

would eclipse the great lights that burn about our altar, and her musical voice so charm the sense, entrance the soul, and thrill and transfix the heart, that we would be deaf to the Master's coarse call to Masonic duties. And, so, while the ladies may not join us, they may know that about our altars we plight their chastity and protection, and that our gallant hearts and strong arms will ever be ready to defend them from all that can harm or hurt.

"And we would not have the ladies deceived by Adoptive Masonry. It is not in any sense the ancient rite, and in taking these degrees they do not become Masons except in a very accommodated sense. Now, we do not seriously object to an association of Masons with their mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts, under certain rites, forms, and rules, for the purpose of cementing friendships and uniting for works of charity, as has been done in the Eastern Star, but it should be known, and no attempt should be made to disguise the fact, that this is not Masonry. It is androgynous. Those who seek to beguile the fair with the idea that they are or can be made Masons deserve sharp rebuke. The Eastern Star, like the Knights Templar, requires that a man should be a Mason in order to be a member, and that the ladies should be related to a Master Mason by some bond of consanguinity, and all this may pass without protest. All we insist upon is that the 'Star Sister' should be informed of the true nature of her Order, so that she shall be protected from deception and saved from asserting in company, with an amusing simplicity, that she is a Mason."

M. E. Comp. James B. Blue (Morganfield), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Joseph H. Branham (Louisville), Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

Held at New Orleans, February 12th, 1878.

M. E. Comp. Jos. H. DeGrange, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 28; represented, 19; exalted, 32; members, 1,424; receipts, \$1,198.00. Annual Convocation, 31st.

The Grand High Priest reports the Craft in a peaceful condition, but with a decrease in the membership, which he attributes to the depressed financial condition of the community. We quote one of his decisions:—

"Query 2.—A Companion was summoned to a Convocation of his Chapter, but, being unable to attend, sent a respectful note (which was read to the Chapter), asking to be excused for non-attendance, but giving no reason of the cause of his absence. Should a reason have been given?

"Answer.—No. No specific reason is necessary, nor should any be required. The fact of sending a respectful note excusing himself from attendance was, in reality, answering the summons, and was an ac-