

Colonel James is a Past Chancellor of Loyal Lodge, No. 384, of Mt. Pleasant. He is a regular attendant at the Grand Lodge services each year. At the last services he was appointed a member of the committee on Founder Rathbone's grave. A fine monument is to be erected at the grave of the founder of the Order, in Utica next summer, when a grand display of Pythianism will be made.

Colonel James was particularly identified with the birth of the Order of Knights of Pythias, and may justly be styled the Damon of the Order, while Justus H. Rathbone, its founder, takes the place of Pythias. Thirty-five years ago, a few clerks of the War Department united in forming a dramatic club, of which Justus H. Rathbone was made president. It was not a very successful affair, as it proved difficult to bring the few members, of which it was composed, together on the evenings appointed for assembling.

On the evening agreed upon for the reading of the play of Damon and Pythias, only three persons were present. These were Justus H. Rathbone, Samuel R. James, and one other. The play was read, Rathbone taking the part of Pythias, Col. James that of Damon, and dividing the other characters among the three. Mr. Rathbone is dead, so that Col. James, as Damon, is the survivor of the two friends, who were instrumental in establishing a beneficiary order, which has become the third most important order of its kind in the world, which really had its origin on the evening that the play was read.

Grand Lodge Recognition.—The following is a copy of some proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York referring to this matter, and as it contains Col. James' account of the affair, it is here quoted.

On motion, the report of the special committee on the case of Bro. James, of Schenectady, was adopted and ordered to be placed in the Journal, as follows:

Utica, N. Y., July 29th, 1897.

To the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias, State of New York:

Your committee, to whom was referred the memorialising of the part taken by Past Chancellor Samuel R. James, of Loyal Lodge, No. 384, a member of this body, in giving encourage-

ment and support to the founder of our Order, Justus H. Rathbone, in the preparation of the original ritual and the establishment of this grand fraternity, would most respectfully submit the following statement as a portion of its report.

"In the winter of '63, whilst located at Washington, and then connected with the Quartermaster General's office, some seven or eight men, officials in the various departments, met together in a room at the corner of Ninth and E. streets, I think, to form a little society for dramatic reading. Among those was Justus H. Rathbone. I remember we elected him president. Rathbone and I had been intimate friends for a long time. He held an important position in the war department. I remember distinctly the night we met for a social time, the particular reading for that night being the historic story of Damon and Pythias. The recital of the story affected Rathbone so much that he re-read the play before leaving his seat. Silence reigned in our little assemblage, and one by one our members left until but three of us remained—Rathbone, myself, and a companion named George Richards. I can picture now, that room.

"There was Rathbone sitting at a long literary table and I sitting at his right, Richards being at the extreme end on the opposite side. I perceived that Rathbone was very deeply interested in the story of Pythias' love for Damon, for he turned to me and remarked what a magnificent foundation for a benevolent society. I quite agreed with him, and we discussed the question for some time. A few days afterward Rathbone handed me a draft of a Pythian ritual, with the request that I go over and express my opinion. I thought the scheme a very ingenious one, neither of us ever dreaming that it would take root, and some day become so far-reaching in its effect, for in those days our minds were absorbed with deep interest in battles taking place almost at the very gates of our city—yet what success it has since achieved all Pythians are, of course, acquainted.

"Shortly after Rathbone and I went over the rough draft together. I was ordered by the department to report at New York, and in consequence I was not present at the formation of the first lodge, in April, '64, and this is the reason why I did not identify myself with the Or-



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