

The stand was gayly decorated with American flags, and the only Masonic emblem visible was the handsome banner of the Grand Lodge, which the members had brought with them.

The scene at this point was very impressive. From the grand stand, up Fifth avenue, as far as the eye could reach the thoroughfare, was seen a moving mass of white feathers, interspersed with gay banners and the glitter of steel as the Knights Templars marched forward in serried ranks or in the form of a cross or triangle.

The Knight Templar from Canada attracted general notice. He is called Sir Thomas Hodges, and is a member of Kingston Commandery, Ontario. He was dressed in a white surcoat, with Maltese cross in the centre; long white mantle; scarlet cap, a portion of which hung down behind, with a passion cross in front; a long white mantle, with Maltese cross on the left arm; black sash and black sword and scabbard.

Rank after rank poured into the square, and still the view in the distance was the same. New York never saw a procession enlivened by as much music as the one that paced the streets yesterday. The spirited strains of the Tenth Regiment Band was just dying on the ear as the head of the Second division, under Eminent Sir Albert G. Goodall, passed in review before the Grand Lodge. This division had seven commanderies in it, three more than Division No. 1, under Eminent Sir Fred. W. Herring. Grafulla's Band headed the Second division, and two other bands also accompanied it. In this division the Philadelphia Commandery, No. 2, noticeable for its elegant banners and the drill of its men, marched, followed by delegations from Norfolk, Va.; Utica, N. Y.; and Portsmouth, Va.; The Third division, under Eminent Sir John G. Heine-man, passed in good order, having four bands with it. The Fourth and Fifth divisions passed, and still the prospect up the avenue was the same. As the head of the Sixth division entered the square a halt was made, the head of the column having been detained at Canal street. The scene on the avenue had now changed. At the Breevort House the field of white plumes was broken, telling that the Seventh division—the last of the Knights Templar—were near at hand. A cloud of carriages, containing the Supreme Council, Ancient Free and Accepted Rite of Northern Jurisdiction, the U. S. A., marked the ending of the Seventh and the beginning of the Eighth division, which was composed wholly of carriages containing the Masonic dignitaries of the State lodges. Division Nine was the first of those of blue lodge Masons. Twelve lodges made up the ranks. When it was discovered that no more Templar regalias were to be seen the crowd began to move out of the square and down South Fifth avenue, into which the procession passed. Each band as it passed along carried with it a large crowd of people.

In the regular order the divisions passed in review. It is estimated that each division contained 1,000 men, distributed in lodges as follows:—Ninth, 12 lodges; Tenth, 15 lodges; Eleventh, 16 lodges; Twelfth, 15 lodges; Thirteenth, 17 lodges; Fourteenth, 14 lodges; Fifteenth, 11 lodges; Sixteenth, 14 lodges; Seventeenth, 13 lodges; Eighteenth, 12 lodges; Nineteenth, 12 lodges; Twentieth, 9 lodges; Twenty-first, 10 lodges; Twenty-second, 11 lodges; Twenty-third, 10 lodges; Twenty-fourth, 10 lodges; and Twenty-fifth, 12 lodges. There being twenty-six divisions, the number of men who took part in the parade is estimated at over 26,000.

After the brethren had time to recover from the fatigue of their long march R. W. Charles Roome, Grand Marshal, advanced to the front of the platform, and having called the craft to order, proclaimed "Silence!" three times, and called up the lodge.

The R. W. Grand Master then requested the lodge to pay attention to the R. W. and Rev. John P. Webster, one of the Grand Chaplains, who delivered the following impressive prayer:—

"Almighty and most merciful God, we, Thy servants, reverently and humbly approach Thy presence, acknowledging our manifold transgressions and beseeching Thy mercy. We pray that Thou wilt look upon and bless our present assembling and accept the work we offer. Be pleased, O Father, to shed abroad in the hearts of the brethren a greater love for Thy commandments, incite them to a more steadfast walk in Thy statutes and incline their hearts to Thy service. Especially would we pray that this Temple, now to be dedicated to Thy most holy name, may long remain as a beacon to light men to the performance of high and noble deeds, to encourage them to labor and to wait in Thy service, and to sacrifice, that thus may be dried the tears of the orphan, that thus may be soothed the pains, and thus be ministered to the needs of all who suffer and want. Give to the brethren, O Father, the zeal and the perseverance to complete the great work which is built in these walls and which in due time shall bear the burden of many who might otherwise perish. Bless, we pray Thee, the labors of our fraternity wherever dispersed, and give to us all a wider charity, a more unselfish devotion, a renewed zeal in every good work. Forgive those who hate and spitefully use us, and hasten the day when every nation and tongue shall obey Thy law, and to Thy name shall be ascribed all the glory. Amen."