

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

Mason City, Iowa.

July 13, A.L. 5943, A.D., 1943.

Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. (P.H.A.)

For the State of Iowa and Jurisdiction.

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, wardens, officers and members of this Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge here assembled in its 56th Annual Grand Communication:

To stand before you on this occasion is without a doubt one of the greatest and happiest moments in my life. Before reviewing and laying the work of the past year before you, <sup>I would like to ask</sup> ~~I would like to ask~~ refresh our minds on the source from which we came.

Nation after nation has risen from a poor and obscure beginning to such strength and power that they could and did strut and lord it over the earth. Kingdom after kingdom has come from little tribes or colonies and grown to such strength that by the sheer strong arm of power they ruled with unlimited sway giving and making laws to govern mankind, but where are they now? Each in their turn waxed exceedingly strong and was proud of its power and influence upon the earth; yet each in its turn has been brought low and compelled to kiss the dust at the feet of those whom they once held in contempt. How true it is and so clearly put in the divine law, "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted, but he that exalteth himself shall be abased." Surely almighty God designed this law for universal application or else would he have suffered his

chosen people to be trampled about? They once were a mighty and wealthy people. As a nation acquires wealth, its love for power and domination increases, and with power and exalted pride. <sup>no</sup> nation that has become great in the eyes of man ever has or ever will continue in such state unless it remembers constantly that its greatness is derived from that great power on high. The heavens proclaim the glory of God and <sup>the</sup> angels adore and know Him to be the source of all power. When nations become powerful and great they attribute it to their own superior wisdom and cunningness. Crazed with vain pride and conceit, they set about to wage wars on other nations and desecrate the sacred laws of human liberty and rights.

History tells us that in the wake of nation after nation and kingdom after kingdom, on their ascending to power established many institutions--both public and private--many of which were supposed to have been the ultimate in their field, but their dazzling splendor and beauty were only temporal and have faded away, some never to be remembered by man. Is it not, therefore, exceedingly remarkable that Free Masonry alone has withstood the ravages of time and all kinds and manners of opposition from the learned, the ignorant barbaric force, devastating wars and superstition? This institution alone has triumphed over all this and stands today <sup>a</sup> the monument to its own glory. Why, then, has almighty God so placed this institution over all others? Is it not because He had a hand in its founding? Masonry has never been or sought to be the law making power in any state, therefore has claimed or received but few favors from kings or rulers. Masonry has never had or sought to have any ec-

clesiastical power to perpetuate its being by religious dogmas or favoritisms; yet this grand old order still stands. Is it because it is too insignificant to attract attention? We know it has been hated, tracked down and persecuted in a manner that would do credit to fiends or mad men. It cannot be a cunningly devised program conceived of and perpetuated by the prince of darkness, for we have admitted and laid open all our work to many an old tried and true soldier of the cross who had taken the oath to wage a never ending war against Satan and his subjects.

At the time of the building of King Solomon's temple, we will recall that paganism and worship of false gods was at one of its highest ebbs. Even the Jews whom God had not only named custodians of true religion and worship, but had rescued and delivered from so many plights, had failed to remain true to their first love; however, their knowing more about the true religion than any other peoples is thus supposed to be the reason for the erection of the temple at Jerusalem and to furnish a resting place for the Ark of the Covenant. On close study we find that God must have had many other reasons for its erection; for believing God to be a merciful God, we know him to have in all ages sought by various means to bring men unto knowledge of Him and His saving grace.

At the time of the reign of King David true worship was only here and there to be found and was generally overshadowed by earthly decrees to build their own vanity, if not tracked down and suppressed by the local superstition of the age, for every nation had a religion peculiar to itself. Men were worshipping false gods and idols.

Secret societies being religious in form and intent were <sup>where</sup> every<sub>1</sub>to be found and all men sought to enter them, for the curse of the Gods was supposed to be upon all who failed or neglected to gain admission. Then as now heathens as well as christians believed religion to be to the well being and happiness of man on earth and to all felicitations in death. Some historians claim that it was during these times that God in His infinite wisdom determined to send His son into the world.

King David, being in his last years, sought to erect the house which he knew God desired to have built. Since the temple was to typify the kingdom and reign of our Savior, David was not permitted to do so because he had been a man of wars and his hands were bloody, but God being a merciful God, did write David's name in the lamb book of life and gave David promise that the temple would be built by his son. We find also that the great wealth which he had amassed by his wicked deeds was expended on the temple. On ascending to the throne, Soloman prayed for great wisdom to govern his people. Not only did God make him to be the wisest man to ever live, but also granted him great riches that he might fully accomplish the work set before him.

