

Kings of the earth and all people ; princes and all judges of the earth.

Both young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord ; for His name alone is excellent ; His glory is above the earth and the Heaven.

Praise Him for His mighty acts ; praise him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet ; praise Him with the psaltry and harp.

Let everthing that hath breath praise the Lord, praise ye the Lord."

The Grand Master then said : "It is now my privilege and my great pleasure to introduce one not unknown, but one known of old, and well known by you, Most Worshipful John L. Lewis, Past Grand Master of this State, who will pronounce the dedicatory oration on this occasion." M. W. Brother Lewis was received with hearty applause, and proceeded to deliver the oration.

The Grand Master then directed the eight Grand Stewards to cover the lodge. While this duty was being performed, there was music by the orchestra ; then the Doxology was sung by all, and the audience dismissed with the benediction.

MASONRY, ITS TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS.

LECTURE BY BRO. B. C. BLAKE.

BRO. BLAKE said that when the Supreme Architect of the Universe made man after his own likeness, and placed him on the earth, He strewed around him flowers of matchless beauty and fragrance. He blessed him with beautiful landscapes, and gave him all manner of fruits ; but despite all this, man was discontented. He had a longing for something more, for association and companionship with men. Our Maker heard the petition, recognized the want and gratified the desire. Thus from the beginning is the idea of association manifest, mankind merges from families to cities, from cities to nations in which each individual being is bound to the other by mutual interests. It might have pleased the great Creator to have made man independent of all other beings, but he did not ; and man's dependence is one of the strongest bonds of society. As men were made dependent, is it strange that they should band themselves together, to recognize the principles under which they are united ? It is under these circumstances that Freemasons exist to-day, and have existed so long. There are various opinions as to the origin of the Order, and this very fact shows its great antiquity. Its early origin is clearly established by history. It has been tried at all times ; all its elevated principles have been severely put to the test ; and yet it has triumphed. Wherever it has existed, it has had to meet with severe trials. At one time it was anathematized by the Pope, and it was subsequently persecuted in France and Spain. In the eighteenth century, fifty-four Freemasons were burned alive in France ; and in Holland, Germany, Italy and Great Britain they had to endure persecution. The first persecution was in Holland. The States General became alarmed at the increasing number of Masons, and considering that their secret meetings were against the peace of the country, ordered their discontinuance. They could not see how architecture and brotherly love could be combined. Notwithstanding this order, a lodge of Freemasons continued to meet at Amsterdam. The members on being discovered, were arrested and brought to a court of justice. Before the tribunal they boldly defended themselves, and declared that they were loyal subjects, and faithful to their religion and to their country. They declared that Freemasonry was honourable, and, they could not reveal its ceremonies and secrets, they assured the Court that nothing was done that was contrary to the laws of God or man. They also invited any, who would wish to do so, to join them. The Town Secretary joined ; and he was so favorably impressed with Masonry that he induced all the magistrates to become members. In Germany the tranquility of the Order was disturbed by the malice of a few ladies. Some ladies at the present day whose husbands are Masons are opposed to Masonry, and are continually twitting their husbands about their connection with the Order. Though in France, Holland, and Germany the bitter enemies of Masonry were in a short time disarmed, in Italy the cloud grew darker. A formidable bull was issued by the Conclave, not only against Freemasons, but against those who gave them any countenance. The tide of persecution had rolled to the shores of Britain, and in 1745 a statement was laid before the Synod of Stirling setting forth that certain improper things were done at the initiation, and asking that all who were Freemasons should be denied the rights of religion. But in spite of all this Freemasonry lived, and flourished, and spread over the entire world. In 1733 it was introduced into the new world. Benjamin Franklin was among the first in the United States. It soon numbered among its members doctors, lawyers, clergymen, and politicians. Marble tablets in every churchyard spoke of the merits of departed Masons. In 1826 commenced the most terrible Masonic warfare, which spread all over