THE LODGES.

The Lininger Reception—Was Shakspeare a Mason—The Scottish Rite.

Notes of Importance to The Craft.

The Triple Link—Knightly Pythians.

The Free Masons.

THE LININGER RECEPTION.

The return of Past Grand Master Lininger from Europe and Palestine, where he has been traveling during the past year was quite an event among the Masonic fraternity for whose welfare, Brother Lininger has always manifested such a strong interest.

On Monday evening a general reception to Brother Lininger was given by the Master Masons in Masonic Hall. A large number of the brethren were present, and although the affair was entirely informal, it was none the less delightful on that account.

On Friday evening Mt. Calvary commandery gave a reception to Sirs G. W. Lininger and B. H. Barrows. Sir Lininger's extended travels in the Holy Land were largely devoted to the study of the scenes of the Crusades and Sir Barrows for five years past has been United States consul at Dublin and has taken considerable interest in masonry as exemplified in the metropolis of Ireland. On this account a large gathering of the Knights Templar was to have been expected. Fifty-six plates were set and fifty-five Sir Knights sat down in the banquetting hall. Addresses were made by Sirs Lininger, Barrows, Grand Commander E. K. Long, Ill. Bro. R. C. Jordan 33°, Ill. Bro. Gustavus Stevenson 32°, Sirs Chas. W. Mead, Sam'l Burns, W. J. Connell and others. The evening spent was a most enjoyable and instructive one to all present.

THE SCOTTISH RITE.

What is to be the future of the Scottish Rite? asks Ill. C. T. McCenachan, 33°. It is partially answered by himself, in these words: "Its growth is becoming daily more apparent." The deep interest is not to be wondered at for in a system where there is so much attractive to the senses as well as food for intellectual acquirement, where the number of degrees furnishes such a fruitful source for change of thought, and the ceremonies are clothed in language so rich, it is not unnatural to assume that man would lay aside his business interests, if necessary, for the moment, and cling to the good and the beautiful.

THE IOWA RESOLUTIONS

The following excellent resolutions were passed by the last Grand Lodge of Iowa Masons:

RESOLVED. That in view of the anti-Masonic crusade now being preached about the country by a wide-awake and active enemy of human progress and benevolence, it behooves the governing bodies of Masonry in the several grand jurisdictions to exercise a more watchful care over its subordinate lodges and to demand that they require of their members a more rigid observance of the moral laws govering Masons as well as citizens. That a godly walk and a holy living and respectful silence under provocation will prove far more effectual in the refutation of slander than noisy and injudicious opposition or the bandying of epithets unworthy the members of an institution which has deserved, as it has received, the commendation for ages of the honored and respected of every land.

A NECESSITY.

A brother writes: "Do say something of the growing carelessness of committees on petitioners." The subject is one of the most important now engaging the minds fo our lodges. The committee's report is the first safeguard against the admission of improper material to the lodge and it is very necessary that the committee appointed to investigate the character and antecedents of a candidate should do so thoroughly and searchingly. That lodge whose committees are most faithful and which itself exercises the most careful scrutiny over it's ballot box, sometimes even in the face of a committees report, is building itself upon a foundation of granite.

AN IDLE CHARGE.

Many of the enemies of Freemasonry persistently charge that it is a secret political institution. The Freemason, of London, protests aganist this, and declares it not alone childish and perverse, but also a slander against our peaceful and loyal brotherhood, alike unmerited and unfounded. The great difficulty with most of Freemasonry's opponents is that they judge it solely by the rottenness of their own hearts and lives. Such people seldom see any good or any beauty in anything, and generally even the choicest blessings and the truest loving kindnesses as of no more real value than a film of sand or a pool of stagnant water. All this may be due to their long ears and small brains; anyway it is just as well to so view it.

SHAKSPEARE A FREEMASON.

A writer in the Welchman is at pains to show, from quotations in Shakspeare's plays, that he was a Mason. The following are a few of the more striking quotations:

In "Measure for Measure" we find the following beautiful description of the "badge of innocence:"

> Lambskins, too, to signify that Craft,
> Being richer than innocency, stands
> For the facing.

In the same play we not only obtain the following brief reference to the "secret:"

> It is a mystery!

but we are darkly and impressively warned—

> 'Tis a secret must be locked within the teeth and lips.

And in King John occur the following lines, which we are satisfied to quote without comment or remark of any kind:

> And whisper one another in the ear,
> And he that speaks doth grip the hearer's wrist.

