

*Resolved.*—That as Companions of this Chapter and associates of the deceased who in mingling with him in the varied walks of life, having learned to respect and esteem him for his faithful devotion to the Royal Craft and his example to the Companions who will long remember with gratitude his helpful counsel and fraternal encouragement, we therefore desire to express our unfeigned sorrow at his death and to bear testimony alike to his frank and generous nature and his unimpeachable integrity.

*Resolved.*—That in his death this Chapter has lost its most efficient member and the community an upright and intelligent citizen, and although we shall miss him in our Convocations and our social gatherings yet his memory will ever be green in the silent recesses of our hearts.

*Resolved.*—That we, as a Chapter, tender our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to his devoted wife and the members of his bereaved family and friends, and may He who quieted the troubled waters send peace and consolation to their sorrowing hearts,

*Resolved.*—That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and be sent for publication to the CRAFTSMAN.

### A VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA AND MOUNT VERNON.

BY JAMES B. CROOKS, M.D.

Every person who goes to the National Capital should make a visit to Mount Vernon, which is thirteen miles from Washington, on the banks of the Potomac river, commanding a fine view of this old historic river.

There are many things there to be seen that greatly impress the beholder with a feeling that he is invading holy ground. A loneliness seems to linger around everything. The old book case containing books, and a thousand relics of many kinds; household furni-

ture; the room, showing who had occupied them; the very bed upon which Washington died, and also Martha's, occupies the same position, and the house is kept as near as it can be as when he left it. On our return to the city we stopped off at Alexandria.

Through the kindness of W.D. Stewart, Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, of Free and Accepted Masons, we were granted admission to that sacred retreat where General Washington met with his brethren around its altar. This Lodge was organized Feb. 25, 1783. Washington's Masonic life began Nov. 4, 1752, when he was made an Entered Apprentice in Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, Virginia. He was then a lad nineteen years of age, and received the degrees under special dispensation. A writer says, in regard to the initiation of Washington before his majority: "That this in itself is an interesting fact, as showing that even at that early age he must have been a man in stature, wisdom, and character, even though he had not attained his legal majority." After the organization of Alexandria Lodge he became a member; and remained a member of it until the day of his death. He was appointed Worshipful Master, at which time he served six months, and in 1788 was elected Master and served one year.

Many of General Washington's effects are owned by this Lodge and prized highly by its members. One room opposite the main hall is filled with relics, while the walls of the Lodge room itself are covered with inscriptions, letters, portraits of distinguished persons and relics in glass cases. Among so many, a person is calculated to become confused. These relics link the present with the past. Here is the chair in which Washington sat when Master of the Lodge. It is a large antique chair, covered with leather, and shows its age. It has been guarded well by the members from relic hunters. I was informed that a man, while visiting the Lodge,