

The two branches of the Red Cross, of Constantine, existing in the United States, have come to a partial settlement of their differences, and the two organizations in this country will probably be blended under one head after this month. The opposition Chiefs have signed a Treaty. "Let us have Peace."

The Grand Lodge, of Illinois, appropriates the sum of \$5,000 and levies additional dues on the lodges of three dollars for each tuition, and twenty-five cents per annum for each member, as a building fund, and for the maintenance of a Masonic Charitable Home. The site is to be upon a farm of not less than eighty acres. \$20,000 is to be obtained in all.

It originated in the wants of man, and was created to meet the demands of an age of transition, when old things were beginning to pass away, and a new light began to dawn upon the world, coming forth to a newer and higher civilization, in which Masonry was to be what it has ever proved—a powerful agency for good.—*Bro. Theodore S. Parvin.*

Missouri Grand Lodge once built and owned a Masonic Orphans' College and fully equipped the same, but it was abandoned after a few years' trial, owing to the constant demand for large appropriations to meet current expenses. The school was closed and the grounds and buildings presented to the Central Female College, which grants free tuition to thirty orphans, if the Grand Lodge desire it.

A fund for the education of indigent children of deceased Masons, was some time ago raised in Nebraska Grand Lodge. A Standing Committee is appointed in each lodge to solicit and receive funds, and lodges are required to hold an annual festival, or entertainment, for the purpose of augmenting this fund. In addition, an annual tax of fifty cents is levied upon each member payable as other lodge dues. No portion of the fund is to be used until the sum of \$5,000 is raised.

Prudence demands that Masonry closes its doors to those who are not worthy nor capable to fulfil our difficult mission; who have not given proof of the nobleness of their heart and character. The Lodge is the school in which man ought to perfect himself, and since that continued perfection cannot be obtained without a serious and firm character, the most useful work of our Lodges should be the formation of character in their members.—*Bro. Ulysses Bacchi, of Italy.*

The "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" are making headway at a rapid rate. This Order only receives candidates from the organizations of the Knights Templar and Consistory. There is a "Grand Temple" in New York city, and several subordinate "Temples" in different parts of the Empire State. The Order is said to be based on mythological science and history, and to include rare scenic effects in its ceremony of initiation.

Oh! Masonry, whose origin is veiled in impenetrable mystery, but whose pathway is luminous with the love of Humanity, whose life is the spirit of ever working benevolence, whose mission is the divinest charity, may thy standard advance, thy temples rise, until truth, justice, faith, charity and fraternal love encompass with their holy influences all tribes and nations of the earth.—*W. Bro. Frank Tilford, of Utah.*

Let us be moral, it is the very basis of our Order. Without it there can be no adherence, no consistency, because there is no cement save morality that binds men together. What matters it how solemnly you covenant a man who has no respect for truth or virtue? His obligations are but as ropes of sand.—*Bro. Robert Morris.*