

vicinity of the lodge, and the master immediately called the lodge to refreshment. The fire raged all that night, and they were unable to complete the work until Sunday. We therefore recommend that this Grand Lodge do declare the action of St. John's lodge, No. 9, in conferring the M. M.'s degree upon Bro. R. H. Jones, on Sunday, justified by the circumstances, and the work duly healed."

MISSISSIPPI.—The Grand Master says: "I received a letter from a lodge stating that all its members were farmers, and that it was very inconvenient for them to attend meetings on week days, and desired my opinion as to the legality and propriety of holding their regular meetings on the Sabbath. I replied, that while Masonry is in no sense a religious institution, and makes no pretensions to save men's souls, yet Masonry is a great moral institution, and embraces pure men of every clime and creed, and the man who practices its teaching must of a necessity be a good man. It teaches a due reverence for the Deity and all His works, as well as our duty to God, our country, our neighbor and ourselves. The applicants for our mysteries are required to possess the necessary qualifications; the principal one is a belief in God, and without which no man can be made a Mason. Belief in God implies a future responsibility to Him, and obedience to His Divine laws. Masons accept the holy bible as a rule and guide to their faith and practice. It lies upon the altar in every lodge room, and without its presence no lodge can hold a legal meeting. Let us see what is written in the book; 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.' This command was written upon a table of stone, by the hand of the Almighty himself, amidst the thunderings of Sinai; and since then it has been obeyed and revered by the good and pure of every age and clime. In this land of ours the first day of the week is set apart and recognized as the Sabbath. The civil law enforces a due observance of that day, and God forbid that it may ever be said that Masons, in violation of Divine and human laws, should ever find it necessary to hold any meetings on the Sabbath, funeral occasions alone excepted. I am of opinion that it would be improper and illegal to hold a regular communication on the Sabbath. It would be better, for the honor and good name of Masonry, that the Lodge should cease to exist.

MASONRY AND ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION.

ARKANSAS.—The Grand Master says: "A member was very sick and in fear of death, sent for a Catholic priest, and in order to receive the benefit of the ordinances of the church, he promised to renounce Masonry. But he got well, and desires to return to the lodge and die in the Catholic faith. Should he be expelled?"

"Answer: Masonry proscribes no man on account of his politics or religion. If a Catholic wants to be a Mason, let him be, and we will not imitate the bigotry of the Romish church by requiring our members to renounce everything else in order to remain with us. Masonry is founded on broad principles, and men of all nations, politics and religions find a safe retreat and quiet rest in our lodges. If a member wants to renounce Masonry from principle, and asks to be expelled, he will be accommodated; but so long as he comes to us a consistent brother, ask-

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