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the Grand Father, and go back to the 'Antient Ways' that preceded the innovation of the Past Master's Degree.

"The fact that the mere calling it 'the Past Master's degree,' and exercising the right to confer it, does not make a Past Master, is becoming apparent to the most superficial, and some of them think, like Patrick—that if calling him a horse would make him one, then faith, he'd just like to be called an Alexander and Crossus combined.' It is not a bit more ridiculous to make Past Master's of the Wardens elect (as they do in Virginia), than to call a Brother a Past Master, who has been but a moment in the chair, or has never been in the chair at all.

"Installed Master is plain English, and easily understood, and conveys the information that he is one, who will become a Past Master, on the completion of his term of office. This, if not English, may be termed plain 'horse sense.' Now, 'whipping the d—l round the stump,' 'passing the chair,' by the conferring of a pretended degree, and calling him Past Master, is, and would be no less an infractor, of the O. B., than the doing away with it altogether; but its being a 'scalawag' in possession, having the nine points of the law, he'll be hard to oust. We care but little for his impudence, or even what becomes of him, if you'll not say: He qualifies the W. M. elect, to preside.' God bless the lodge whose W. Master has no better qualification; it will need it. Why not the lodge put the secrets of the chair where they of right belong in the ceremony of installation, after the public obligation of the W. M. elect, and the Chapter throw the pretender into the Valley of Jehoshaphat?"

M. E. Comp. William Robson (Shreveport), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. C. Batchelor (New Orleans), Grand Secretary.

MAINE.

Held at Portland, May 2nd, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Henry L. Paine, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 42; represented, 33; exalted, 231; members, 3,994; receipts, \$1,129.80. Annual Convocation, 51st.

The Grand High Priest reports three new Chapters but a decrease in the amount of work done. He gives one decision, as under, which is only applicable in jurisdictions where a ballot is required for each degree:—

"*Question.* 'A candidate has received the Mark, Past, and M. E. degrees; night is appointed for exaltation; a member objects to his further progress; states objections in open Chapter; Chapter by vote sustains them. After several months, many Companions concluding objections groundless, desire test to be made in Chapter. Must candidate again petition for R. A. Degree? Will one black-ball cause rejection?'

"*Answer.* The Chapter sustaining the objections, the candidate is