

future of concord, happiness, power and glory. It is time that America should cleanse her garments of their dust and battle stains; and having every scar erased, and all her members perfect, compact and strong, and with a diadem-full-jeweled on her queenly brow, should again take her proper place amongst the nations of the earth. Our organization has no political purpose. It meddles not with political dogmas or plans.

But it is national in its jurisdiction and paternal in its character. And while rejoicing in its prosperity and power, we cannot feel indifferent to our civil government. Our essential principles of fraternal love and knightly magnanimity, and liberal hospitality, and all abounding charity, if made the practical guide to statesmanship, must produce individual happiness and national glory—

"A Union of hearts, a Union of hands,
A Union of States none can sever;"

and so that while coming from all sections of our country, we meet and mingle together to legislate for our illustrious order; to cement old friendships, and to form new ones, we are riveting anew the chain of nationality, and are serving a double purpose of patriotism and fraternity.

Most worshipful sir, this is not the first time that the banners of the cross have waved over a Crescent City; but never before was the surrender made with such eagerness and grace; never before was the invading hosts so gladly and so kindly welcomed; never before did they find, under the ensign of Mahomet, such noble Knights of the true faith, bearing the indelible sign of Brotherhood in their hearts, and manifesting it in all their acts. Although you have surrendered your beautiful city and Temple to us, we surrender our hearts to you. When the unwelcome hour of separation comes, may we leave behind as delightful memories as we will carry with us to our homes.

GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

ELECTION OF GRAND MASTER.

From the Cork Constitution.

A MEETING of the members of this ancient and venerable Order was held in the Grand Lodge Room of the Masonic Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin, on Thursday, for the purpose of electing a Grand Master in the room of the late Duke of Leinster. The large portrait of the late Grand Master, the organ, the pillars, the chair, were draped with crape, and the proceedings were characterized with a befitting feeling of solemnity. There was a very numerous attendance from the city and provinces. The chair was occupied by Brother Shekleton, Deputy Grand Master, supported by the Rev. Lord Plunket, Hon. David Plunket, M. P., and other distinguished members of the Order.

The Deputy Grand Master said that since they last met within those walls a sad and dire event had occurred. A blow had fallen, and Masonry was deprived of its head. One who for over sixty years had been their guide and leading star had fallen—had gone to his last account. Far be it from him in an assembly of Masons to utter any eulogy on the memory of their Grand Master. The memory of Augustus Frederick, Duke of Leinster, would ever live to be hallowed and revered among Masons. In that hall there were many tokens of his kindness and liberality. His memory will always be fresh, and it was a satisfaction to them that for sixty-one years he had been each year elected head of the Order, showing that he had the interests of Masonry at heart. His interest in Masonic charities had also been deeply and warmly appreciated by his brother Masons. A very important and solemn duty now devolved upon them—of electing a successor to the late Grand Master. He felt that it would be impossible to replace him who had gone. They could only hope that whoever they elected would show the same interest that their late Grand Master did in the Order. At the present time it was especially of importance that they should get some person of high social position and influence to be at the head of affairs. Masonry had within a short time suffered severely by death. In Scotland they have been deprived of their Grand Master; the same calamity had befallen the Masons of Ireland. In England the Grand Master had thought fit to sever the connection between him and the craft over which he presided for many years. The motives which actuated that nobleman in the step he took, far be it from him—far be it from any of them—to question or to take into consideration. He could only say he regretted that the Grand Master of England felt himself constrained to sever the connection between himself and the brotherhood, the more especially as it afforded the enemies of the Order an opportunity to assail it either through ignorance or suppression of their knowledge of its principles. The fact