MASONIC.

We present our readers this week with an article from the *Masonic Trowel*, from the pen of R:. W:. Wm. Rounsaville, who, we believe, may be looked up on as a clear thinker and sound reasoner upon matters pertaining to the craft.—We invite the attention of our readers to the subject here presented, entitled

EXTENT OF PROTEST.

Shall the effect of a protest against the reception of an applicant for the degrees in Masonry be perpetual, or shall it be limited? I propose to briefly discuss this question. The Grand Lodge has very wisely provided that when an applicant for the degrees has been rejected he may renew his application upon the expiration of a year, and some of the best Masons we know have passed through this ordeal. The second trial is frequently successful when the first one has failed. This fact shows that objections to candidates that are good and valid this year may be good for nothing the next, and that those objecting for what to them are good reasons, on the first application, are satisfied of the fitness of the candidate on the second. It also shows that the limitation of the effect of a ballot, when unfavorable, to a single year, is a wise and judicious provision, which results in the admission of many good men who make valuable members of the Institution, who, were the effect perpetual, would be forever debarred from all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

Why, then, should a protest, entered after the candidate has passed the ordeal of a ballot, be of longer duration or of more effect than the ballot itself? We can conceive of no argument against allowing a protest from being entered at all after a ballot, for it is the duty of a member to attend the communications of his lodge and to reject unworthy applicants, and if he fails to do this it may be argued with a show of reason that he has no wish to interfere with those who do attend to their business, have passed upon the application and have declared the petitioner to be worthy of a seat in the lodge. But waiving all this, and allowing that the protestant has the right to protest after the lodge has voted unanimously to receive him, why should that protest be perpetual? Is not the candidate who has passed the trial of the ballot, by a unanimous vote of those present at a regular meeting, and is halted in his Masonic career by the protest of an absentee, as likely to be a fit subject for our mysteries a year thereafter, as one who may have received a half dozen unfavorable ballots in the lodge?

And yet in the case where numerous ballots are cast of the unfavorable color we allow the rejected candidate to again apply after the lapse of a year, but when we have the protest of a single member instead, we very inconsistently make the barrier perpetual, or during the pleasure of the protestant. In our view there is no justice in this rule. It is inconsistent as well as unjust. A member may absent himself from the regular communication of his lodge for the express purpose of taking advantage of this rule, that his objection may be perpetual. It is not only inconsistent with the rule of the ballot, but it is inconsistent and greatly at variance with the principles of Freemasonry. Our Order does not hold that there is no forgiveness or evidence of reformation. On the contrary it does hold that he who reforms his life by so much fits himself for our mysteries.—But to say that an objection once made shall forever stand, without further action, precludes forgiveness and the rewards of reformation. If the candidate conducts himself guilelessly still the objection stands, and he is judged, not by the voice of the lodge, but by a single member thereof.

To this it is answered, when the candidate shows evidence of reformation the protest can be removed. This is a beautiful theory but it is exceptionable in practice. The protestant may become indifferent to the lodge; he may remove, still retaining his old membership; he may not be aware of the removal of the fact that caused him to protest, and a thousand other things may prevent the removal of the protest. Those who have had experience in these matters will bear witness to the truth of this sentence. In our experience of the working of these matters in the lodge we have not found one protest withdrawn where ten candidates rejected on the first have been elected on the second trial. Whether the protest more frequently arises from personal dislike, and therefore intensifies the opposition and prolongs it, we will not now inquire, though this possibility ought by no means to be overlooked. If it be so there is an additional and very strong reason why the effect of the protest should be limited.

But as the protest now stands we give the rejected candidate no opportunity to retrieve his character as long as the protest stands upon the records, whether it be through ill will, forgetfulness, indifference, or for real cause removed. We have decided by the protest that he is not fit to be made a Mason. We afterward refuse him the benefit of another investigation and compel him to remain with a stigma upon his character which that investigation might remove. Thus we hold out small, if any encouragement for reformation. If the candidate so conducts himself after his rejection as to merit the approbation of the lodge, he has no way to make that reformation known. The protestant may be ignorant of his reformation and the lodge can do nothing. Could he apply for membership, as he could if the protestant had cast a dark ballot, the scrutiny of his character might remove the objection and he appear in a better light than before. It appears to us that so much is due the petitioner, and certainly so much should be conceded to the principles of our Institution. If we have rejected a man he should have the right thereafter to prove himself worthy.—This the course pursued when rejected by the ballot secures him. If the above reasoning is correct the protest after the ballot should have no more force or duration than the unfavorable ballot, and that is the rule for which we contend.—If a member fail to be in his place to cast a ballot against the admission of one whom he believes to be unworthy give him the privilege of entering his protest to farther procedure for the year. Then give the petitioner the right to another scrutiny of character, and perhaps the cause of the protest will appear to have been groundless and a valuable member be received. But if the candidate is still unworthy, the ballot or the pratest will not fail to pronounce against him.—Then we shall do no injustice, and our principles will, in this regard, be sustained.