In "Henry VI," we read: "Thou wast installed in that high degree;" and in "Twelfth Night," "He's in the third degree."

The quotations given are not unfair or misleading, and if a few expressions may not stand the severe test of critical analysis sufficient remains to fully establish the fact that Shakspeare was a Mason.

GOAT HAIRS.

A meeting of the Temple Craft was held on Thursday evening.

St. John's Lodge No. 25, A. F. & A. M., will lead the lodges of the state in the number of members entered, passed and raised during the past Masonic year.

The 4th degree was worked in Mt. Moriah Lodge of Perfection A. & A. S. R. on Thursday evening. The lodge has much work before it and will probably not call off from labor to refreshment during the summer.

Nebraska Masons boast of the ablest grand secretary in the United States.

New York has 70,000 active Masons.

The grand lodge of England is the largest in the world. There are nearly two thousand subordinate lodges under its control.

Working the Third in costume is becoming general in a number of eastern lodges.

The printed reports of the proceedings of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar at Chicago in August last, are out.

The Grand Lodge of Sweden has had two lithographic views of the Masonic Temple, exterior and interior, at Stockholm, printed and copied of them, and a chromo-lithographic portrait of His Majesty, Oscar III, of Sweden, presented to the Grand Lodge of Scotland and other Grand Lodges with which it is in fraternal intercourse.

There are eleven Royal Arch Chapters, with a membership of 500, in the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia.

There are 15,276 Royal Arch Masons in the state of New York, according to the last Grand Chapter returns.

It is stated that the Viscount of Rio Branco, Grand Master of the Brazilian Free Masons, and Prime Minister at the time of the government severities against the bishops, who renounced Masonry, was buried with the rites of the church in consideration of having, before he expired, affirmed his belief in the entire teachings of the church.

Kansas has seventeen Commanderies and over six hundred Sir Knights.

The Triple Link.

Omaha's Odd Fellows have earned the reputation of doing some of the finest work in the west.

The new rituals are being carefully studied and the result is already seen.

An extra session of the grand lodge of Odd Fellows of Iowa has been called for June 23; at Marshalltown.

The grand lodge of Wisconsin met at Milwaukee last Tuesday. Grand Secretary Hill reported a total of 14,476 members and 278 lodges. Durthe year nine new lodges were instituted and one lodge reinstated. Three Rebekah degree lodges were instituted. There are now fifty-three Rebekah degree lodges in the state, with a membership of 1,818. The grand treasurer reported a balance of $9,407.80.

There are thirty-three Odd Fellows' mutual aid associations in the United States.

The Ohio grand lodge has just just granted dispensations for the organization of fourteen new subordinate lodges. The Buckeye state now has over 44,000 Odd Fellows.

Minnesota has seventy-three lodges.

KNIGHTLY PYTHIANS.

Omaha Lodge K. P. numbers 40 members.

Wyandotte, Kansas has organized a German lodge.

Iowa reports fifty-two lodges, with a total membership of 2,154, a net increase during the year of 493.

There is some talk of organizing a German lodge at St. Joseph, and it is probable that it will be done after July 1st.

The last official reports from Tennessee show that state to have seventeen lodges, and a total membership of 1,124, an increase of 259 during the year past.

BIRTH OF A SEA-LION.

An Event of Great Interest at the Cincinnati Zoo-Zoo.

Cincinnati Gazette.

Recently another interesting acquisition was made to the large list of animals now in the garden, furnishing also additional facts of a peculiar and interesting nature to the scientific world—namely: the birth of a sea-lion, the third one ever born in a fresh water carnivora. In the year 1877 a pair of sea-lions from southern California, known as the zalophus Californianus, were brought to the Zoo., and given in charge of Prof. Thompson. Some little trouble was experienced at first in accustoming them to the fresh water of their new abode, reared as they were in the salt waters of the Pacific, but, through the care and assiduity of their keeper, they finally not only became reconciled to the change, but brought forth young,—the first calf being born in 1878. The mother, however, was in the last stages of tuberculosis, and died several days after her confinement, the calf surviving her but a week. Another cow was then obtained, and the professor succeeded again in inducing them to bring forth young. The second calf was born in captivity, making its appearance in the fall of 1880. But again were the managers of the garden doomed to disappointment, the cow dying of ulceration of the ovaries in about a fortnight after the birth, despite all efforts to save her. A third cow was then brought to the aquarium, and, as above stated, she brought forth the third and last seal calf ever born in a fresh-water aquarium, and at last accounts both mother and child were doing well, thanks to Prof. Thompson.

