

BROTHER HENRY L. PALMER, 33°

On Friday, May 7, 1909, there passed from earth one of the *foremost* Masons in our country, and one of the best known in the world, our esteemed Brother Henry L. Palmer, who for *sixty-eight* years was an active member and officer, and for thirty years held the exalted position of *Sovereign Grand Commander*, of the largest jurisdiction of the *Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite*, numerically, in the world.

He was born near Mount Pleasant, Wayne County, Pa., Oct. 18, 1819, and at the time of his death had eclipsed the allotted time by nearly a full score of years, and he retained his brilliant intellect and marvelous executive ability until within a few weeks of his death; in fact, the *great work* of his life was performed after he had attained the age of 60.

Brother Palmer, in the summer of 1849, owing to a throat difficulty, moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which became his permanent home. His health was precarious for some years, but in the end he became quite vigorous, obtained a law practice of wide reputation and responsibility. In 1858 he became connected with the organization of the North-western Mutual Insurance Company as counsel, and in 1874 he resigned a judgeship to which he had been elected that he might become *President* of the company.

He early became attracted to the principles of our Institution, and was made a Master Mason in Evening Star Lodge, No. 75, Watervliet, New York, March 10, 1841, of which he became Master in the years 1845-48. He also appeared in the Grand Lodge of New York as a member "*entitled to vote*" in the annual meetings in June, 1846-49. On moving to Wisconsin he became at once active in the Craft affiliated with Tracy Lodge, No. 13, August 18, 1849, and was elected Master, Dec., 12, 1850, also filled the office in the years 1851-58, 1865-67. In the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin he was elected its *Grand Master*, 1852-53 and 1871-72.

The *Capitular* degrees were conferred upon him in Apollo Chapter, No. 48, R. A. M., of Troy, New York, in 1846. In Wisconsin he became a charter member of Wisconsin Chapter, No. 7, at Milwaukee, he was its High Priest in 1854-58. In the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin he was elected Gd. High Priest in 1858. In the Cryptic he was Thrice Illustrious Master for years. He was Most Illustrious Master of the Gd. Coun. of R. and S. Masters of Wisconsin for 1863-64.

The Chivalric degrees were conferred on him in Apollo Commandery, No. 15, Troy, New York, May 6, 1848, he withdrew in 1850 and became a member of Wisconsin Commandery, No. 1, at Milwaukee, June 5, 1850. He was E. Com. 1853-61, nine consecutive years. He was Gd. Com. of the Grand Commandery, Wisconsin, 1859-65, seven consecutive years. In the *Grand Encampment* of the United States, at the triennial session held at Columbus, Ohio, 1865, he was elected *M. E. Grand Master*. At the time of his death he was the oldest living *Past Grand Master* of Knights Templar.

In the A. A. S. Rite, which he loved so well, and which he adorned for thirty years as its *illustrious* head, he made the *Northern Jurisdiction* synonymous with all that is inspiring and successful in Scottish Rite Masonry throughout the world. August 6, 1863, he was elevated to the *thirty-third degree*, and October 20, 1864, he became an *Active member* of the Supreme Council. In the Union Council formed in May, 1867, he became an earnest working member. At Philadelphia, September 17, 1879, he was elected *Sovereign Grand Commander*, and was unanimously re-elected at the expiration of every triennial period until his decease.

In this eminent station so grandly and honorably filled, who shall attempt by the employment of words to definitely express what is so indelibly impressed in all our hearts? His character was an open book. His record was one of integrity. His life is a history of achievement. To his untiring industry more than to any other man is due the *respected position* of our Rite, and it will ever stand linked with his other work as a monument to his life, his character, his industry and his principles.