This is a subject that ought to be thoroughly studied and discussed, as it is one in which all subordinate Lodges are directly and materially interested, inasmuch as it affects the working of the Lodge.

Although the position assumed by the writer is opposed to the generally received views and rulings of the craft, yet we fail to discover a just, common sense reason why a protest or objection, urged against the conferring of degrees upon an applicant, should be perpetual, or without limitation, save by the consent or approval of the protestant. Great injustice may be, and frequently is done, both the craft and to the individual applicant, by preventing an opportunity for the applicant to show to the protestant or to the Lodge that the grounds upon which the objection had been made, has been removed. We think that the Grand Lodge as the supreme lawmaking power, should fix a limit, beyond which, such objection should cease to operate, unless renewed.

Sowing Different Grains Together.

The Toronto *Globe* says: Of late years the attention of several experimental English agriculturists (as well as some Canadian) have been turned towards the possibility of increasing the yield per acre of various cereals, when sown together in the same field. There seems little doubt that a much larger yield can thus be obtained. Instances are quoted where peas, oats barley and wheat, all sown together, have produced a very large yield. This plan has especially been successful where various sorts of wheat alone have been sown together, or, as we should term it, a mixed sample of seed. One man mentions a yield of upwards of seventy bushels of this mixed seed (wheat) per acre, and this great crop was composed of four different sorts of wheat. The theory is that some sorts are subject to particular enemies, whether of season or insects; while others are not influenced by the same, at the same time, or escape altogether; so between the various chances which affect the different plants, a crop matures. Our improved fanning mills are now brought to such perfection that the separation of different grains is not difficult.

The Barberry for a Hedge.

From the Prairie Farmer.

I wish to call the attention of the farmers of the Northwest to the subject of trying the barberry as a fencing material. Having experimented with it in a small way for the last fifteen years, I am satisfied that it is the very thing we need to enclose these big prairies, it being perfectly hardy, and being a shrub and not a tree; consequently does not require to be continually cut back to keep it within bounds, as is the case with the Osage Orange and the Honey Locust. By an annual pruning of the side branches to produce a more stocky growth; in four or five years, from the seed, if properly cultivated, it will make a fence that will stop any kind of stock that ought to be permitted to run at large. Its habit of continually sending up new sprouts from the collar of the plant, in a few years produces an almost impenetrable mass of branches and foliage, that will hardly admit of the passage of a squirrel.

I write this simply to induce farmers to experiment with it, as I am well satisfied that it will supply a great want in this open prairie country. As the subject of even refencing the lands already enclosed is getting to be serious with many, it stands us in hand to look around for some cheaper and more available material than lumber.

I am not conscious of any selfish motive in calling the attention of the public to this subject. I have a few rods of this hedge on my own grounds in this city that I would be pleased to show to any parties interested, and furthermore, would say, that next fall shall likely have a considerable quantity of barberry seed that I will gratuitously distribute to those who wish to plant.

D. H. PEARCE, Clinton, Iowa.

Ten Things in Favor of Nebraska.

From the Prairie Farmer.

Very frequently readers who desire to locate in the West, write us for the purpose of learning the best State, or the best county of a given State. As so much depends upon the man, his means, his tastes, the kind of farming he desires to pursue, etc., etc., this is a kind of information not easily imparted. Quite often we are favored with the reasons that have induced individuals to settle in particular locations. Here is a model letter, in its way, that we have just received from Mr. C. H. Gould, of Lincoln, Nebraska. We commend it to recent enquirers about the advantages of Nebraska:

1st. Because it is the central State of the Union.

2nd. Because one of the mightiest rivers in the world forms its natural eastern and northern boundary.

3rd. Because it has the Union Pacific railroad, which is one of the wonders of this wonderful age.

