

to appoint Wor.: Bro.: Robert Ramsay, of Orillia Lodge, No. 192, G. R. C., the representative of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, near the Grand Lodge of Canada. We may add that Freemasonry in that State is in a highly flourishing condition.

THANKS.—The Grand Secretary, Rt.: Wor.: Bro.: T. B. Harris, 33°, has our thanks for several copies of the proceedings of the Special Communication of Grand Lodge, held at Montreal, December 1st.

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#### WEBSTER'S RETAINING FEE.

The following anecdote of Daniel Webster, related to me not long since, I have never seen in print :

One day a gentleman from New Bedford waited upon Mr. Webster in his office in Boston—the little old office in Court street—wishing to engage him for the defence in an important case at law. The visitor was himself the defendant, and the amount at stake in the suit was from sixty to seventy thousand dollars. He presented all the important points, and Mr. Webster was willing to undertake the task. But the client could not tell exactly when the case would come on.

"Very well," said Webster, if you wish to retain me for the defence in this suit, I will hold myself in readiness, and will not engage for the plaintiff."

The gentleman asked what the retaining fee would be."

"A thousand dollars."

"A thousand dollars?"

"See what I engage to do, sir. I not only hold myself at your command, perhaps for a month or more, but I debar myself from accepting any offer, no matter how large, from the plaintiff."

The applicant filled out a check for one thousand dollars, and gave it to the great expounder.

"And now, sir," said Daniel, after he had put the check in his pocket, "I will give you a bit of advice gratis. If you can compromise this business, upon fair terms, with the plaintiff, you had better do so."

The client acknowledged his thanks, and then took his leave. Daniel sent the check to bank, where it was duly honored.

On the next day the gentleman from New Bedford called on Mr. Webster again. The plaintiff was in Boston—had come on the previous day on purpose to compromise, and a compromise had been made.

"In short," said the client, "we have made a fair and satisfactory settlement."

Mr. Webster was very glad; and having so expressed himself, and duly congratulated his visitor, he would have turned to other business; but the visitor seemed to have something further on his mind—something that made him restive and uneasy.

"Of course," he ventured, after a pause, "I shall not require your services, Mr. Webster."

"Certainly not, sir."

"And—and—how about the thousand dollars I paid you?" faintly queried the gentleman, who couldn't see the propriety of paying such a sum for services which were never to be rendered.

"O,—ah," responded Daniel with a bland smile, "you don't seem to understand. It is very simple. That was a retaining fee—called, in law, a *retainer*, by virtue of the contract, I, also, become a *retainer*. What should I retain if not my fee?"

And the gentleman from New Bedford went away thoroughly instructed in the legal signification of "*a retainer*."—S. C., JR., in the *N. Y. Ledger*.