

DEDICATION OF THE NEW YORK MASONIC TEMPLE.

FROM THE NEW YORK "HERALD," JUNE 12.

Yesterday was indeed a gala day in New York, and seldom has the city worn such a holiday look in these the early days of leafy June, as it presented during the time the great Masonic pageant moved over its pavements. The sun shone brightly, yet not too hotly, on the moving masses of the brothers of the Mystic Tie, and the spectacle was one only to be seen in a life-time. Twenty-six thousand stalwart, intelligent and upright men were formed in solid column and marched steadily forward over the route laid down for the procession, and as they moved thousands of interested spectators lined the sidewalks and viewed the scene. No event has occurred in Masonic history, either in this or in the Old World, around which will gather more pleasant memories than those which attach to the great procession that yesterday marched through the streets of New York. There was not a man who wore a badge but was sworn to obey a law that made him the guardian of his brother's welfare and the protector of his widow and orphan. There was not a man present who by oath was not bound to oppose evil with good, error with truth, wrong with right and to battle with vice in every shape. It was a vast fraternity, knowing no sect or section, and guided only by principle, the corner stone of which is Charity. The march was made admirably. The arrangements of the Grand Marshal and his assistants were in every way successful, and, altogether, the occasion is one that may well be long remembered. Few spectators who looked upon the display could fail to observe not merely the dignity and decorum that marked the entire proceedings, the solidity and strength of the several organizations and the moral power which they represented; but they must also have remarked that many of the distinguished men of the country were present, and that old age, intellect and experience were largely represented from the beginning to the end of the line.

It is a theme of general comment that there never has been an occasion of this character in the city of New York when more decorum was exhibited and more universal admiration expressed. The Masonic fraternity may well feel glad that the day has been blessed both by Heaven and by the congratulations of their fellow citizens.

The scene was especially attractive to the ladies, for they turned out at an exceptionally early hour in immense numbers, and were manifestly much pleased by what they saw. Many were wives or sisters of Masons in the line, and greeted their friends or relatives as they passed. The housetops were gay with fluttering bunting, and every window and doorstep along the route was filled with its quota of beauty. Hotels were decorated, store windows were dressed in Masonic colors and emblems, and private residences were in gala dress in honor of the occasion.

Long before nine o'clock, the hour appointed for the moving of the column, the immediate vicinity of Nineteenth street and Fifth avenue was thronged by a sight-seeing multitude. Mounted Masons dashed up and down the avenue, delivering and receiving orders, Templars in regalia hurried to and fro, and bands of music were to be heard on every side. The stoops, balconies and windows of the houses in the neighborhood were at an early hour occupied, and the impatience of the throng seemed to be subdued by the occasional passing of a Lodge, a band or an equestrian Mason. The appearance of the men and horses was very fine, and showed careful training. Immediately after the mounted police came Inspector Dilks, on foot, and his aids, followed by a platoon of police from the Broadway squad. The Right Worshipful H. Clay Preston, Marshal of the day, led the column of Masons, accompanied by his staff, in the following order:—W. Edward H. Kent, Chief of Staff; W. Charles S. Arthur, W. Samuel A. Lewis, Jr., W. William F. Floyd, Brother John E. Bendix, Brother Hiram Calkins, Brother Sidney P. Nichols, Brother Alexander B. Mott, Brother Robert J. Leaycroft, Brother Daniel P. Wylie, Brother John B. Woodward, Brother Robert Irwin, Brother George Scott, Brother Walter W. Adams, Brother George C. F. Wright, Brother W. George W. Schoolmaker, Brother John L. Mapes, Brother J. G. Corby, and Brother William H. Stiner, Secretary of Staff, distinguished by a silver baton.

Next in order came the Marshal of the Knights Templars, Sir E. M. L. Ehlers, followed by his aids. As the Marshal and staff moved forward the First division, resting on east Nineteenth street, filed out into Fifth avenue. After them came the Second division from West Nineteenth street, and so alternately from east to west the different divisions filed into column.

The head of the column reached Washington square at half-past nine, and passed in review before the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The Grand Lodge, headed by M. W. Grand Master Thorne, arrived at the stand, erected on the southern part of the fountain circle, about half an hour before the procession began to move.