

# GRAND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## Opening Tomorrow, Monday Evening, Sept. 22.

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P. M.

### OPENING ADDRESS BY MAYOR CUSHING:

Electric Light, Floral and Art Displays, Never Before Equalled in Omaha.

# GRAND CONCERT

Under the directorship of H. T. IRVINE.  
by One of the Largest Brass and Reed Bands in the Country.

# Magnificent Commercial and Mechanical Exhibition

Every Space in the Coliseum Filled to Repletion.

# AN EXPOSITION THAT EQUALS ANY OF THOSE OF THE BIG EASTERN CITIES.

DON'T FAIL TO WITNESS THE OPENING DEMONSTRATIONS.

# ADMISSION, 25c. ROEDER & BELL, Managers.

### ENTERING SECRET SOCIETIES.

The Bee Goes-Rider Tells of the Fear it Inspires in a Man's Breast.

SOME OF THE TERRORS OF THE LODGE-ROOM

The Experience of a "Joiner" Who Witnessed All Kinds of Alleged Diabolism and Butchery - Other Notes.

The average man looks upon his approaching initiation as a member of a secret society with fear and trembling, although he will not admit it. A close observer, however, may easily see that his pretended unconcern is a hollow mockery, behind which is lurking a palpable nervousness and a vague uncertainty concerning the fate which awaits him.

These symptoms do not manifest themselves until the victim has made an application for admission to some society and the application has been accepted. After he has signed his desire to become a member of the society he feels in duty bound to carry out his intention.

The victim's state of mind is greatly relieved, however, by his friends, who meet him in twos and threes and assure him that "the ceremonies in our society are very impressive and instructive; we don't have any monkey-business," etc., and then they wink at one another and smile. After this and similar experiences have been gone through with for some time the unhappy candidate is in a state of mind bordering on the agonizing. He knows, of course, that he is not going to be killed, but all the "pointers" and "suggestions" given him are so distracting at various points that he is in a state of great uncertainty as to his fate.

While in this state of mind the chances are that he will run across a little gathering of men who have "seen through it" and are full of stories of their wonderful experience. A little incident of this kind occurred in one of the leading hotels a few nights since. A gentleman, who had determined to enroll himself among the members of a well known society, was passing through the rotunda when he was hailed by a small party of acquaintances who were aware of the fact that he was in a state of great uncertainty as to his fate.

After he had joined the party, the conversation was almost imperceptibly changed until it reached the subject of the forms of ceremony in use in different societies. "The outlandish ceremonies in use in some societies are enough to raise the hair on the head of a nervous man," the speaker was a portly gentleman who looked as though he was not troubled with such inconvenient things as nerves.

"A number of years ago," he continued, "I was initiated, together with another candidate, into a certain society which was sweeping across the country. It was considered 'the thing' to join it and I went with the crowd. "When I presented myself at the door of the lodge-room for initiation I found I was to have company. The other candidate was a small, slight, young fellow and he was evidently worked up to a high pitch of nervous excitement. He started at every sound around him, although he tried hard to conceal it, his manner was that of a man who momentarily expected some one to slip up behind him and hit him. I noticed his appearance and was prepared for some fun and I was not disappointed.

"We were huddled in the usual manner about the lodge room in a tortuous fashion so that I lost all sense of direction. I was in the middle with our guide on my right and my companion on my left. I had hold of the latter's arm and could plainly feel him shivering.

"After the preliminaries had been gone through with we were commanded to kneel and I noticed that the room was darkened. Our hoodlums were removed and we were in darkness which was relieved only by the flickering light of a few torches. About us were gathered a motley crew disguised as 'red shirts' and 'black devils' and bearing spears

which were pointed at our hearts in uncomfortable proximity. Directly in front of us, and so close that it almost touched us, was an open coffin containing a full-sized, genuine skeleton. The torches threw a sickly light over the scene and that grinning skeleton certainly looked very ghastly. I could feel my companion shaking like a leaf and could hear his teeth chattering like castanets.

