

BROTHER ALBERT PIKE, 33°

This most eminent brother was born in Boston, Mass., December 29, 1809, and died at the House of the Temple, A. A. S. Rite, Washington, D. C., April 2, 1891, at the advanced age of over 81 years old.

Brother Pike's steps towards the *high* pinnacle in the Masonic Temple were sure and rapid—gifted by nature with a happy faculty of susceptibility to Masonic thought. Possessing that rare faculty of dual virtues, administrative and executive ability, our brother's transition by gradation from the lower plane of his great moral nature to that elevation to which he aspired, *and to which he attained*, was but a natural sequence; as we find that in Masonry, as in all the economies of life, no gift is withheld from an honest motive, when it has capacity, energy, and a virtuous resolve for its base. Brother Pike's enlargement of his Masonic phylacteries, as well as the expansion of his other notable qualities—*as poet, lawyer and journalist*—his knowledge of Oriental matters, as a linguist, and as a comprehensive student of the lore and traditions of the East, were truly characteristic. He was an ethnologist, a *litterateur*, a soldier of no mean pretensions; as an organizer and leader, his life's setting was a golden picture in a perspective of pure metals. It is to his comprehensive brain and facile pen we are indebted for the beautiful rituals of the Scottish Rite. The spirituality of his Masonic thought in these charming rituals seems to soar above the commonplace, yet with all the glamour that surrounded his Masonic existence, with the fascinations of his imagery, and word painting, his tastes were simple; he detested the gorgeous and vain, he was simplicity itself; he did away with superfluous titles, he abolished such as were intended to glorify him.

Brother Pike was made a Master Mason, August, 1850, in Western Star Lodge, No. 1, Little Rock, Ark., a Royal Arch Mason, November 29, 1850, in Union Chapter, Little Rock, Ark., a Royal and Select Master, December 22, 1852, in Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, No. 2, Washington, D. C. He was knighted in Encampment No. 1, Washington, D. C., February 9, 1853, received the Ineffable Grades, March 17, 1853, the Ancient Traditional Degrees, March 18, 1853, followed by a reception of the Philosophical and Doctrinal Grades, March 18, 1853, supplemented by the Modern Historical and Chivalric Grades, March 20, 1853, at Charleston, S. C. He was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General (thirty-third degree), April 25, 1857, at New Orleans, La., and elected *Sovereign Grand Commander* (thirty-third degree) of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, January 2, 1859; Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland for the United States from May 4, 1878, until his decease.

Brother Pike's literary labors were marvellous in research and execution; 18 handsomely bound quarto volumes, on the shelves of the library of the Supreme Council, containing his translation of the Rig-Veda—the Zend-Avesta, and the essence of Aryan literature—exhibit his wonderful capacity for work. They are in manuscript, and each word written with a quill, and of all the wonders of this mass of wonders, in the number of pages, thousands we may say, there is not an erasure. He was a comprehensive translator of Hebrew, and, had he lived, would have embellished modern literature with the beauty of traditional Judaism. An eminent writer has truly said of Brother Pike, "He was the Homer of America, the Zoroaster of modern Asia, a profound philosopher, a great jurist, a great philologist, a profound ethnologist, a great statesman; and we will add that these cardinal virtues of man's economic life were incorporated in a magnificent physique, of noble mien, gracious presence, and *courtly bearing*."

"Ense petit placidam sub liberate quietum."