

mount, still persevered undaunted, determined either to revive the lodges which had surrendered or organise new ones. Franklin Lodge in all matters, necessarily became a law unto itself, conducting its business as to it seemed most likely to promote the interests of the Order.

On April 12th, 1866, at the instance of the Financial Scribe, Thomas Hamilton, a committee of five was appointed, whose duty it was to be to canvass the city of Washington, with a view to organise another Lodge. The committee consisted of Brothers Hamilton, Lawson, Cook, King and Schlieff, whose efforts were crowned with speedy success, as at the following meeting, April 9th, these Brethren reported having secured fifteen names of gentlemen who desired to form a new Lodge. It must be remembered that although the so-called Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia had terminated its somewhat limited and precarious existence, yet Franklin Lodge, No. 2, making a virtue of necessity, maintained the apostolic succession, and assumed all authority the case demanded. Claiming that right, on the regular meeting held April 18th, 1866, the Past Chancellors of No. 2 approved the application of the gentlemen whose names the committee had reported on April 9th, issued a Charter to a body to be known as Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 5, and initiated and instructed the members in the rites and ceremonies of the Order.

During the early part of 1866, increased interest manifested itself, and the Order seemed to take new life, and, as time progressed, it again became evident to the then existing membership that it was absolutely necessary to make the Ritual more attractive and impressive, and a committee was appointed with a view to the revision of the work. The committee consisted of Past Chancellors J. H. Rathbone, Clarence M. Barton, Edward Dunn, John W. Cross, Thomas W. Cook, Financial Scribe Lawson and Brother Cooksey, of Franklin Lodge, No. 2, and John I. Downs, Venerable Patriarch, and Richard T. Sears, Financial Scribe of Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 5.

The labor of the revision in this as in nearly all cases, devolved upon one man, and Brother Justus H. Rathbone was selected to perform the duties under the supervision of the committee. Brother Rathbone seems to have accomplished the task promptly, and the result of his labors, after due examination by his colleagues, was approved unanimously, and on May 15th, 1866, at a joint meeting of Franklin Lodge, No. 2, and Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 5, it was received and adopted, giving to the Order the Ritual which from that time until the promulgation of the new work in 1872, continued to be the official guide in conferring the degrees of the Knights of Pythias.

The record also states that at this joint meeting these Lodges concluded to make an effort to organize the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, which had practically been a dead letter from its organization.

On May 1st, 1866, Past Chancellor Justus H. Rathbone, Clarence M. Barton, Edward Dunn, John H. King, Thomas W. Cook and Levi Beech, of Franklin Lodge, No. 2, together with Past Chancellor John I. Downs and Representative F. Stromberger, of Mount Vernon Lodge, No.

5, met for the purpose of re-organizing the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

Under the old system, among others, there were officers known as Grand Marshal, Herald, Prelate and Inner and Outer Guardian, which, at the re-organization were dispensed with, as will be seen by the following, who were then elected:

Justus H. Rathbone, Grand Chancellor; Edward Dunn, Vice Grand Chancellor; Clarence M. Barton, Grand Recording Scribe; John I. Downs, Grand Financial Scribe; John H. King, Grand Banker; Thomas W. Cook, Grand Guide; Levi Beech, Grand Inner Steward; John W. Cross, Grand Outer Steward.

The Grand Officers named at this time were elected to serve for the remaining unexpired term of those whose tenure of office had ceased when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia became defunct in June, 1865. At this meet-

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