"While I was observing all this one of the officers of the lodge was delivering an address calculated to impress us with the uncertainty of life, etc. I was so amazed at the actions of my companions that I could not keep my eyes from the scene and I had been attending a funeral. I chuckled and gurgled and did everything to avoid laughing outright but was not very successful. I was in that condition when everything appeared in its most ridiculous light, and I like a giggling girl, I burst out laughing and thought he would sober me. At any rate that skeleton suddenly assumed a sitting position. As it raised up the bones rattled, the head bent and the jaws snapped viciously. If I live to be a thousand years old I shall never forget the howl that other fellow let out as he jumped to his feet and made for the nearest door, knocking over everybody who happened to be in front of him. He yelled like a Comanche Indian, and tried to get the door open, but it was locked. He flew to the next, but that also was locked. He was in a few moments he had quieted down so that he listened while the officers of the lodge assured him that there was no danger; that they were only trying to impress a few moral lessons on his mind, and so on; but he could not be persuaded to place his life in their hands again. He swore like a trooper and insisted on being allowed to depart. When it was found that the officers of the lodge assured him that there was no danger; that they were only trying to impress a few moral lessons on his mind, and so on; but he could not be persuaded to place his life in their hands again. He swore like a trooper and insisted on being allowed to depart.

"I became a member in a society some years ago which called anything I ever saw," said the next speaker. He was known among his friends as "a joiner," or one who has been initiated into a society which gave evidence of his membership in various orders.

"In what respect?" inquired his companions.

"In the extremes to which they carried their ceremonies. There was but one degree, but that was a terror. They played horse with a victim until he made his escape or until they were tired of the sport."

"Tell us about it," chided his now interested listeners, who had been about to join a society followed an intense interest in what was to follow.

"Well," replied the "joiner," "I suppose I ought to remain silent, but as this society was afterward 'exposed,' I suppose I might as well tell you what you could find out for yourselves. I shall not mention the name of the society, so you will have to draw on your imagination for that. As I said before, there was but one degree. This opened by administering to the candidate a blood-curdling oath of secrecy, warning him at the same time that he was to give him a severe test of courage and endurance. He was then taken to a room where it was too late. Of course no one would withdraw, but I have seen many a man who, before he had reached the ceremony, wished in his heart that he had never entered that lodge-room.

"After taking the obligation the candidate was taken to a room where he was surrounded by the lodge-room, over all sorts of obstructions, such as ladders, camp-stools, bricks, bottles and all sorts of rubbish. At intervals he was assaulted with stuffed clubs and pounded all over the room. The candidate was then thrown in a blanket until the members tired of the sport.

"Just before entering upon this section of the ceremony, and while the candidate was outside in the ante-room, a friend of his who was a member took him one side and communicated the signs, passwords, etc., to him, but was discovered by some of the other members, who threatened to expose him to the lodge for violating his oath. This was carried on in the most natural manner possible and the candidate naturally became somewhat anxious about his friend.

"After having gone through the ordeal mentioned before, the candidate was given a short breathing spell while preparations were being made for the next step. When all was

ready the candidate was led into the room which was nearly dark. Seated near the presiding officer were seven men, closely masked and in dominoes, who acted as judges. Every member of the lodge was masked except the presiding officer and the next in authority.

The candidate was led to the station of the presiding officer and seated in front of it. This officer then delivered a blood-curdling speech on the purposes of the order, which were said to be to avenge crime and punish the perpetrator in a summary manner. He warned the candidate against interfering should it become necessary to visit the vengeance of the order on a criminal.

"While the officer was talking to the candidate a member excitedly announced the presence of a woman in the lodge room in disguise. Of course, all was at once confusion and the woman was seized, together with the presiding officer and the next in authority. The woman was a member of the lodge and when he was asked if he had any defense to make or excuse to offer for bringing the woman into the lodge room answered, "No." He was ordered to leave the room at once and was hurried to one side of the room, where a genuine scaffold had been erected and hung by the neck withered, and then hung apparently lifeless. It was ordered that the woman have the emblem of the order cut out of her breast and then be taken from the room. The woman faintly protested against this and was placed in a chair. A bowl was brought and a knife was seen in the officer's hand. A cut was given and the blood flowed into the bowl. When the bowl was nearly filled the woman was carried from the room, her hands and feet bound, and she was taken to the next lodge room.

