

Miscellaneous.

Below we give the decisions made by this body at its recent session held in this city, on questions submitted. The next annual session will be held at The Dalles in May, 1873.

Question No. 1.—Is it necessary to have it appear in the minutes of a Subordinate Lodge that the Local Agent has received a communication from the Actuary of the Mutual Life Association?

Answer.—No.

Question 2.—Have Subordinate Lodges the right to appropriate their funds (collected by tax) for charitable objects outside the Order?

Answer.—All funds in the treasury are liable to warrant for any purposes recognized by the laws of the Order, and these purposes have been decided to be to meet the claims of its sick and distressed members, to care for them properly during their illness, to bury the dead, to assist the widow, and to educate the orphan. This Grand Lodge has held that a Lodge has a right to appropriate Lodge funds for charitable purposes outside of the Order, but recommended that a careful discrimination be exercised in such appropriations. This Grand Lodge has further held that a Lodge has not a right to levy a tax (an assessment) on its members for charitable purposes outside the Order. As the question is worded, it does not cover the case of a tax on members for charitable purposes outside the Order. In the case contemplated by the question, the money would be a part of the general fund in the treasury, and the Lodge has the right to make such appropriations.

Question 3.—Let. When the committee on investigation report to the Lodge, and prefer a charge or charges against a brother, should such charge or charges, or any part thereof, be placed upon the records of the Lodge before it is referred to the committee of five to try the case?—2d. Is it necessary that a committee regularly appointed by the Lodge, be referred to the Finance Committee, when such committee submit their report and bills to the Lodge?

Answer.—1st. The charges preferred by the committee should be placed in full upon the minutes.—2d. The by-laws provide that all bills shall be referred to the Finance Committee. Where the by-laws are imperative, the bills must be referred to the Finance Committee.

Question 4.—How long residence does it require for a single or married person to be eligible for membership by initiation?

Answer.—See Digest G. L. U. S., p. 102, sec. 1715.

Question 5.—Does a N. G. violate any established law of the Order when he requests in open Lodge that the officers meet on Sunday for rehearsing the work, preparatory to an initiation?

Answer.—No established law would be violated by such request.

Question 6.—When a complaint against a member is handed to the N. G. during recess of meetings, does the N. G. confer that complaint to the committee of three, or is it his duty to wait until the night of meeting to appoint the committee in open Lodge?

Answer.—The N. G. should announce in open Lodge that he has been placed in his hands, and forthwith appoint a committee of three, to whom the complaint must be referred, concealing the name of the informant. The jurisdiction of the N. G. does not extend outside and beyond Lodge meetings, except the law specially direct.

Question 7.—When a committee on charges reports a member guilty of contempt, has the N. G. the right to declare such a brother expelled, without the adoption of such report of the committee by the Lodge? If he cannot, how is the vote on the adoption of the report taken—by ballot or otherwise?

Answer.—The report must be first adopted by the Lodge, and by ball ballot. If found guilty under Sec. 9, Art. 7, Constitution, the N. G. should declare him expelled without further proceedings.

Question 8.—Has the N. G. the right to refuse a visitor admittance into a Lodge who has a traveling card in date and the A. T. P. W., also the P. W. of the 5th degree, but has no other sign or word belonging to the Order?

Answer.—A visitor must prove himself in "the work" to the satisfaction of the examining committee. If the visitor is reported as falling short in this respect, he should be refused admittance by the Lodge.

Question 9.—Is it necessary for a Lodge, intending to give a ball to the use of one party only, to give a written pledge to the M. W. G. M. to abstain from using any intoxicating drinks on that occasion, the M. W. G. M. having previously issued a general proclamation to all Lodges to celebrate the day in any manner they may see proper?

Answer.—At any celebration or ball, given in the name of the Order, a written or verbal promise is required from the officers, in accordance with sec. 75, p. 19, Dig. G. L. U. S. The committee doubt the propriety, if a pledge ever been given for a Grand Master to issue a dispensation "to celebrate in any manner members may see proper."

Question 10.—Is a P. V. G. who is elected to fill a vacancy as N. G., he serving a minority of nights of the term, entitled to the P. O. degree of that office, his predecessor, who was a P. G., having served the majority of nights?