4th. Because our climate is preferable to the climate east of us on the same [42nd] parallel.

5th. Because our soil cannot be surpassed in any country where the favorite *Prairie Farmer* is read.

6th. Because we have more railroads completed or in process of construction than any other State in the Union, with the same number of inhabitants.

7th. Because we have best of school laws, with a public spirit that builds school houses and churches in every organized school district.

8th. Because we still have a large "public domain," where the poor man can select a 160 acre homestead, of as good land as the sun shines on.

9th. Because fruit does well in every portion of the State where any attempt has been made to cultivate it, as the first premium, awarded to our State by the United States Horticultural Society, at their last annual meeting at Richmond, Va., will prove.

10th. Because our citizens are of the go-ahead kind, whose public spirit aims high, and never misses the mark.

The Rocky Mountain Goat.

A family of these rare animals have been captured alive in Montana. The Deer Lodge *Independent* gives the following interesting description: This animal is caught alive by pursuing it with hounds until it is compelled to climb the steep rocks or precipices, which it invariably does when closely pursued. The hounds being unable to follow, the hunters ascend to a point above or just over, from whence he loops his lariat over the creature's neck. Its habits, as far as known, show that it crawls under ledges of rock, where it hides, making it hard to distinguish it from the snow which surrounds its haunts. The height of a male full grown is thirty-three inches on the withers, which raise up like a hump on a buffalo. Its average weight in condition is two hundred and seventy pounds. The hair, or fleece, which is of a soft and silky texture, is pure white. The horns are spiral, slightly bent backward, are black and smooth, sharp pointed, and are about ten inches long. Behind each horn is a musk bag, resembling the human eye when closed. The scent is quite delicate, and free from rank odor. In general appearance the male and female resemble each other, except that the female is smaller than the male. The fleece on the animal reaches to the knee, and its length is about three inches. The legs below the knee knock, and appear as if clipped. The face is long and narrow, showing side whiskers, with no beard under the chin. The countenance is wonderfully expressive, with great gravity of expression. It shows considerable intelligence, and is rapidly becoming tame and accustomed to its captivity. It is more pugnacious than timid.

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feb13 d&wtf Plattsmouth, Neb.

Notice.

ALL persons indebted to us, either by note or book account, are notified that settlement must be made by the first day of January next, or we will be compelled to place the same in the hands of the proper officer for collection. We must have money, and our friends will please make a note of this, and govern themselves accordingly. VALLERY & RUPPNER

Plattsmouth, Dec. 12, 1871. dec11d&w

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They are a Gentle Purgative as well as a Tonic, possessing, also, the peculiar merit of acting as a powerful agent in relieving Congestion or Inflammation of the Liver, and all the Visceral Organs.

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For Inflammatory and Chronic Rheumatism and Gout, Dyspepsia or Indigestion, Bilious, Remittent and Intermittent Fevers, Diseases of the Blood, Liver, Kidneys and Bladder, these **Bitters** have been most successful. **Such Diseases** are caused by **Vitiated Blood,** which is generally produced by derangement of the **Digestive Organs.**

DYSPEPSIA OR INDIGESTION, Headache, Pain in the Shoulders, Coughs, Tightness of the Chest, Dizziness, Sour Eructations of the Stomach, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Bilious Attacks, Palpitation of the Heart, Inflammation of the Lungs, Pain in the regions of the Kidneys, and a hundred other painful symptoms, are the offsprings of Dyspepsia.

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Office of Comptroller of the Currency.

WASHINGTON, January, 2nd 1872.

WHEREAS by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that "THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PLATTSMOUTH" in the City of Plattsmouth, in the county of Cass, and State of Nebraska, has been duly organized under and according to the requirements of the Act of Congress entitled "An act to provide a National Currency, secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof," approved Jun 3rd 1864, and has complied with all the provisions of said Act required to be complied with before commencing the business of Banking under said Act,

NOW THEREFORE I, Hiland R. Hulburd Comptroller of the Currency, do hereby certify that "The First National Bank of Plattsmouth, in the City of Plattsmouth, in the county of Cass, and State of Nebraska, is authorized to commence the business of Banking under the Act aforesaid.

In Testimony Whereof witness my hand and seal of office this 2nd day of January 1872.

(L. S.) HILAND R. HULBURD.

(No 1914) Comptroller of the Currency.

jan4d&w2m.

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