

tends to throw doubt upon his history of Royal Arch Masonry in Kentucky.

"This is not the time or place, we are well aware, to discuss this matter. But we here take occasion to say that so far from its being 'universally conceded,' there is not one line, word, syllable, letter, or character essential to Royal Arch Masonry that ever was any part of the Master's Degree, and we challenge proof to the contrary. And we further assert that the Master's Degree stands to-day complete and perfect, without any loss or dismemberment whatever, as it did on the 24th day of June, 1717, when the present Grand Lodge of England was formed. We further say, that we do not care to take as evidence what Dr. A. or Dr. B. has to say in his or their speculations on the subject. We demand facts that are reliable. Give us these and we can draw our own conclusions and make our own speculations.

"This is no new position assumed by us. In making up our report to the Grand Lodge of Indiana, as Grand Master for 1865, in reply to Most Worshipful John McJilton, Grand Master of Maryland, who in his address to his Grand Lodge, had taken the same position, on the subject, as is here taken by Companion Henderson, we then said:

"Against this assumption we desire to enter our solemn protest. While it is true "that the Master's Degree, in its present form, from the many additions that have been made to it in modern times," is not what it was in the earlier period of Masonic History; it is *not true* that it has lost any of its essential features whatever; it is *not true* that there is in the Royal Arch Degree one essential feature that is now nor ever was a part of the Master's Degree of the York Rite since the days of King Solomon.

"There is now lying before me, as I write, documentary evidence showing most conclusively what the Master's Degree contained at the beginning of the eighteenth century. And from scraps of history that have come down to us well authenticated, we can trace it back prior to the middle of the sixteenth century, at least two hundred years prior to the origin of the Royal Arch, showing most unequivocally that while the Master's Degree is now fully four fold what it was then, it has neither lost nor changed one single essential feature it then contained."

"This is what we said twelve years ago. We challenged proof to the contrary then, and now here comes our companion of Kentucky with the often refuted assertion that 'it is universally conceded.'

"Well, Companion Henderson, you know now that it is *not* 'universally conceded'; and, if you have any evidence of what you say to give, let us have it. We called for it twelve years ago, and we now call for it again."

We are glad to see the following excellent remarks on the doctrine of "eternal" jurisdiction:—

"We are pleased to note that this report of the committee so ably presented was concurred in by the Grand Chapter. This modern doctrine, coming into vogue and so energetically seized upon and promulgated as the true rule of government by several of our Grand Masonic Bodies, and thereby cutting off all means or room for repentance, out-Calvins old John Calvin himself, for we believe that that good old saint did admit under the system of his eternal decrees there was still left a little room for repentance. Now, we hold this to be the only safe and judicious rule to adopt on the subject of jurisdiction.

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