Answer.—If the N. G. resigns any time during the term, the brother elected, and who serves the remainder of the term, is entitled to the honors and P. O. degree of N. G. (See Dig., sec. 1091, p. 301; also, sec. 1554, p. 308).

Question 11.—Has the investigating committee, appointed for the purpose of investigating an application for membership, either by card or dispensation certificate, the right to examine the applicant as to his knowledge of Odd Fellowship?

Answer.—The duty of the investigating committee is confined to investigating the applicant's character and his fitness for membership. It is the duty of the examining committee to examine him as to his knowledge of "the work" and, if satisfactory, to introduce him to the Lodge.

Question 12.—Are there any law requiring the W. G. M. to ballot for candidates, to pass the ballot-box to the V. G. and Sec., or is it a mere act of courtesy on his part?

Answer.—The ballot-box, during a ballot, should remain in full view of the N. G. For the purpose of permitting the O. G. to vote (or the warden to do so), the W. G. may pass the ballot-box to the inner door for that purpose. It should not be passed to any other officer after leaving the N. G.'s chair.

Question 13.—A brother applies for membership by deposit of card and is elected, but upon examination the committee find him without the A. T. P. W., or any order for the same, can the N. G. order the Sec. to enter him admitted as an A. O. F.?

Answer.—No. In such case, the brother should abandon his application for membership by card, and petition to be admitted as an A. O. F.

Question 14.—Can a Lodge discriminate in the admission of members by donating to any one the whole or any part of the initiation fee? And is it right for a Lodge to donate sufficient from the treasury to pay a brother's dues, except in case of sickness or misfortune, by which he may be unable to make payment?

Answer.—Both questions are answered in the negative.

Question 15.—Has a N. G. the right to rule the motion out of order, where there is a motion made to excuse a brother for non-attendance at a funeral?

Answer.—The N. G. would be in error in ruling out of order a motion to excuse a brother for non-attendance at the funeral of a member, unless such motion was in violation of a By-Law of the Lodge.

Question 16.—Is it proper for a subordinate Lodge when opened in the initiatory degree, to request a dispensation to confer the degree in less time than prescribed by law, or must such application for a dispensation proceed from the Lodge when opened in the particular degree applied for?

Answer.—The request must be made and voted upon in the initiatory degree. When opened as a Degree Lodge the application cannot be made. (See Digest, Sec. 47, page 102.)

Question 17.—Is it the duty of the N. G. of a subordinate Lodge to ballot for degrees on the same evening of application for the same?

Answer.—The balloting must be on the evening on which the application is made. (Digest, sec.

470, page 102). A ballot held at any other time is void. In this connection see recommendation that the answer given by this Grand Lodge, to Question No. 24, Session 1870, page 928 of the Journal, be reversed.

Question 18.—Can a brother withdraw from a Lodge for the purpose of forming a new Lodge, and after having formed said new Lodge in good working order in all respects, can he then rejoin his former Lodge by paying the regular dues of said Lodge, or must he pay the same as one admitted by card?

Answer.—We know of but one mode by which a brother can gain membership in a Lodge by deposit of card, viz.: By petition and payment of the usual fee.

Question 19.—When a person applied for membership in a Lodge other than that nearest his place of residence, should the permission of the Lodge nearest his residence accompany his petition.

Answer.—Yes.

Question 20.—What construction is to be put on Section 631 of the Digest, Grand Lodge U. S., by Subordinates, which reads as follows: "All refreshments in the way of edibles or beverages (except water) shall be strictly excluded from all Lodge rooms or halls connected with or adjoining thereto, under the control of any Subordinate or Degree Lodge or Encampment of the order?"

Answer.—We understand this law to exclude all edibles or beverages (except water) from Lodge rooms, etc., either before, during, or after Lodge meetings.

Question 21.—Can a visiting card be used to gain admittance to a Subordinate Lodge in the jurisdiction where the same is issued, when the brother holding the card is not in possession of the term password.

Answer.—Yes. (See Digest, page 56, last clause of Sec. 258, in reference to one of A. T. P. W.)

Patent Office Reports.

