

The formation of the Grand Lodge of South Australia is the event of the season, and we only regret that the new Grand Master, not having received any official communication relative to the same, could not recommend recognition. It is only, however, a matter of time.

THE REIGN OF MASONRY.—*The Key Stone* remarks:

"Freemasonry is no religion. We are glad it is not. Yet at every Mason's grave it testifies its belief in God and in the immortality of the soul."

If this be not a declaration of religion, we cannot comprehend the correct meaning of that generic word. Freemasonry is a religion, still in no wise tinctured with sectarianism or with fanaticism, the elementary characteristics of prevalent creeds. A man may be sincerely and truly religious without being attached to any church, while the sectarian labors under the impression as to all being immoral unless adhering to his own peculiar line of faith. The religion of Masonry is the religion of the Ancient Mysteries: an ethical code of high philosophy, revered and practiced by all the refined nations of antiquity, among whom religious wars were never known to occur. Thousands visited the groves of Eleusis to gain knowledge of those civilizing mysteries, binding mankind into a common humanity and into a common worship of the Deity. Such is the mission of Freemasonry; but, instead of confining the consummation of our purposes to a circumscribed locality, we have erected temples in every section of the globe, and preach practically our doctrines better by our own actions than in the mystical language of symbolism, unknown to the profane.

PUBLIC OCCASIONS.—Grand Master Bellows, of Michigan, drew the line very justly, in the following decisions:—

A number of requests have been made by Lodges during the year for permission to take part in public processions.

These were for permission to appear in a general procession as a Lodge on Decoration Day.

Another was for permission to join with the Odd Fellows "in a public parade through the streets of the village" on the occasion of the dedication of an Odd Fellows' Hall.

Each of the above requests I have felt it my duty to deny.

Another was for permission to form a procession in passing from the lodge-room to a church and return, on the occasion of a Masonic observance of St. John's Day.

The request was granted.

Another was a request by Zion Lodge, No. 1, of Detroit, for permission to participate on Sunday afternoon, April 29, in the ceremonies of presenting to the parish of St. Peter's church, of Detroit, a memorial window, as a token of appreciation of a departed Brother, the late Thomas Mayberry.

I took pleasure in granting this request, also.

The Master of a Lodge should be firm, courteous, faithful to his Lodge, moral, upright, and of good report before the world. All this he promised to be before he was installed, and if he add to these, tact and sound judgment, his administration cannot fail to be a successful one, and his Lodge be greatly benefitted. Lodges should never forget that the world will judge by the character and conduct of those who have been selected as officers, and it is perhaps just that they should; for the fountain can never rise higher than its head.—*Grand Master McCormick, of Connecticut.*