

Iowa, at Cedar Rapids, is justly entitled to encomium as the finest Masonic library in the world. To Bro. T. S. Parvin, the Grand Secretary of Iowa, is due the credit of gathering together and housing this splendid collection, and it is no little compliment to him that the United States government has showed its appreciation of his work by ordering all State publications to be sent to the Masonic library at Cedar Rapids.—*South Australian Freemason*.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A NEW MA- SONIC HALL AT WICK, SCOTLAND.

On Thursday, the 12th Sept., in rather disagreeable weather, the foundation stone of the St. Fergus new hall, which is in course of erection in Breadalbane-terrace, Wick, near the east extremity of the Academy playground, was laid with Masonic honours by Bro. Sheriff G. H. M. Thoms, Prov. Grand Master of Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland. A wooden platform had been erected over the masonry on which the ceremony, which was witnessed from a distance by a considerable gathering of people, took place. Officers and brethren from other lodges in the province, viz., Kirkwall Kilwinning, St. Peter's, Mercantile Marine, and a large number of the brethren of the St. Fergus Lodge, were present.

Those representing the Provincial Grand Lodge who took part in the ceremony included Bros. Sheriff Thoms, Prov. G.M. of Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland; Major Henderson, P.D.G.M.; Buckham Hossack, P.S.G.M.; F. H. M'Hugh, P.S.G.W.; D. Dunnet, P. J. G. W.; J. Slater, P. G. Sec.; R. Sinclair, acting P.G. Treas.; Craven, P. G. Chap.; S. Macdonald, acting P. G. Architect; W. Baikie, P. G. Bible Bearer; Sourie, acting P. G. Marshal; Dunnet, acting P. S. G. D.; D. P. Henderson, P.G.J.D.; Farquhar, P.G.I.G.; and Laird, P.G. Tyler. The visiting brethren were Bros. Captain

Munro, Allan M. Henderson, Dalgleish, and others.

The lodge met in the Commissioners' Hall, Lower Dunbar-street, and shortly after three o'clock marched in procession to the site of the new hall, headed by the band of the Wick Company C.V.A., under the leadership of Band Sergeant Grant. Bro. Sheriff Thoms preceded the procession in a close carriage. Having arrived at the platform and taken up their position, the ceremonial of laying the stone according to the Masonic rite was gone through, the band playing music appropriate to the various stages of the ceremony. The procession afterwards returned in inverted order to the hall, where the lodge was closed.

Afterwards the brethren and the St. Fergus Lodge dined together in Mr. Nichol's Station Hotel.

The number in procession was about 80, of whom 20 or thereabouts were from a distance.

CAN SUCH THINGS BE?

There must be some strange saloonies in Texas if this excerpt from the *Freemason* be true:

"The fellow who has been peddling out masonry in the city of Houston at \$15.00 is in hock. He gave the obligation to a saloon man and told him to go to either of the regular lodges in that city and get the balance of the degree. Mr. Verdant Saloonman presented himself to Gray Lodge and demanded the amplification of the degree. The answer he got need not be told a Mason. He then went and had the 'masonic peddler' arrested for obtaining money under false pretenses."

Now as a class, the fellow in the whisky business is no "summer coon" to any appreciable extent, and that one like the above could be found so egregiously verdant as to have such a palpable fraud played upon him rather phases us. And still it may be. We were talking to an Irish hotelkeeper in Charlotte, Mich., about the slaughter of the mafi in New Orleans, when he re-