

ANCIENT WORK.

Bro. Wm. R. Singleton, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, in his report on correspondence for 1888, says:—

"We give our Pennsylvania brethren the credit of retaining their Dermott Ritual longer than any other body on this continent. The other lodges which derived their Masonry from that off-shoot in 1750, abandoned their rituals and accepted the Prestonian, and subsequently the Webb, and lastly Cross work, which has generally prevailed since Jeremy L. Cross, in 1817, was appointed the Grand Lecturer of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and subsequently spent many years in travelling over these States and disseminated his work in all branches of Masonry wherever he went. The uniformity with which this work was adopted at that time showed the value of it. The diversity since then grows out of the distinct ideas of the State Lecturers. Any one who will consider this subject philosophically, will readily discover the key to the whole matter.

"Now, as to ritualism, it is well-known that in the Grand Lodge of England, until about 1780, there was no distinctive ritual. The initiation of a candidate was a very simple matter, and the Fellow Craft and Master's degrees were given only in the Grand Lodge. We may clearly see that until the rival establishment of Lawrence Dermott commenced its upward course by the introduction of 'improvements,' the conservative element in the old establishment prevented any 'innovations,' but after Dunkerley had seen what was the attraction in the lodges of the ancients, he succeeded in the introduction of improvements into his own body of Masons.

"We have traced the gradual increase of ritualism from this day down to the commencement of this century, or to about 1797, when

Webb visited Boston and Hartford, in the interests of Capitular Masonry. After that he published his 'Monitor,' and from that day to this the history of the lectures and work of all the degrees, from Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch, is well known."

MASONIC ITEMS.

The Lotus was the Lily of the Nile and the Rose of Egypt, on it Osiris delighted to float mysteriously as the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters at creation. It was the Couch of Homer, Juno and Jupiter; the horses of Achilles regaled on it; it symbolized the residence of the Gods, and was saved to Osiris and Isis. The Lethe of Paradise. Hindoostan was its birth place.

It now seems that the Hon. Miss St. Leger was not the only woman who had witnessed the mysteries of the Craft. The Newcastle, England, *Courant*, of January 4, 1770, informs the public that a Mrs. Bell, the landlady of a tavern where a lodge met, "broke open a door with a poker," "got into an adjacent room, made two holes through the wall, and by that stratagem discovered the secrets of Freemasonry."

Our brethren of Pennsylvania are moving steadily forward in their determination to establish a Masonic Home. A charter has been obtained and officers elected to serve until the annual meeting, which will be held on St. John's Day, June 24th. The spirit evinced in the enterprise thus far bespeaks for it a triumphant success, and the Masons of Pennsylvania will soon point with pride to their Masonic Home, as they do to their Masonic Temple, as being the finest in the world.

Bro. T. L. Jefferson, President of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, of Louisville, Ky., whose death we lately noted, did not forget his Masonic bodies in his last will, for he left \$1,000 to his Lodge (Excelsior, No. 258), and \$5,000 to the Masonic Home, over which he had for a number of years presided. He also provided for the erection of a