

MASONIC TEMPLE IN CHICAGO.

Chicago is to have the finest Masonic temple in the world. It is to be erected on the north-east corner of State and Randolph streets. At a meeting held at the Chicago Consistory on Jan. 7th, at which a large number of the most prominent Masons in the city were present, a committee was appointed for the purpose of purchasing the real estate at the corner mentioned at once, so that preparations may be made immediately for the work of putting up the magnificent structure, which when finished, will be a pride to the great order of Masons all over the globe. The property gives a space of such goodly proportions that the temple when completed may tower into the clouds above the surrounding large buildings, with a full one-quarter of a block of ground upon which to rest its massive foundations. The cost of the structure will be \$2,500,000 and this great outlay will be made with a view to modern luxury, comfort, convenience and general facilities. In it will be lodge rooms, specially made for the meetings of all orders and degrees of masons, from the thirty-second degree to the Blue lodge. There will be an immense entertainment hall, restaurants and private banqueting hall, for the use of the members and extra Masonic organizations who give regular banquets and entertainments. A complete electric system and water system will be put in the building and speedy elevators will help to carry the thousands of people who will frequent it, of course. While much space in the mammoth building will be given up to the use of the Masons themselves, the greater portion of the edifice will be utilized as a great hotel on the European system.

DIES IN A LODGE.

Secretary A. J. Hicks of Fortitude Lodge 19, F. and A. M., died on Thursday night, Jan. 2nd, in the lodge room on Court and Joralemon streets, Brooklyn. There was a proposition to reduce the affiliation fee from \$10 to \$5. Mr. Hicks took part in the discussion, and

he was forcibly opposing the proposition when he reeled in his chair and fell on the floor unconscious. He died before the arrival of a physician. He had lately passed through a severe siege of illness. He was a coal dealer, and was 55 years old.

AN OLD MASON DEAD.

At Ludlow, Vt., on Jan. 3rd took place the funeral of Orson Parkhurst, formerly of Cohoes, where from 1841 he resided for a number of years. Bro. Parkhurst was one of the founders of Cohoes Lodge, 116, F. & A. M., and was a life member of the lodge. He obtained considerable prominence during the Morgan excitement and anti-Masonic movement of that period, and according to Thurlow Weed, Bro. Parkhurst was one of the persons who drove the coach containing Morgan on his mysterious drive from Batavia to Niagara. Bro. Parkhurst was born and passed the early part of his life in Vermont. He was made a Mason in Vermont lodge No. 1 at Windsor, Vt., Jan. 23, 1826, and was therefore one of the oldest members of the Craft in this state, having been a Mason for nearly 64 years.—*Boston Budget.*

THE HIGHER DEGREES.

The so-called higher degrees are but branches of the parent tree. No matter if they have been grafted into it, they are now a legitimate part, and inherent in its very nature. If it were possible to cut off those branches both would bleed, and the beautiful symmetry formed after so many years of growth would be destroyed. We do not say the Masonic tree would die, but it would look as though a cyclone had struck it. In fact, so close and intimate is the life union, and so important the mutual claims and benefits, it would be next to impossible to break up the the American system of Freemasonry. Faults it has, but the Vinedresser's method of "pruning" will gradually divest it of excrescences.—*J. W. Dadman.*