We are indebted to Mr. Savage, Janitor of the State Department, for a copy of the joint resolution of Congress, passed Jan. 11, 1871, providing for publishing specifications and drawings of Patent Office Reports. The resolution provides: "That the publication of the abstracts of specifications and of the engravings heretofore accompanying the annual report of the Commissioner, be discontinued after the publication of that portion of the report for 1869, for which the plates have already been prepared, and that, in lieu thereof, the Commissioner be authorized to have printed for gratuitous distribution, not to exceed one hundred and fifty copies of the complete specifications and drawings of each patent subsequently issued, together with suitable indexes, to be issued from time to time, one copy to be placed for free public inspection in each capital of every State and Territory, one for the like purpose in the clerk's office of the district court of each judicial district of the United States, except when such offices are located in State or Territorial capitals, and one in the library of Congress, which copies shall be taken and received in all courts as evidence of all matters therein contained, and shall be certified to under the hand of the Commissioner and seal of the Patent Office, and shall be taken and received in all courts as evidence. Said copies not to be taken from said depositories for any other purpose than to be used as evidence."

THE COVE.—A correspondent of the La Grande Sentinel gives the following description of the "The Cove," in Union county:

To our right are steep and rugged mountains, which rear their heads and gently kiss the morning vapor; their sides are covered with forests of pine, fir and tamarack, and also decked with snow, which melting, descends and waters as fair a garden as man could wish to cultivate. In front of us is that fair garden, interlaced with streams of water, which first come leaping down the steep mountain sides from their everlasting fountain-heads, and then moving slowly onward to the valley, waters that rich and fertile garden of Eastern Oregon called the Cove—situated in the eastern part of Grand Ronde Valley.

The soil is rich and mellow and most of it under cultivation; fine farms extend far up the mountain sides. Timber is convenient and the farmers are making the best of this time of the year while grain is up and growing, in getting rails to make their fences secure and also to fence more land.

The farmers, as a class, are industrious and thrifty. They are courteous to all, and seem to be progressing finely, and they are certainly happy and contented as they should be in a country so well favored by nature.

Young men are mistaken when they think good looks the principal recommendation to women. A woman admires a handsome man for a time, but it needs something more than a good-looking face to retain this feeling. A woman is, as a general rule, more strongly drawn by the intellectual qualities of the opposite sex than by anything else. What is above said is also true of the gentler sex.

In Cashmere, one hundred thousand persons are employed in the shawl manufacture. The weavers are all men; most of the spinners are women. A female spinner earns about seventy-five cents a month. The weaving of a shawl of ordinary pattern occupies three weavers for three months; the most elaborate and costly, from twelve to fifteen months.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. An Interesting Souvenir.

The Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph prints the following: An interesting and valuable manuscript of President Lincoln's is in the possession of Mr. Jesse Fell, of Normal. The circumstances under which it was written were these:—

It was suggested to Mr. Lincoln in the latter part of 1850, by Mr. Fell and others, that he might become an available Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1860, but it was a long while before Lincoln would believe that he could come prominently before the convention, inasmuch as Seward, Cameron, Banks, and others, who had been prominent party leaders, were all mentioned in connection with the office.

Mr. Fell wished to present Lincoln's name in Pennsylvania in the event of Cameron's withdrawal, and requested Mr. Lincoln to write a brief sketch of who he was, so that an accurate statement of his points as a candidate might be placed before the people of that State. It was not until after repeated solicitations that Lincoln responded to the request, and when he did, in December, 1860, he sent to Mr. Fell the manuscript referred to, which is a brief statement of his ancestry and his early life, and a characteristic description of his personal appearance.

Mr. Fell sent the document to Hon. Joseph J. Lewis, of Pennsylvania, late Commissioner of Internal Revenue, who, from it, prepared a sketch of Mr. Lincoln's life and public services, and his strong points as a candidate for President. The article thus prepared appeared originally, we believe, in the North American, of Philadelphia, in January, 1860, and was the most accurate and comprehensive paper on the subject that appeared. It was immediately copied into all the leading journals of Pennsylvania and other eastern States; and, indeed, the Illinois press either generally copied it or obtained their leading facts and arguments from it.

The manuscript has been in Mr. Lewis' possession until recently, when he returned it to Mr. Fell. Of course, it was never imagined by the writer that the paper would ever either be published or be seen by any person except Mr. Fell. It was evidently written off-hand, as it has frequent interlineations and erasures. The language is, therefore, his own natural expressions, such as he would use to a friend in private conversation. For instance, he says his parents "were both born in Virginia of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps, I should say."

