

any dealings with square, up-and-up contractors, and being unable to believe that there was such a thing as honor or sincerity in the world, refused the request, unless a substitute were provided whose head should be taken off in case Damon failed to get back on time.

Tenders were accordingly called for, and Pythias made application for the job. He was accepted, and his friend Damon received permission to go. Time passed on, and the hour of execution was drawing nigh. There was no sign of Damon, and although Pythias was in imminent danger of losing his head he managed to keep cool. It was within an hour of the time, and the executioner was grinding his axe. Still no signs of Damon. Somebody offered to bet Pythias a grand chancellor's jewel against ten cents that Damon had absconded. The bet was promptly taken, as Pythias knew that his friend would not

go back on him, if he could help it. At last the fatal moment arrived, and Pythias instructed the holder to politely hand over the stakes to the winner of the bet, when lo! and also behold, and moreover, Ha! Ha! Ha! Here comes Damon at a three-minute gait—just in time to undergo the operation. In a few well chosen words he explained that his hired man had killed his horse to prevent his getting back on time, but that he had been fortunate enough to find a K. of L. free buss going in that direction, and so had arrived in time to save his friend.

Upon this beautiful and true narrative the great K. P. Order of the present day is built—its aim being to cultivate the heroism, charity and benevolence thus displayed. The Order consists of subordinate lodges—(ever so many), grand lodges (quite a few) and the Supreme Grand Lodge—the one and only universal, top-notch, High Muck-a-Muck of the world. It is this Ne Plus Ultra body which honors our city with its session this year, and on behalf of our citizens we return the compliment by picturing the chief officers, and giving a brief outline of their duties.

#### PAST SUPREME CHANCELLOR.

This officer gets his position by right of having been Supreme Chancellor. His duties are not very burdensome. He is chiefly needed as an ornament, but is supposed to see that

no member fools with the altar, or spits on the floor.

#### SUPREME CHANCELLOR.

This gentleman occupies the chair, and runs things generally, looking after the grand and subordinate lodges, and seeing that they keep their clothes clean and do their Friendship, Charity and Benevolence in accordance with the rules. He is also to decide any question of law that may be tearing humanity asunder. It is moreover his duty to regard with toleration all presidents, kings, queens and popes that may happen to be his contemporaries.

#### SUPREME VICE-CHANCELLOR.

This officer is to occupy the chair whenever the Chancellor is not at lodge on lodge-nights. His special business is to frown down Vice in any form should it make its appearance in the Order.

#### SUPREME PRELATE.

This officer is the Professional Ritualistic Clergyman of the party. His duty is to open and close the lodge with a big book, and to perform all obligatory ceremonies of the ritual.

#### SUPREME MASTER OF EXCHEQUER.

This gentleman has charge of the money-bags, and is not supposed to visit Canada unless accompanied by the Supreme Lodge. He keeps track of all financial operations of the Order, and pays cheques of the S.C., endorsed by the S.K.R.S., P.D.Q., but not otherwise.

#### SUPREME KEEPER, RECORDS AND SEALS.

This potentate keeps a record of all proceedings, and collects the rhino for the Exchequer man. He also prepares all charters for Grand Lodges, and fastens the seal onto all official documents, by licking the mucilage and then pounding with his fist. As a recompense for loss of moisture, etc., he is paid a salary.

#### SUPREME MASTER-AT-ARMS.

The duties of this high official are the same as Masters-at-Arms used to perform in the days of Damon and Pythias. Amongst other things, it is his province to look tremendously important at lodge meetings, and to do such little chores as the Supreme Lodge may assign to him.

#### SUPREME INNER GUARD.

This functionary is stationed at the inner door of the sacred chamber, and is expected to slay any unqualified persons who may by any means have eluded the lynx-eyed vigilance of the outer guard.

#### SUPREME OUTER GUARD.

This officer is on picket duty at the outside door of the lodge, where he stands around and chews tobacco when not in use. He is armed with a sword, and it is his painful duty, if necessary, to carve all outsiders who may attempt to force their way into the lodge. The dead bodies are generally placed *pro tem* in a closet at the foot of the stairs.

A GERMAN school teacher was instructing his pupils how to act when the Grand Duke should pass through on the railroad, an event which was to occur next day. "Remember, children," said the pedagogue, "that as soon as the train arrives you are to yell as loud as you can: 'Long live the Grand Duke' until he leaves." Next day when the Grand Duke arrived at the station, and gracefully bowed from the platform of the special car, the school children made the welkin weary by yelling: "Long live the Grand Duke until he leaves!"—*Texas Siftings*.

