

have been great ones, and none so great as those instinct in the glorious deaths of Colonial troops on the tented field for Queen and country. Such a death is better than life; it speaks in clarion tones of the all-embracing greatness of the Empire, and cries aloud the indestructible oneness of Great and Greater Britain.

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#### A PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT.

Secretary Evans has received the following:

Dear Sir: I am instructed by my Lodge to communicate with you, and the secretaries of all other lodges in the city with a view to asking your Lodge to co-operate with us for the purpose of raising a subscription to augment the Canadian Patriotic Relief Fund for the benefit of the wives, children and other dependants of Canadians serving their country in South Africa.

The subscription to be, of course, voluntary, and not to exceed \$1 per member.

The several secretaries of the different lodges to form themselves into a Committee, elect a chairman and transact such business as may be necessary in connection with the disposal of the monies. Awaiting word of the action of your Lodge in this matter, I remain,

Yours in F. C. &amp; B.,

JAMES GILL,

Keeper of Records and Seal.

Immediate action will be taken.

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#### GRAND CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS

At United Anniversary Celebration of Vancouver Lodges.

The following is the text of Grand Chancellor W. D. Mearns' address to the united lodges of Vancouver, on Wednesday, February 21st, at the anniversary meeting, read in his absence by Bro. J. Garvin:

Mr. Chairman and Brother Knights,

We have assembled here this morning to commemorate the 36th anniversary of our Order. We have an Order of which we are justly proud and whose growth has been phenomenal. The Order, Knights of Pythias, as its name implies, was founded on the unparalleled friendship which existed between Damon and Pythias—a friendship which has been immortalized by poets, dramatized by authors, quoted and extolled from the rostrum, and furnished the foundation on which Justus H. Rathbone builded an Order, which to-day stands one of the three leading fraternities of the world.

It was conceived at a time when a great civil struggle was in progress, and had its birth when men's hearts were hardened one against the other; when fathers fought on one side and sons on the other; when brothers were pitted against each other, and the spirit of hatred was rampant.

In the midst of that terrible struggle, our Order sprang into being, and, with its lessons of love, loyalty and unselfishness, sought to bind the hearts of the nation's people by a closer, holier tie.

The old Grecian story was repeated to listen-

ing ears, until hearts throbbed with new impulses, and the possibilities of an Order having for its basis, the principles of a friendship so self-sacrificing, that even the tyrant King, Dionysius, had yielded to its influence, became manifest to those to whom Rathbone had imparted his thoughts and aspirations.

As a result, the Order of Knights of Pythias, with its ritual builded on friendship, charity and benevolence as its special tenets, was formally inaugurated in the City of Washington, the Capital City of the United States, on the 19th day of February, 1864.

For a time the Order was limited in its membership, and there came a day when it languished, and dissolution seemed imminent, but the great principles underlying its structure gave it new life, and ere its founder closed his eyes to earth in December, 1889, he had the gratification of seeing nearly 300,000 Knights enrolled under the Pythian banner.

To-day its membership exceeds 600,000.

#### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

Pythian Knighthood had its conception in the exemplification of the life-test of the friendship existing between Damon and Pythias.

Friendship, or mutual confidence, being the strongest bond of union between man and man, and only existing where honor has an abiding place, is adopted as a foundation principle.

As the ideal Knight of olden times was the personification of all the higher and nobler attributes of man's nature, the candidate for knighthood had to prove himself worthy of acceptance by those who valued "friendship, bravery, honor, justice and loyalty."

The Order, Knights of Pythias—founded in Friendship, Charity and Benevolence, which it proclaims as its cardinal principles—strives to gather into one mighty fraternity worthy men, who appreciate the true meaning of friendship, who are cautious in word and act; who love truth; who are brave in defending right; whose honor is untarnished; whose sense of justice will prevent, to the best of their ability, a personal act or word injurious to the worthy; whose loyalty to principle, to family, friends, to their country, and to the constitutional authorities under which they enjoy citizenship, is undoubted; and, who at all times are prepared to do unto others as they would that others should do unto them.

Our Order seeks to instruct the mind in regard to the solemn obligations and duties of life, to develop the social and moral virtues, to make its members more fraternal, and better fitted for the social state.

Our Order seeks to make each member a true and good man. Our aim is a high and noble one. It is to elevate ourselves by the practice of every virtue, to assist each other by kind words, genial companionship, and brotherly love, and to make ourselves and each other worthy of the membership in this noble Order of Knights of Pythias. Nor have its teachings been in vain. The great friendship, as shown by Pythias for his friend Damon, for whom he was willing to give up his own life for that of his friend, has found many examples among the members of our Order.