

### "FREEMASONS" AND JEWS.

A Paola friend, a few days since, asked us the question: "Why is it that so many Jews join the Masonic Order?" It is a fact that seldom you find a Jew that is not a member of the Order, and to an intelligent Mason—one that is posted in the rituals, and understands the meaning of the symbols used in Masonry—the reason why Jews are friends of the Order is well understood. There is not a symbol used in a properly furnished lodge that is not of Jewish origin. All the legends and ceremonies used in conferring the various degrees are taken from Jewish history and tradition. All the proper images or emblems are taken from the Bible (a book entirely written by Jewish authors), which alone contains the authentic records of ancient Masonry. It was to Moses, the great Jewish law-giver, that the first formal revelation was made of God's sacred Name at the burning bush, that it might be a password to induce the Israelites to believe that he had been really sent for their deliverance. This incident is typified in the Royal Arch Degree, and so on through the various degrees of Masonry. The formula, the language used in conferring the degrees, the legends and meaning of the ceremonies are all obtained from the Jews. The Jews are a remarkable people. Scattered as they are all over the world, they never become homogeneous with the people with whom they come in contact, either by marriage or otherwise. They remain distinct in race and religion, and in the midst of the most fiery persecution, the most cruel ostracism, ever remain faithful to the religion of their ancestors. They do not, like other people, lose their identity by adopting the religion and customs of the nations among whom they dwell, but cling as tenaciously to their race and religion as did their ancestors under the magnificent reign of King Solomon (the reputed founder of Masonry) over three thousand years ago. Is it then any wonder that a people who are so de-

voted to their race and religion, and hold in such loving veneration the traditions and history of their people, should love and support an Order based upon those traditions and history? From our standpoint all that is of Masonry is found in the first three degrees. All the so-called high degrees are but the ice cream and pie of the Order. The substantial is found in the Blue Lodge, and for that we are indebted to King Solomon, who, we are told, after a reign of forty years died, and with him expired forever the glory and power of the Hebrew Empire. Paola (Kansas) *Western Spirit*.

### GRAND MASTER RUPERT'S DECISIONS.

Among the decisions made by W. Bro. J. J. Rupert, Grand Master of Michigan, at the recent meeting of Grand Lodge, were the following:

Section 10, Art. 15, G. L. regulations, does not forbid, but seems to permit the conferring of the first degree upon more than one candidate at the same time. I think this regulation should be changed.

A lodge may, in its discretion, give Masonic burial to an unaffiliated Mason, whatever the age of his dimit.

A lodge properly takes charge at a Masonic funeral, after all other services are concluded, after which no other services should be intermingled with the Masonic service, and the Masonic service should conclude the burial. This understanding should always be had in advance, so as to avoid friction.

When a brother is an habitual drunkard, and has been convicted in the courts of a state prison offense, and has been sentenced to six month's imprisonment, it is the duty of the Master of his lodge to order charges to be preferred setting up both offences.

The conviction in the courts does not affect his Masonic standing, but the Master should take notice of it, and order charges. The offense com-