

In the upper righthand corner are the gilt swan and the red cross of the Knight Templar. In the opposite corner is emblazoned in gold and red the double eagle of the thirty-third degree. Between hang the scimitar and crescent of the Mystic Shrine, the Egyptian Masonic order which William J Florence first introduced in this country. For twenty years, out of a yearly income of \$25,000, Lansing has spent nearly \$20,000 annually on the Masonic order. For the last five years he has been at the head of the arrangements for the balls of the Palestine Commandery, which are confessedly the handsomest Masonic entertainments given in this country. Three years ago, to add to the eclat of one of these occasions, he brought at his personal expense the Monroe Commandery, from Rochester. That little trip cost Lansing \$2,500.

"It seems almost incredible to an outsider what an enthusiastic Mason will spend upon the glorification of his order. Three other notable examples of this lavish expenditure can be found in Stephen T. Wright, who is a wealthy real-estate owner; J Charles Davis, who is Harry Miner's lieutenant in a round dozen amusement enterprises, and Christopher Johnson, who runs two hotels in this city. They have each reached the thirty-third degree pinnacle, and devote all their spare time to Masonic affairs. There is authority for the statement that in the last twenty years this enthusiasm has cost Johnson \$20,000, Davis \$40,000 and Wright about \$25,000. How so much money was expended can be partially judged from the fact that Johnson, Wright and Davis respectively gave the particular Masonic bodies with which they are most intimately associated an excursion, a dinner and an entertainment of some similar sort, and their respective costs were \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$3,000.

MASONRY IN THE OLDEN TIME.

From the light of other days, says the New York *Sunday Times*, Masonic students can secure pearls of rare value. In an examination among some venerable timeworn, dust-covered printed material our eyes were attracted to an extract from the *South Carolina Gazette*, published at Charlestown, Jan. 1, 1741:

Saturday last (Dec. 27, 1740) being the Festival of St John the Evangelist, the day was ushered in with firing of guns at sunrise from several ships in the harbor, with all their colors flying. At 9 o'clock

all members of Solomon's Lodge belonging to the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, met at the house of Mr. Benjamin Smith, Master of the said Lodge, and at 10 proceeded from thence, properly clothed with the ensigns of their Order, and music before them, to the house of Provincial Grand Master James Græme, Esq., when a Grand Lodge was held, and officers chosen for the ensuing year. At 11 o'clock both Lodges went in procession to church to attend Divine service, and in the same order returned to the house of Mr. Charles Shepheard, where Solomon's Lodge proceeded to the election of their officers. After an elegant dinner, all the brethren being invited, went on board the Lydia (Capt. Allen), and from thence on board the John William (Capt Fishburne), where several loyal healths were drank, under the discharge of a great many guns. The above ships were on this occasion decked out with a great many colors, and illuminated at night with a number of lights, regularly disposed on the yards, both of which made a very grand and agreeable appearance. In the evening the brethren adjourned to Mr. Shepheard's again, where they concluded the day suitable to the occasion. The whole was conducted with the utmost order and decency."

ANECDOTES OF FREEMASONRY.

A writer in the *London Freemason* says:—

"In 1876 I met on the banks of the Moravia an Arab colonel who was as enthusiastic a Mason as ever held a gavel in an English lodge. I was hungry, and he gave me part of his slender stock of provisions; without shelter, and he offered me a portion of his tent; my horse was injured, he lent me another; and, finally, furnished me with a guard to send me on my way next morning. Yet Ibrahim Pasha and I had never met before, and could never have been friends but for the mystic rite.

"A long while ago, an instance of the beneficent effects of masonry came under my notice. A barrister of much learning and but little power of utilizing his knowledge, got into very low water indeed. His relatives were wealthy, but they did not care to help him, and he would have starved but for the interposition of their manager, who, being of the craft, determined to befriend the barrister. Giving him work of a literary kind, he engaged him at a regular salary, without troubling