Further on, he says that his father moved to what is now Spencer county, Indiana, in Lincoln's eighth year, where he grew up. "There were some schools, so called; but no qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond reading, writing, and ciphering to the Rule of Three. If a straggler, supposed to understand Latin, happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard."

He goes on to say that he was raised to farm work, which he continued until he was twenty-two.—His last year in Illinois he spent in Macon county; then he was at New Salem (now in Menard county) "as a sort of a clerk in a store." He then refers to the Black Hawk war, and to his election to the Legislature and to Congress, winding up with the following sentence: "If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said—I am, in height, six feet four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average 180 pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes; no other marks or brands recollected."

The manuscript has been neatly framed, and is one of the most valuable souvenirs of Mr. Lincoln in existence.

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.—The Postmaster General, Mr. Cresswell, has directed the new regulation on newspapers sent by mail to be strictly enforced. No name or memorandum can be made on a newspaper inside of the wrapper on which the address is written. It is barely permissible to mark an article with pen or pencil. More than this subjects the paper to letter postage, and the violator of this law to a fine. No printed card, handbill, or advertisement, no written notice, slip of any kind whatsoever must be folded in the paper. To do any of these things is to violate the law. Printed slips pasted on the outside, or folded in papers or periodicals, soliciting notices, are also violations of the law.—Senders of transient papers can send bundles of printed matter by weight or transient postage charges, but must not send any written matter in such bundles.

Incident in the Life of Prof. Morse.

Speaking of Prof. Morse, Col. Strother, the famous "Porte Crayon," said in Washington, the other day, "I engaged to become Morse's pupil, and subsequently went to New York and found him in a room in University Place. He had three other pupils, and I soon found that our professor had very little patronage. I paid my fifty dollars; that settled for one quarter's instruction. Morse was a faithful teacher, and took much interest in our progress—more, indeed, than we did ourselves. But he was very poor. I remember that when my second quarter's pay was due, my remittance from home did not come as expected, and one day the professor came in, and said courteously:—

"Well, Strother, my boy, how are we off for money?"

"Why, Professor," I answered, "I am sorry to say I have been disappointed; but I expect a remittance next week."

"Next week!" he repeated sadly; "I shall be dead by that time."

"Dead, sir?"

"Yes, dead by starvation."

I was distressed and astonished. I said, hurriedly, "Would ten dollars be of any service?"

"Ten dollars would save my life; that is all it would do."

I paid the money, all that I had, and we dined together. It was a modest meal, but good, and after he had finished he said: "This is my first meal for twenty-four hours. Strother, don't be an artist. It means beggary. Your life depends upon people who know nothing of your art, and care nothing for you. A house-dog lives better; and the very sensitiveness that stimulates him to work keeps him alive to suffering."

I remained with Professor Morse three years, and then we separated. Some years afterward I met him on Broadway, one day. He was about the same as before, a trifle older, and somewhat ruddier. I asked him how he was getting along with his painting, and he told me that he had abandoned it; that he had something better he believed; and told me about his proposed telegraph. I accompanied him to his room, and there found several miles of wire twisted about, and the battery, which he explained to me. His pictures, finished and unfinished, were lying about covered with dust. Shortly afterward, Congress made an appropriation, and Morse was on the high road to wealth and immortality."

PARIS, May 24.—M. Paule publishes a letter from Napoleon, dated Chislehurst, May 12th, addressed to the Generals commanding the army of France, in which he says: "I am responsible for Sedan. The army fought heroically, with even double its strength, after 14,000 had been killed and wounded. I saw that the contest was merely one of desperation. The army's honor having been saved, I exercised my sovereign right and unfurled the flag of truce. It was impossible that an army of 60,000 men could save France. I witnessed the cruel, inexorable necessity. My heart was broken, but my conscience is tranquil."

Pierre Boon and his band, who were convicted of participating in some of the most outrageous acts of the Commune, were executed this morning at Satory. They exhibited no emotion whatever, and died crying "Vive la Commune!"

