

UNIFORM RANK RITUAL.

The adoption of the Uniform Rank ritual by the Supreme Lodge calls to mind the following facts in connection with a previous attempt in the same direction.

At the convention of the Supreme Lodge, in 1892, in Kansas City, a committee was appointed to devise and report for adoption a new ritual for the Uniform Rank. A member of that committee was General Currie, at the head of the Kentucky brigade, who has since died.

Gen. Currie wrote out a part of a ritual, which he submitted to Gen. Carnahan, who took it, and with it as a basis devised a ritual of three parts to correspond with the three branches of the Order, and which had as its cornerstones, instead of "Friendship, Charity, Benevolence," the words "Loyalty, Justice, Honor."

At the Washington Convention, in 1894, this was exemplified, but did not meet the approval of the Supreme Lodge, and was voted down. Gen. Carnahan brought it before the Cleveland convention in 1896 unchanged, and it came up again for adoption. The rules of the Order required that it receive the vote of four-fifths of all the members. It did receive four-fifths of all those present, some being absent, and the Supreme Chancellor declared it adopted. It was ordered printed, but when it came to the printing, R. L. C. White, Supreme Keeper or Records and Seal, refused to have it printed, making the point that it had not received, as required, four-fifths of all the members of the Supreme Lodge. He was mandated by the Supreme Chancellor and Gen. Carnahan for his refusal, and the Supreme Tribunal, on trial, held with him that the ritual had never been adopted, as it had only received four-fifths of the members present, and not four-fifths of all the members of the Supreme Lodge as required.

Gen. Carnahan brought the ritual before the Supreme Lodge at the recent convention without change. It was strictly feudal in style, and had in it a king, a lord of the castle, a drawbridge, and all sort of things. It required three hours to exemplify. He created a sensation. The Supreme Lodge spent several hours on the discussion of it, and during the discussion a sensation was created by Supreme Representative Huggard, of Manitoba, Canada, a subject of Queen Victoria, who arose, and in a strong speech said he was in favor of personal liberty and freedom of the people. He was opposed to anything stronger than a very limited monarchy, and he did not think it proper to teach the young of this great free country the principles that controlled England and Europe in the days of feudalism, when absolute monarchy was in full sway. He thought as the nations of the world and the peoples had thrown off these shackles they should be perpetuated in the ritual of any American institution. He vigorously opposed the feudal spirit of the ritual.

HE TAUGHT THEM A LESSON.

This strong speech in favor of liberty, uttered by a subject of the English Queen in free America, put a shame to Americans and residents of the United States who composed the great majority of the Supreme Lodge. They admitted to themselves the lesson they had been taught, and realized the value of the truth that had been spoken

for liberty by an English subject. The ritual was voted down and was refused in its present shape.

Gen. Carnahan and his friends in order to save the day and secure the adoption of the ritual, took it to a committee room, and spent several hours in changing its tone. Instead of a king, a general was provided for; instead of a lord of the castle, there was a colonel; and instead of a warden of the castle, there was a sentinel. After such removals of the vivid associations of feudalism and absolute monarchy the ritual was again brought before the Supreme Lodge. Instead of three parts there was but one part, which will not require more than thirty minutes to exemplify, and in this shape the ritual was adopted.—"Pythian Lodge Secret."

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VANCOUVER'S BABY LODGE.

The scribe of Crusader, No. 19, is at his post again after an exceedingly pleasant holiday spent in Seattle, Tacoma and San Francisco. While in Tacoma he had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Ambrose, of Seattle, who is remembered here in connection with the Seattle Fourth of July celebration. At San Francisco he stumbled across Arthur Ward, a charter member of Crusader, and who wished to be remembered to all.

Absence from Lodge and city, places the scribe at a disadvantage as to Lodge happenings, but the December issue will contain everything of note. -- is pleasant to see Bro. Nnuamaker, our popular Commander, around again. P. G. C., Bro. Evans has been under the weather, but seems to have come out on top.

The joint session of the three city lodges has proved a success, and will be continued. Every Knight should make it a point to attend these, as nothing can be more conducive towards bringing the brothers together to discuss matters for the best interests of the Order.

ARTHUR J. SCOTT.

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