During this period the kindest feelings did not exist between the Jews and Tyrians. Their religion was different; their interests were different and they had indulged in a long period of national hatred; and yet, Soloman called on the king of Tyre, a worshipper of idols, to assist him in building the temple. Not only was the king

of Tyre willing but anxious to help build and dedicate the temple to the one and only true God. Because of the hatred between the two kingdoms there were but few intermarriages--probably only one--between the citizens of those states at that time. From the one intermarriage of a man of Tyre and a woman of the tribe of Naphtali, we were given Hiram Abiff. As a youth Hiram attracted the attention of the father of the king of Tyre, who took charge of and educated him. Thus as Soloman was laying his plans for the temple, this young man was acquiring the reputation of being the most cunning and expert workman in the world. The Bible does not make it entirely clear why Hiram, king of Tyre, sent Hiram Abiff to Soloman whom he knew to be a rival king and of a hated nation, for Hiram Abiff was to do ~~so~~ much to add to Soloman's fame. It is to be believed then by us from the records recorded in the Great Light of Truth that Masonry is of divine origin, instituted not to teach any religious creed but to prepare men's minds to receive the knowledge of the one and only God and true worship. Men from all <sup>nation</sup> ~~ages~~ visited Jerusalem to see the temple and learn of the wisdom of Soloman.

No other man was probably so universally loved by the craft at that time as the widow's son. His mother being of the tribe of Naphtali, worshipper of the true God, and his father of the land of Tyre, worshipper of idols, each side claimed equal rights to his favors and each side delighted to call upon him to settle matters of differences between them, as we had both the heathen and the enlightened working on the temple.

It is to be remembered that in those days secret societies all being of religious intent flourished quite extensively, but here we have King Soloman bringing together both the enlightened and the ignorant to erect the temple in honor of the one and only true God. It is to be seen then that Soloman through the wisdom of God, was able to eradicate from the minds of the ignorant all blindness and superstitions and accept instead knowledge of the true God thereby becoming eligible to be received into the secret society which we term Free Masonry. We know one of the great rewards Soloman intended to give the faithful workmen on the temple besides knowledge in architecture and geometry--the great knowledge that there was but one God.

Thousands there are who have knocked at the door of the lodge either because of curiosity or the expectation of amusement, whose minds became so solemnly impressed by the holy truths inculcated in Masonry that they have gone away resolved to be better men.

As for your humble servant, <sup>most</sup> ~~right~~ Worshipful ~~High~~ Grand Master, hypocrite that I <sup>may be</sup> ~~am~~, the desire for more light in Masonry prompted me to purchase my first personal copy of the Great Light of Truth, and if it does no more for me in a personal sense, I believe it to have accomplished its purpose in regard to me. Free Masonry has been hated by many in times past as of today--by rulers and others in authority--but there have always been a few who have carried on, for to them to renounce Masonry is cowardly and puts them in the same class as christians who renounce their God because of persecution and yes, my friends, through the ages Free Masonry has been shedding its small but heaven-

born light upon men's benighted pathway.

Our group may be smaller today than of a few years back, but I believe we will continue to be as long as God has need to win men's minds from <sup>error</sup> ~~error~~ and the great end has been accomplished, when "Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ," for Masonry tends to lead the worldly mind in paths they know not of. It induces many to read the Bible who might not otherwise do so and to attend divine worship and prayer. Masonry persuades all men to be good and true ~~and~~ to obey the moral law. Who can deny that he who so does has made one step toward obedience to the higher and holier teachings as recorded in the book of life?

8

NECROLOGY

No doubt the saddest feature connected with the ceremonies, reports of business of such a gathering as this is that of recalling and listing the names of those brethren who have crossed to the land beyond during the past year. I do not believe there is and there should not be a custom or tradition any more faithfully adhered to than that of paying love and tribute of respect to the memory of those members of our craft in this Jurisdiction and of our sister Jurisdictions who have finished their earthly course and have gone to that undiscoverable country from whose bourne no traveler ~~ever~~ returns. Sadly we watch by their bedsides in vain search of that something so necessary to keep them with us. Heartbroken we have stood by their open graves still vainly trying to call them back from the land of the dead, but our cries have gone unanswered.

*but I have often believed the mercy of God has  
 have hopes of meeting you here again  
 so early to part no more*

While on this saddest but sacred subject of our dead, word has recently come to me that the grave of Past Grand Master, Alexander Clark, Sr., located in Muscatine, Iowa is in a deplorable state owing to the lack of attention. Have we so soon forgotten this great pioneer and Mason to whom all credit must be given for introducing Prince Hall Masonry in Iowa? I regret that I have not had the occasion to personally visit this grave, but I am told that it holds a very prominent place in the cemetery. I am, therefore, recommending that this Grand Lodge give Pearl City Lodge No. 39 the sum of \$5.00 to be expended on improving the appearance of our beloved Past Grand Master's last resting place.

I am also sorry that owing to the condition of our treasury I cannot recommend a small yearly donation or token of remembrance to

to be given

9

1 the widows of all of our Past Grand Masters. However, I believe it would be both fitting and appropriate to send them a little note of remembrance during each of our Grand Sessions. For they too in their position, did contribute much to our welfare. No doubt at this time of the year and perhaps this very minute, some of them are thinking of and praying for our success.

