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### THE FATE OF MORGAN.

BY BRO. ALBERT G. MACKEY.

MR. THURLOW WEED, it will be remembered, took a very active part in the anti-Masonic excitement which sprung up about a half century ago, in consequence of the sudden and unexplained disappearance of William Morgan, who had written and published what he called an exposition of the secrets of Freemasonry. The establishment of the anti-Masonic party, as a political engine to advance the interests of a few demagogues, was an episode in the political history of our country to which those who were at the head of it never afterwards had any satisfaction or pride in referring.

Of all the actors in those exciting scenes which clustered around the *supposed* body of Morgan, drowned in Lake Erie, and, *after a year's submersion, fished up in an almost perfect state of preservation*, none now survive except the venerable Thurlow Weed, whose subsequent honorable career has atoned for this mistake of his youth.

Very recently Mr. Weed has given to the columns of the New York *Herald* some of his reminiscences of the Morgan and anti-Masonic days. The article is written in an unobjectionable and even in a friendly spirit, and evidently shows that the animus of hate against the Masons, if it ever existed in the bosom of Mr. Weed, (which we greatly doubt,) has long since passed away, yielding to the influences of time and of subsequent intercourse with those who were formerly his political adversaries. Our acquaintance with Mr. Weed dates only from the year 1865, but we have a lively appreciation of several acts of attention, nor have we any recollection of any asperity arising from the totally different stand-points from which each of us might naturally be supposed to view the Masonic Institution. Indeed, the last pleasant interview that we had with him was in June when we stood together on the piazza of the Ladies' Cottage in Union Square, New York, both delighted spectators of the splendid drill of Detroit Commandery of Knights Templars. We are very sure that at that moment the venerable politician was thinking neither of Morgan nor of "the deep damnation of his taking off."

From the prominent part played by Mr. Weed in the organization of the anti-Masonic party in 1827, and the interest that he must necessarily have been supposed to have taken in the fate of Morgan, it was hoped that his article in the *Herald* would have supplied us with some new facts not hitherto known to the public. But this hope has met with disappointment. The article, although interesting and very readable, tells us nothing about Morgan with which Masons, especially, had not been long familiar. It is true that he repeats the story of "the murder of Morgan," somewhat in the way in which that mythical event was wont to be detailed to gaping crowds around the hustings, who were ready to believe that Satan himself always presided at lodge meetings.

There has been some disappointment in this. When the editor of the *Herald* invited Mr. Weed, as the most prominent living representative of the old anti-Masonic party, to give his recollections of the events connected with the fate of Morgan, it was very naturally supposed that some "unpublished secrets" of that period would be given to the expectant world. But Mr. Weed has really supplied us with nothing that