

The R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania purposed celebrating the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of its organization, on Saint John the Baptist's Day of this year, at Philadelphia. I was honored with an invitation from the R. W. Grand Master, Bro. Samuel B. Dick, to be present and participate in the ceremonies of the occasion. I regret not having been able to accept the cordial and fraternal invitation extended to me.

DEATHS.

During the past year Masonry has lost some of its most distinguished members.

On the 2nd July, 1881, the President of the United States of America, James A. Garfield, fell by the hands of an assassin. His death, which took place on the 19th September, was mourned by the whole civilized world. The history of his life and of his sad and untimely death are too well known to you all for me to refer to them now. He was an active and enthusiastic Mason.

On the 20th June last, at Fortress Monroe, Bro. Albert G. Mackey, so well and favorably known as one of the ablest craftsmen of his day, died at the advanced age of seventy-four years. The name and the writings of Brother Mackey are familiar to every reading Mason.

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee has sustained a severe loss in the death of R. W. Bro. George Stoddart Blackie, who was called to rest on the 19th June last.

The Grand Lodges of New York and Massachusetts have met with sad losses in the death of their respective Grand Secretaries, Bros. James M. Austin and Tracy P. Cheever.

I have received an official announcement of the death