trade and working for about two years in New-

A. OPPENHEIMER.

York, but finding the work uncongenial he left New-York and came to Nunda, Livingston County, to work for his uncle in a country store, working by day and studying at night. He also attended the public school at that place for two winters.

In the spring of 1860 he went to Westfield, starting in the mercantile business for himself, where he remained about five years, during which time (in 1862) he was initiated, passed and raised in Summit Lodge, took the Chapter degrees in Forrest Chapter, Fredonia, eighteen miles distant, the nearest chapter at that time. In 1865 he returned to Nunda and affiliated with Keshequa Lodge and Nunda Royal Arch Chapter, filling by election and appointment every station in the lodge and chapter excepting that of Master, which he declined at that time because he was High Priest of the chapter and Master of the council, which had just been instituted by Jackson H. Chase and Companion Oppenheimer was chosen its first Master under dispensation and charter. In 1872 Companion Oppenheimer moved to Buffalo, but did not affiliate with any Masonic bodies there until 1877, when he took his demit from the Nunda bodies, joining Parish Lodge No. 292, Buffalo Chapter No. 71 and Buffalo Council No. 17. In 1879 Companion Oppenheimer was elected from the floor to preside over Buffalo Council, and, as some companions expressed it at that time, "it might just as well die on his hands as anybody else's," but his indomitable energy, perseverance and skill soon made a record for Buffalo Council, so that within a year it was the banner council in the jurisdiction of the State, having conferred the degrees of Royal and Select Master on more candidates than any other council in the State during that year. Companion Oppenheimer was re-elected in 1881 and 1882 with an excellent record as a worker. In the winter of 1880 he received the Scottish Rite degrees of the lodge and council in the bodies at Buffalo, and on March 18, 1880, he was proclaimed a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, Thirty-second Degree of Rochester Consistory. In 1882 he was elected T. P. M. of Palmonia Lodge of Perfection, which at that time consisted of thirty-five members, thirteen of whom came together, after the burning of Masonic Hall in Buffalo, when their charters were lost and burned, and urged Brother Oppenheimer to take the lead in starting up. He kept the position of Master for four consecutive years, when he retired for two years, but was recalled to preside for four more years, and when he left the chair Palmonia Lodge consisted of 153 live and active members, which was a means of bringing a consistory to Buffalo. He also received the Shrine Degree in Damascus Temple of Rochester, in 1882, and was one of the charter members of Ishmaila Temple of Buffalo.

In the Grand Council, Companion Oppenheimer was first appointed Captain of the Guard in September, 1881, by John J. Martin, Grand Master, and in 1883 as Grand Lecturer by Ralph C. Christiance, which position he held until 1886, when he was elected Grand Past Companion, serving two years as such, and two years as Grand Deputy Master. The Companion never sought political honors, always preferring to manage his own lucrative private business. Companion Oppenheimer has visited the different bodies of the State more extensively, especially those of the Cryptic Rite, than any other Grand Master before him, and is well and favorably known by the craft throughout the whole jurisdiction.

COMING EVENTS.

DESIGNS UPON MASONIC TRESTLEBOARDS.

Ocean Lodge No. 176 is ready to open up the fall season next Thursday, when W. John P. Burrows, the Master, will greet the members and welcome the visitors.

Union Chapter will open its tabernacle for the season next Saturday. E. Robert H. Clark, the High Priest, has candidates on hand for every degree in the series.

Penielpha Chapter No. 11, of Hoboken, N. J., will resume labor next Thursday. The High Priest, M. E. Thomas G. Agnus, cordially invites visiting companions to attend.

Adelphic Lodge No. 348 will resume labor next Tuesday. The Master, W. Ernest S. Taite, has placed the third degree upon the trestleboard. Visitors are always welcome here.

Naval Lodge No. 69 will open with the first degree next Wednesday evening. W. Henry I. Coleman, the Master, requests all the members to attend and cordially invites visitors.

The first communication of Howard Lodge No. 25 will be held at the Doric Room, Masonic Hall, on the evening of Friday, September 10. R. W. John T. Howard, the Master, will welcome all brethren.

Nassau Lodge No. 526 will resume labor Thursday, September 9, on which occasion Senior Warden Bro. Eugene S. Sexton will confer the third degree. A cordial and fraternal greeting awaits visiting craftsmen.

Damascus Commandery No. 58, K. T., will meet in their asylum on September 8, when the Order of the Red Cross will be conferred on several Royal Arch companions. Em. Sir Komister will be pleased to welcome Sir Knights of sister commanderies.

St. Cecile No. 508—sweet, musical St. Cecile, our popular matinee lodge—will gather its members and its visitors in the fold next Tuesday afternoon. The second degree will be conferred, and the craft will be welcomed by the genial Master, W. C. Edward Low.

Metropolitan Chapter No. 189 will be called from refreshment to labor on Wednesday, September 8. The work of the fall season will begin with the Mark Degree. Visitors are always welcome. Metropolitan Chapter meets on the corner of Third-ave. and One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st. See Masonic Directory on this page.

Benevolent Lodge will resume Masonic work on Wednesday evening, the 8th inst. The Master, William Harkness, requests a full attendance of its members, and gives a cordial invitation to visiting brethren, who will be courteously received. There will be no degree worked at this communication, but it will be a reunion of the members.

The next regular communication of Silentia Lodge No. 198 will be held on Wednesday evening, September 8. As the summer season is now over and this is the first communication of the fall season, the Master is desirous of a full attendance, and hopes that every member will return to his labor with renewed zeal and energy for the welfare of the lodge.

W. Brother George P. Williams, Master of St. John's, says:

"I take pleasure in announcing to you that St. John's No. 1 will call upon on Thursday, September 9 and work the second degree on two candidates. The lodge's new photograph album will be presented to the lodge on this occasion. It will contain photos of late and present members. I trust that you have spent a pleasant summer."

ROYAL ARCH ITEMS.

Manhattan Chapter opened wide its doors on Wednesday evening to receive its members and hosts of visitors. E. J. P. Decker occupied the East and R. E. A. Mueksam the West. M. E. Companion Fitch also assisted in the work, as well as M. E. Ernest Rinser.

Zetland Chapter began the season's work with the Mark degree, and with E. Warren C. Bennett, the H. P., in the East and R. E. David M. Kelsey, George Durial, Charles Ketterer and Harris Halston in the west. The chapter was well attended, and a spirit of lively interest permeated the entire body.

Jerusalem Chapter No. 8 opened its tabernacle on Friday night. E. John R. Gardner cordially greeted all the companions and made them welcome to their Royal Arch home. No degree was given, as there was a vast amount of accumulated business to be attended to, which was all dispatched to the satisfaction of the companions. A full attendance of officers answered the call of the popular High Priest. A pleasant episode, and one which was pleasing to all the members of this chapter, was the announcement by the High Priest of the election to high honor of one of the members of No. 8 in another branch of Masonry, R. I. Frederick Kaiser was introduced as the new Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council in this State, and the Masonic honors were accorded him and the companions congratulated the distinguished brother of the Cryptic Rite.

Empire Chapter met last Monday, but had no degree work, although several candidates were expected. However, the meeting was made interesting by the companions who were present. Among these were R. E. George McGowen, of Palmyra; McKelsey, Postley, of Phœnix; Bennett, of Zetland; Francisco, of Mount Zion; Ordemann, of American; S. Hodgson, of Wilkesbarre, Penn., and A. F. Swinberg, of Baldwin Chapter No. 17, Newton, N. J.

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