

Fraternity in the eyes of the profane.

Such men never become Masons. Having no moral qualifications to build upon they remain in statu quo and poison the moral atmosphere which surrounds them. They blight the blossoming fruit of honest endeavor by the tainted and perjured breath of moral pollution. Purge your councils, oh Masons, of such material! Do not permit these moral lepers to sit enthroned in the majesty of justice. Elevate your tone and crush out that hypocritical cant by which moral cowards grow fat and prosper upon the credulity of their Brethren. The increase of members and consequent financial health, to the exclusion of Masonic principle, is a sacrifice too great to be borne, and will inevitably result in moral bankruptcy. To avert such a calamity, and to prepare for the coming storm, Masonry should tile its lodges with ceaseless vigilance. Return, in fact to the ancient spirit, when character and moral courage were the tests of merit.—*Grand Orator Zubriskie, of Nebraska.*

THE ROYAL ARCH.

A grade peculiar to English Freemasonry in its exact position in the system, and of English origin and growth. Some writers have declared it to be of foreign importation; others have contended that it is of Ramsay's manipulation, and is still to be found in more than one of the foreign High Grades. Some will have it that Dermott took it from the "Rite de Bouillon," and introduced it into the system of the Ancient Masons. It was not formally adopted by the English Grand Lodge until the Union in 1813, though a Grand Chapter, in connection with the "Modern" Grand Lodge, had been in existence forty-seven years previously. In our opinion, all these theories as regards the origin of the Royal Arch are entirely erroneous. The Royal Arch Degree as we have it (we say nothing of its nomenclature or of its

ritual arrangements), is far older than either Ramsay or Dermott. It is not the same with any known foreign grade, nor can any veritable similarity be adduced or proved. It is, as our Grand Lodge says, part of true and ancient Masonry, and was, though not clearly worked as now exactly, well known to the older Master Masons. The difference between the Moderns and the Ancients on this point was more a "logomachy" than anything else, though we quite believe that the words "Royal Arch" were in themselves new to the Modern Masons, and may have been taken from Ramsay. But if Dermott took the name, he certainly did not borrow from Ramsay the essential portion of the Degree; and after many years' patient and careful study of the question, we feel quite persuaded of this, that the Royal Arch Degree is both in form and substance of very old date, though its terminology may have been modernised, and very properly and truly forms the conclusion of Craft Masonry. That some little identity may exist between the English Royal Arch and some other grades we do not deny, as we have before said; but we believe that all such grades are modifications or adaptations of the Royal Arch Degree, and not the Royal Arch Degree of them.—*Kenning's Cyclopadia of Freemasonry.*

SCOTTISH RITE CEREMONY.

The Masonic Fraternity of Washington, particularly the branch known as the Scottish Rite, witnessed a ceremony recently that had never before been exemplified in that city, and but three times before in America. It was the burial service of the Knights of Kadosh, or thirtieth Degree Masons, and occurred at "low twelve," or midnight. The Scottish Rite Cathedral was draped in black, and the Cathedral itself was in darkness except a few lights that were arranged around the remains as they lay in state in the centre of the auditorium. At exactly midnight a solemn procession of twenty-one