How A CAMEL GOES THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE.—The passage from the New Testament, "It is easier for a camel," etc., has perplexed many good men who have read literally. In oriental cities there are in the large gates small and very low apertures, called metaphorically "needles' eyes," just as we talk of windows on shipboard as "bull's eyes." These entrances are too narrow for a camel to pass through them in the ordinary manner, even if unloaded. When a loaded camel has to pass through one of the entrances, it kneels down, its load is removed, and then it shuffles through on its knees. "Yesterday," writes Lady Duff Gordon, from Cairo, "I saw a camel go through the eye of a needle—that is, the low-arched door of an enclosure. He must kneel and bow his head, to creep through; and thus the rich man must humble himself."

Let woman wash her hands of all participation in the customs of social drinking, and let her wear the frown of absolute refusal to enter life's partnership with him who cannot second her example, and she will have accomplished a reform mightier than ever followed the scourgings of pen or platform, or weapons of war.

Miss Virginia Vaughn, in her lecture on "The Poetry of the Future," announces that "the grand epic of the coming poet will throb with the pulses of the cosmos."

DOMESTIC NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

CHICAGO, May 31.—Crop reports from various parts of Illinois and Iowa show that the season is backward. The wheat crop in most localities is much lighter than usual.

NEW YORK, May 31.—James Gordon Bennett died at 7:25 p. m. His sons and daughters are expected to arrive home from Europe next Saturday.

WASHINGTON, June 1.—A special says if the opinions of Senators are to be believed and their sources of information worth anything, the Washington Treaty is dead. Senators now talk about the Treaty as a thing of the past, and only discuss the effect of its failure. However, the State Department has hope and bases its belief upon the slender thread that in the cable transmission of the protocol there were mistakes made which will be remedied when the official transcript forwarded by mail shall have arrived.

The President has appointed George Nourse Register and George Conner Receiver of the Land Office at Linville, Oregon.

The public debt statement shows a decrease during the month of \$42,226,000; coin balance in Treasury, \$91,168,341; currency balance, \$11,267,812.

An account of the freshest in South-west Missouri says whole farms in the valley of Spring River, Centre Creek and other streams washed away everything, leaving nothing but rock and gravel. Live stock of all kinds was drowned. Over one hundred yards of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad track was swept away from its bed into the adjoining fields. There is a fall of water five feet high rolling down Spring River valley, leaving devastation and ruin behind.

A HINT FOR SETTLERS.—Eighty acres is all that can now be held under the homestead act on the seven sections within thirty miles of the railroad line, the odd sections being railroad land, except such as are already secured by pre-emption. A pre-emption claim is only good to the original settler, until complete, or if conveyed to others, must run the regular time without counting the original settler's time in such purchase of an incomplete pre-emption right. One hundred and sixty acres, however, can be pre-empted on government land within the railroad line, by paying \$2.50 an acre.

The latest candidate for the civic crown among women, is Mrs. Abbie Clifford, of Stockton, Maine. She was the wife of the Captain of a brig fittingly called by her own name. This vessel sailed from Pernambuco on the 27th of March, with a cargo of sugar for the port of New York. When a few days out, the yellow fever attacked the crew, and in a short time both the captain and first mate were victims of the disease. The command of the vessel now fell on the second mate, who was a mere boy, and possessed little knowledge of navigation. So many of the crew were sick that there were hardly enough to man the sails. A storm came on and there was danger that the vessel would be lost. Under such circumstances this heroic woman rose from a sick bed, and assumed command of the vessel. For weeks she navigated the vessel, doctored and nursed the sick crew, and on Sunday last the brig anchored off Staten Island, in good condition. Let this woman have a place in our heart and history. Mrs. Clifford had made frequent voyages with her husband, and had learned the science of navigation.

The United States Senate, Saturday, passed a resolution, directing the Committee on Privileges and Elections to make a thorough investigation into the election of Senator Pomeroy in 1867, and of Senator Caldwell in 1871, with authority to send for persons and papers, to administer oaths, and to sit in Washington or elsewhere during the recess of Congress.

A YOUNG POSITIVIST.—Parson.—What is a miracle?

Boy.—"Dunno."

Parson.—"Well, if the sun were to shine in the middle of the night, what should you say it was?"

Boy.—"The moon."

Parson.—"But if you were told it was the sun, what should you say it was?"

Boy.—"A lie."

Parson.—"I don't tell lies; suppose I told you it was the sun; what would you say then?"

Boy.—"That yer wasn't sober!"

Calico, the well known cotton cloth, is named from Calicut, a city in India, from whence it first came. Calico was not known in England at all until as late as the year 1731.