"At this time one of the members who discovered the friend of the candidate revealing to the latter the signs and passwords denounced the member as a traitor and demanded his punishment. The culprit was brought forward and charged with the crime, but some of his friends endeavored to fasten the blame upon the candidate, and the culprit himself accused the candidate of revealing what he had told him. After some of this kind of talk, calculated to 'rattle' a pretty little-headed man, the second officer of the lodge stepped forward and both were equally guilty and advocated beheading the candidate. The candidate was seized while the guilty member was led to a headman's block, beside which stood the headman who had a large battle-axe. The member knelt down and placed his head upon the block. The word was given, the blow was struck, and the headman picked up a gory head by the hair. The terrified candidate was blindfolded and led to the block, where he was made to kneel and place his head upon the block. At the instant he expected the axe to fall the command was given to mark him for life and he was hit a sharp blow across the neck, after which he was placed in a coffin. All of this work was done in the most realistic manner imaginable, and I can assure you it was well calculated to try the courage of a brave man. I saw many of them so frightened that they were on the verge of insanity."

The speaker concluded his listeners, who had been spellbound during the recital, were curious to know the name of this extraordinary society, but he refused to satisfy their curiosity.

The embryo candidate looked puzzled and evidently wondered if he was to be beheaded or hung during his initiation.

**A New Order.**  
A society has been instituted at Monongahela, Pa., to be known as the Guild of Royal Americans.

It has peculiar and unique features. The object of the order is said to be to unite fraternally American citizens, whether native or foreign born, of good moral character, and who are socially and physically fit for beneficial membership acceptable, for the purpose of promoting patriotic principles, a better knowledge of the government of the United States, its constitution and rights of citizenship; to educate all in the proper reverence for the flag of our country; to uphold the free public school system; to advocate industrial education, temperance and fraternal solidarity; to assist each other in obtaining employment, encourage each other in business, and give all moral and material aid in its power to its members and those dependent upon them. It has a life insurance plan, the amount not to exceed \$1,000 or less than \$250, has a weekly relief system during sickness, and intends to establish a loan and

investment fund, making it possible for every member to own his or her own home, as the ladies are not to be excluded. A charter has been granted under the laws of the state. There are to be supreme, state and national guilds and several classes of membership. These are: 1. A death benefit. 2. A benefit fund without a medical examination. 3. A relief fund for weekly sick benefits. 4. A co-operative scheme upon the general plan of building and loan associations.

**The Iowa Consistory.**  
The annual assembly of the grand consistory of Iowa, United States Jurisdiction, Scottish rite, was held in council Bluffs during the past week. It was an important assemblage and called together some of the best known and brightest Masonic workers in the state. The business matters which necessarily occupied a portion of each day's sessions, were cared for in a harmonious manner, and there were no dissensions of heated debates to mar the enjoyment of the gathering. The reports for the year were very encouraging and showed the consistory had not weakened in the least under the strong pressure brought to bear against it by the grand lodge. There was no formal action taken in regard to the recent action of the grand lodge, but there was evidently a unanimity of sentiment to the effect that the grand lodge had no right to interfere with Scottish rite Masonry, which necessarily had to be maintained in order to preserve their rite Masonry did not in any way interfere with the blue lodge. There was no ugly talk heard, but there was evinced a grim determination on the part of the members to go about their accustomed duties and pursue the even tenor of their way, with calm dignity, springing from a consciousness of being right.

The reports showed that active and prosperous lodges were doing good work at Cedar Rapids, where the Grand East is located, Fort Dodge, Burlington, Sioux City, Council Bluffs, Storm Lake, Creston and Davenport. Full representations were present from all these places, and there were numerous visitors.

