

more strictly to the precepts of that institution. In his own lodge he was a general favorite. He has served as W. M. in Prince Edward Lodge, while in Royal Arch Masonry he enjoyed the well-earned titles of Past First Principal and Past Grand Superintendent. Deceased leaves behind an aged, widowed mother, four brothers, and three sisters, all residing in Scotland. His funeral obsequies were solemn and imposing. The Masonic Brotherhood paid him the last respect by interring his body with the usual ceremonies. But few tearless eyes surrounded the grave as the traditional evergreen was dropped upon the coffin, with the sorrowful words audible uttered, "Alas, my brother." The ritual was given with deep emotion by R. W. Bro. Donald Ross, P. D. D. G. M., the only schoolmate and playmate of his boyhood whom deceased knew in Canada.

Miscellaneous Masonic News.

Freemasonry means brotherly love as well as relief. The former comes from the heart and the latter from the pocket.

There are 2,103 Chapters of R. A. Masons in the United States and Canada, and 130,554 companions.

Of Lodges working under Berlin Grand Lodges there are six Lodges in Frankfort-on-the-Main, and one each in Hanau and Wiesbaden.

"Nonsense, Jack, the Freemasons don't have any gridiron to initiate with. Can't fool me. Didn't I hear the janitor of their lodge ordering three base burners at the hardware store the other day."

The Kingdom of Prussia contains 220 Lodges, or two-thirds of all German Lodges. of which Three Globes has 103; Grand L. L., 63; Royal York, 46; Hamburg, 1; Eclectic Circle, 6; and Union 1.

German Lodges are in activity in 269 cities, and one is in a village, of which Berlin has 17; Hamburg, 13; Frankfort-on-the-Main, 6 Lodges; Six Cities each 3 Lodges; sixteen cities each 2 Lodges, and the balance of cities each 1 Lodge.

TO SECRETARIES OF LODGES.—Within the past few days we have sent out blanks to the Secretaries of all the Lodges, asking them to send us immediately after installation, the new list of officers. As the names only require to be written in, little trouble will devolve on the Secretaries, and we would feel extremely obliged if they would return the lists at the earliest possible moment, as we would like to have the names of all the officers of the lodges for our next issue. The lists can be sent to us in an open envelope for one cent by writing "printer's copy" in the corner.

An interesting trial to the Masonic fraternity came off in an Illinois court. A Bro. named Robinson was expelled from Yates City Lodge, No. 446, for un-Masonic conduct, and the Grand Lodge refused to reinstate him. He then sued the Lodge for \$25, the amount of his initiation fees. Judge Smith decided that Robinson had no ground for a suit, and threw the case out of court.

During the recent Assembly of Knights at Cleveland, much attention was drawn to a number of Knights whose peculiar attire differed strangely from those of the American Knights who had assembled from all parts of the United States. Inquiry elicited the fact that these persons were visitors from the Canadian Province of Ontario.—*Advocate.*

There are no "bad Masons" just as there are no "bad Christians." Such a designation is a contradiction in terms. There are bad members of lodges, but that is a different matter. Some members of lodges have never become, in truth, Masons, because of their "badness," just as some members of churches never become Christians. There are good, bad, and indifferent members of lodges, but there are only good Masons.

This laughable squib appeared in a rare old Almanac, *George's Almanac*, issued from Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1781, and it gives apparently plausible reasons for the origin of the signs of Masonry, and of the custom of excluding the fair sex from the Lodge. It is as follows:—

"AN ACCOUNT OF FREEMASONS.—The Great Builder of the Earth was the first Mason, and Cain, who built a city in the land of Uz, was the second; in which case there was a great falling off, and one may justly remark that in those days the Lodge had degenerated. We are not told with any certainty that Methuselah was a Mason. It rather appears that he was not.

"The flood was a great drawback upon Masonry, and we hear little more of it until the building of Babel, at which place the language of the young Masons was confounded, and not understanding one another, they could not go on with their work, for which reason they invented signs, to prevent a like non-plus in the future.

"We read of Masons in the land of Egypt, known by the name of magicians, who wrought several pranks almost equal to Moses. But after this time we do not read much more about them until the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, where Solomon, who, according to Josephus, understood the art magic, and set up a Lodge, into which the Queen of Sheba was admitted, but happening to blab something when she got home to her own country, it gave rise to a universal rule, observed ever since, never to admit a woman to a knowledge of the mystery."—*Keystone.*