Floundering about upon the rocky floor, and bleating like a young goat was this newly arrived though somewhat diminutive specimen of a sea-lion. He was about as large as a recently-whelped Newfoundland pup, and clung as closely to his mother's side as a country boy upon his first visit to a village fair.

"How soon will the youngster take to the water?" asked the scribe.

"Strange to say," answered the professor, "the young of the sea lion cannot swim. This little fellow, sir, if thrown into the lake, would sink to the bottom like a pound-weight. It will be fully three weeks, or probably a month, before the mother will venture to take his first lesson. When I was in charge of the Zoo at Philadelphia, a cow and calf were shipped overland to that place, and both progressed nicely until the winter came on, when the little fellow, through the carelessness of the keeper, was permitted to plunge into the breathing-hole cut in the ice of the lake, and having but recently learned to swim, was caught under the icy cover and drowned before help could be procured."

"What does the old gentleman swimming there in the tank think of his newly-arrived heir?" queried the man in search of news.

"Oh, he is perfectly indifferent as regards the matter," laughingly replied the professor. "He is entirely unlike the males of our cat animals who devour their young unless immediately removed from their proximity. This fellow is the most indifferent of fathers."

"Is it proper to speak of this 'as a marine carnivora?'"

"Certainly," answered Mr. Thompson. "There is but one known specimen of seal, the sea elephant found near the Cape of Good Hope, that feeds upon herbage. Carnivora is the proper word." A large Australian emu, paddling about in a rectangular mud hole, was next held up to view, and after hearing his history in brief the reporter debated with himself at considerable length as to whether so scandalous a story ought to appear in the columns of a well regulated family newspaper.

It seems that a female of the emu family had determined upon housekeeping, and had built herself a neat and tidy nest away over in one corner of her pen, and laid therein several eggs, closely approximating both in size and color, young watermelons. The directors of the Zoo finally determined that it was not best that this patient and enduring females thus to be left alone to wrestle with a cumbersome clutch of eggs and a protective family of little emus, so an order was forthwith sent to Cologne, and "the downey cove" above alluded to was immediately sent to this country, having previously expressed a perfect willingness to abandon his life of single blessedness, and go whacks with the love-lorn lady, who had already embarked in the housekeeping line upon her own hook. The two met, and everything was lovely until a female ostrich in a neighboring lot caught the eye of the gay Lothario, and he whispered honeyed words through the wires of his inclosure into her but too willing ears, his disconsolate wife being left in the meanwhile to warm the eggs upon the cold, cold ground, and looked after the other house arrangements all by her self. Her patience becoming exhausted at last at the billing and cooing of her faithless spouse with this giddy specimen of dusting-brush, she attempted to mildly remind him of his duties as a husband and a prospective father, when he flew into a passion, broke up the nest, trampled the eggs under foot and, falling upon his wife in a rage of his furious passion, was within an ace of having murdered her when the authorities interfered and placed him in durance vile in the mudhole above alluded to. "You can't bet on emus," said Mr. Thompson. "They are not reliable birds, especially as husbands and fathers."

Haunted Me.

Christian Advocate.

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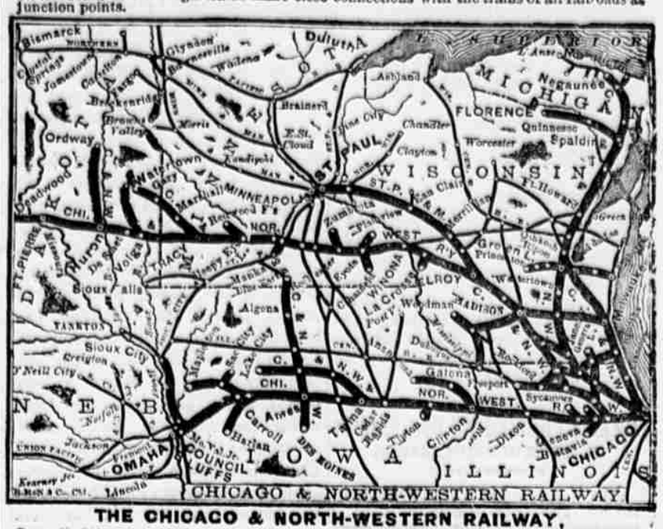

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