There was much interest in the exemplification of the degrees. Special teams from the various lodges had carefully prepared, were previously assigned them and the finest paraphernalia in the state was brought here, and with the addition of that belonging to the Council Bluffs lodges, who have a completely furnished hall, there was no lack of requisites for working the degrees in an impressive manner. The grand consistory, with its complete paraphernalia, conferred the 22<sup>d</sup> on a class of candidates. This feature of the assembly was especially interesting, and it is doubtful that there never in the state of Iowa has the Scottish rite been so well presented.

The following officers were elected and installed in due form:  
Commander-in-chief—George P. Wilson of Creston.  
Deputy commander—E. J. Babcock, Davenport.  
First lieutenant—E. R. Fonda, Council Bluffs.  
Second lieutenant—M. A. Rany, Fontanelle.  
Minister of state and grand orator—Rev. W. T. Smith, D. D., Council Bluffs.  
Grand chancellor—B. L. Tower, Storm Lake.  
Grand treasurer—C. C. Wales, Sioux City.  
Grand secretary—E. C. Barber, Cedar Rapids.

On the closing evening there was a banquet which gave a happy finish to the labors. Dr. Frederick S. Thomas acted as toastmaster, and the following sentiments were given with a brilliancy of wit and earnestness of eloquence in the responses:  
"Modern Knighthood," Harry Haworth.  
"The Scholarship of Masonry," Prof. J. McNaughton.

"The Grand Consistory," Grand Commander Wilson.  
"Have We a Place in Masonry," Grand Secretary Barber.

"Trials and Troubles of Scottish Rite Masonry," Dr. L. A. Merriam.

It was decided to hold the next general assembly at Sioux City, the brethren of the bodies there presenting an urgent invitation.

**A Singular Coincidence.**  
To expose the unreliability of repeating explicit confessions in the similarity of many emblems discovered upon relics of antiquity with those in use among modern Masons, the

New York Mercury calls attention to a singular and startling fact, says the Masonic Chronicle. It states that upon the pinnacle of the west doorway of the ancient church of St. Denis, the burial place of the kings of France prior to the revolution of 1830, is placed a half-sized effigy of our Savior, with the right hand placed in such a position as to give a sign instantly recognizable by any observant Mason. This church, or more properly royal abbey, near Paris, is very ancient, as it was erected anterior to the period of the crusades as a depository for the oriflamme, or sacred banner, and royal standard of France. It is older than the cathedral of Strasbourg, during the building of which Freemasonry is claimed to have originated; consequently, should the attitude of the stone effigy have been intentionally significant, it would go far to substantiate a presumption that the symbolic Masons borrowed from the operatives not only their working tools, but their sign of recognition, for all the guilds of the middle ages possessed a battle cry, a password, a secret sign and distinctive emblem peculiar to each craft. It is said that the highland clans of Scotland could distinguish their members by the giving of signs and by the utterance of words known only among themselves.

**Can This Thing Be?**  
The Holyoke Transcript says two well-known citizens were standing together in the corridor of the postoffice. One happened to notice that a postal card held in the fingers of the other was directed to the holder. "Why, how does this come?" he asked; "do you write letters to yourself?" "In this case, yes," was the answer. "That's funny," "Well, not so very. See the other side." He held it up and the other read:  
"I have a meeting of the I. O. O. F. No. 387, at the hall, the evening of June 30, to transact special business. Members not present will be fined \$15. W. B. —, Secretary."

"Yes, but I don't exactly catch on," protested the innocent. "O, you don't! Well, I put the card in myself. The society is all a myth. When I want to go out in an evening, I direct one of these postal notes to my home. When I reach home my wife hands it to me with a sigh. I offer to stay at home and stand the fine of \$15, but she won't have it that way. That's all, my friend, except that the scheme is worked by hundreds of others, and our poor, deluded wives have tumbled to the racket yet." It is too bad to give this away, but it is too good to keep.

**Knights of Pythias.**  
Virginia lodge followed in the footsteps of the Elks last Wednesday evening and indulged in a "stags" party. Chancellor Charles Hostetter welcomed the guests and a master Hostetter welcomed the guests and a pleasant musical programme was presented, after which the guests adjourned to the supper room and partook of an oyster supper. J. T. Daily officiated as toastmaster and several extemporaneous speeches were made. The party then returned to the lodge room, and a delegation from Mars lodge gave an exhibition drill. The new departure was voted a success.

The Pythian grand lodge of Ohio has amended its constitution so as to exclude all persons dealing in or selling liquor; except for medicinal, mechanical, pharmaceutical or sacramental purposes.

**Sons of St. George.**  
A shakers next Wednesday evening, which will extend through the season. An excellent literary and musical programme has been prepared, which will be supplemented by refreshments and dancing. The lodge extends an invitation to all Englishmen, their wives and sweethearts, to be present. This entertainment will be given at Wolf's hall, on the southwest corner of Twenty-second and Cumine streets, instead of at the hall on Douglas street, which was occupied by the lodge last year.

**Notes.**  
The new Oddfellows, hall in St. Louis has a library containing 3,000 volumes. It is supported by the grand and subordinate lodges; the former contributes \$200 annually, while the subordinate lodges donate 50 cents for every member initiated. Brothers who visit the city from other jurisdictions are allowed all the privileges of the library room.

The necessity of fraternal societies conforming strictly to the rules of their orders, says

an exchange, was strikingly exemplified in the case of Mrs. Luella Schneider of St. Paul, who succeeded in recovering \$2,000 from the Minnesota Ancient Order of United Workmen, on a policy that had been issued to her husband, but on which he had omitted to keep up the dues, and had consequently been suspended from membership. Evidence was produced on behalf of the plaintiff showing that duet on behalf of the plaintiff showing that upon the order's own rules it was incumbent upon the secretary to notify members when suspended, which it was admitted had in this case been neglected. Judgment was accordingly rendered for the amount claimed, a repetition of which ought to obviate the necessity of any such serious omission in the future.

**Dr. Birney cures catarrh, Bee bidg. SINGULARITIES.**  
Edward McDonald of Allentown, Pa., thinks he owns the smallest dog. It is five months old and weighs four ounces.

A remarkable case is reported from Greenville county, South Carolina. It is said to be the second case of the kind on record. A colored woman gave birth to twins. One is a perfectly black child and the other is very nearly white.

A young woman of Rochester, N. Y., astonished strangers by the wealth of her raven hair. She is only five feet two inches high, but her tresses are seven feet six inches long. She says her hair gives her no trouble and she doesn't know what headache is.

Daniel Quick, living in the southern part of Platte county, Illinois, was digging a hole at the depth of three feet, unearthed the skeleton of a gigantic mastodon. The mastodon was twelve feet high and eighteen feet long and seventeen feet and five inches in circumference.

They have a queer little ten-year-old girl in Danville, Ill., who is normal in everything else, but ever since she was a baby in her cradle, when her mother first took her in charge, she never could go to sleep unless the soles of her feet were tickled, and up till this day she is a victim of the habit.

A curious flower has been discovered on the isthmus of Tehuantepec. Its chief peculiarity is the habit of changing its color during the day. In the morning it is white, when the sun is at its zenith it is red, and at night it is blue. The red, white and blue flower grows on a tree about the size of a guava tree, and only at noon does it give out any perfume.

William Hoffman of Sebewaing, Pa., has four pigs that he says he has never seen in his locality. One has no hoofs, but claws like the pig of the generally thought necessary joints appendage, and the two others have claws and toes and pretty nearly everything else that pigs can very readily get along without.

On returning from church a Lafayette (Ga.) man saw what seemed to be two small snakes about the size of a lead pencil and eight to ten inches long. They were barely moving. On closer examination, instead of a snake it was found to be a mass of little measuring worms, each about three-sixteenths of an inch long. By moving in this manner they escaped the dust, which would have been fatal to them if they had separated.

There is a wonderful well down near Del Norte. The force of the water is brought up from the depths an occasional lump of native silver or a gold nugget. Local scientists claim that at a great depth and under enormous pressure great quantities of silver are being formed, whose softer parts go into solution and give the water its mineral qualities, but whose great weight, not being dissolved, is allowed to float on the surface in a metallic state.

A Massachusetts young woman reports that she saw an unusual attendant in a church in a rural Maine town which she visited this summer. Hearing the cooling of a dove she looked around and saw a white dove perched on the organ and listening to the music with great attention. She learned afterward that the dove had been a regular attendant at church for eight or ten years, being at first brought by the music, of which it was very fond.

Some fishermen engaged in Belfast long recently picked up a very large sea slug, which was seen approaching the boat with wings outstretched, floating on the water, but dead. The men were puzzled to account for the progress it made through the water, as it was faster than the boat, but as it came near it was found that, wrapped securely around the body and under the wings, was a string of cordage, which, on closer examination, they

discovered was attached to a large paper kite then flying above them at a considerable height.

J. W. Patterson, the tallest man known in the world excepting the Chinese giant, Chang, stands seven feet seven inches in his stocking feet and is twenty-seven years old. He owns considerable property in Oklahoma, and as soon as he returns from the east will begin the erection of a fine residence. A Patterson is immensely boastful. Mrs. P. is larger than the average woman, being nearly six feet high and weighing over two hundred pounds.

A man living near Kingston, Ga., has found a most wonderful stone. While plowing on a sandbar in the Etowah river he saw something shining with the most brilliant of lights in the soil on his side of him. He stopped his plow and went to pick it up. It was a clear, white stone, the size of an egg, reflecting in one way all the colors of the rainbow. Turning it over the colors took on the character of a spirit-level, following each other up through the center of the rock till all were gathered in a bend. The owner has been offered \$100 for it, but declines it. It emits a perfectly white light in the dark.

**Dr. Birney, nose and throat, Bee bidg. IMPETRIES.**  
The wages of sin never get below par. There is no rest for the weary, and nobody else needs it.

No man can live for himself alone, but many men do not miss it far. The poor we have with us always, but the rich go to the watering places.

"I ain't goin' to say my prayers." "Why not, Willie?" "O, who's the use? Every blamed thing I ask for ain't good for me!"

"The man who expects to go to heaven on his wife's church membership, or the chickens he led to the pastor is taking awful chances."

Psalmist—Why do the heathen rage? Cynic—Probably because a little of the music subscribed for their conversion ever reaches them.

Stranger—May I ask what your profession is? Minister—I am a soldier in the army of the Lord. Stranger—Just the man I've been looking for. I'm a pension agent.

The father who leads in the morning prayers, has less of that fervent faith and hope, if he seriously, as he came down stairs, stepped on a piece of slippery soap.

The good little young and that is why I'm so bald and bald; I'll not reform till by and by, in 'Whose' name."

St. Peter—Well, Gabriel, are they all here? Gabriel—Yes, all except a few messenger boys. St. Peter—Where are they? Gabriel—Ain't no more. I totted for them three hours ago.

Sunday School Teacher—Miss Fanny, what are we to learn from the parable of the wise and foolish virgins? Miss Fanny (aged ten years)—That we are always to be on the lookout for the coming of the bridegroom.

The Rev. J. W. Arney of Michigan will quit horse racing and do only circuit riding hereafter, and his ministerial brethren have forgiven him. The turf has lost a bright ornament. Let us hope the pupil will be correspondingly the better.

No Comfort There.—Rev. Dr. Rubin—Picture rejected, eh? Ab, well, all that will be as nothing if you are not rejected at the last, great exhibition—the judgment day. Mahatma (thoughtfully)—Well, even if I am not rejected, then I'll be sick!

Guest—I'm glad there's a rope here in case of fire; but what is the idea of putting a bible in the room in such a prominent position? Bell Boy—Dat ar intended for you, sah, in case the fire an' too far advanced for you to make you escape, sah.

Peace-maker—Why did you give that boy such a thrashing? Bell-groom—He hit me with a brick. Peace-maker—But don't you know you should return good for evil? Bell-groom—Well, if that thrashing I give him wasn't good I don't know what is.

Dr. Birney, nose and throat, Bee bidg.

The sultan's wives are divided into three classes. There are five of the first, twenty-four of the second, and 250 of the third.

Dr. Birney cures catarrh, Bee bidg.