One very old Mason should here be mentioned, Brother Robert Alexander Wilburn (No. 2) who passed away Aug. \_\_, 1942. Brother Wilburn was made a Mason over sixty years ago and a charter member of this Grand Lodge. What a long stretch of meetings, what a lengthy stretch of joys and sorrows, never quitting the battle until the evening--like a grim gladiator of old--remembering Masonry and beckoning to his brethren to follow after the light until the end!

For this funeral I convened an occasional Grand Lodge on Aug. 27.

#### GRAND OFFICERS

The brethren chosen to aid me in safeguarding the work and interest of the craft during the recess of this M.W. Grand Body have been true and loyal. They have faithfully and industriously performed their tasks, hard and laborious though they be. It takes a real man to cheerfully and faithfully work at the humdrum tasks of everyday life, especially when far removed from the applaus and

10

cheering of the crowds to urge them on to higher and nobler accomplish-  
ments, <sup>with</sup> their only reward being that personal satisfaction of  
knowing a duty well done. I can sincerely and gratefully recom-  
mend them to you as workmen that needeth not to be ashamed.

#### STATE OF ORDER

The war has thus far only seriously affected one of our sub-  
ordinate lodges, for which we are thankful. There has been some in-  
crease in membership in nearly all lodges despite the hardship and  
inconveniences of the times. Therefore, we sincerely believe that  
there are better things in store for our jurisdiction.

All claims on the Relief Department during the year were promptly  
paid, including two claims of previous years.

‡ Bro. Davis Carter (Defunct No. 18) date of death February 4,  
1940.

‡ Bro. J. W. Martin (No. 17) date of death May 11, 1942.

There is one claim pending as of today ‡ Brother  
John Childs (42) date of death March 11, 1943. This brother left a  
will designating the beneficiary of his entire estate, but failed to  
comply with the provisions of the Code, Chapter 6, Section 40. There-  
fore Section 38 of the same chapter is applicable in this case. Some  
secretaries are not very faithful in sending in the names and addresses  
of the officers of <sup>their</sup> ~~our~~ lodge after the December election. Doubtless  
the W.M. thinks this is done promptly, and fails to make mention of it  
to the secretary. As this information is of vital importance to the  
Grand Master and Grand Secretaries, I would that you Past Masters  
~~would~~ keep reminding your secretaries to take care of this part of  
their work promptly that our new list of subordinate <sup>lodge</sup> officers may be  
completed by the first week in January. In regard to returns, here  
again some have failed to have theirs into the office of the Grand  
Secretary by the prescribed date.

Since the trustees are the custodians of the funds of the Grand Lodge on \_\_\_\_\_, I wrote the Grand Wardens in regard to the purchase of P.G. Masters' aprons, also the purchase of a suitable container for the files of Past Grand Masters. From Brother Martin, R.W.G.T., comes the suggestion that these files be placed in care of some lodge that owns its own hall. I am therefore taking this opportunity to ask Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17 to accept custodianship of these files to be kept under lock and key and accessible to only by authority of the Grand Lodge. As a place that is absolutely fire-proof is preferred, I also hereby recommend that should such a place be established in the future, they should be immediately transferred.

The Trustees Certificate which we hold in the defunct Commercial Savings Bank of Washington, Iowa was not disposed of as requested by the Grand Lodge in our last communication, as I believe we will realize a larger sum or amount by holding it until the trust fund is closed, but we may expect to lose between \$1,100 and \$1,200. I do not think it necessary to go more into detail in this matter, as I believe Brother Brown, P.G.M., will report his actions as to the same.

History Publishing Fund

No doubt the greatest disappointment in my humble effort to serve you the past year has been caused by your failure to get in the spirit of subscribing to this masterpiece of masterpieces in its field. Word has come to me that some of you have openly stated your objections to subscribing for a copy despite the fact that you are given a receipt for your money and the privilege of asking and receiving it back at any time you so choose before we go to press. This money is kept in a separate fund or account in the Grand Lodge and can be used for no other purpose.

Brother Clark spent the spare time of at least twenty years of his life in its compiling, and the material contained dates from the Masonic Convocation at Apple Tree Tavern on June 24 (St. John the Baptist Day) in 1717 down to the day he turned it over to the Grand Lodge in 1929 and since that time Brother Brown, P.G.M., has faithfully kept it up to date.

During the year I have placed receipt books in the hands of 14 representative brethren: Bros. Chas. Morris, (42) John Harvey, (4), L. J. Henry (19), Paul Goodloe (30), S. J. Brown (30), N. F. Gray (2), William Martin, Jr. (2), W. W. Gross (1), A. C. Anderson (43), Cecil Rideout (3), Horace Spencer (34), W. A. Givens (32), Mansfield Askew, (14), Rev. Parks (17), any one of whom would gladly take your subscription. If I or someone else, had the time and authority, no doubt much could be done in persuading our mother jurisdiction, Missouri, to help us get this valuable piece of work published, since it contains so much of her history; for as you know, the sixth lodge on the Missouri Register was an Iowa lodge.

12

*M.W.* *M.D.* 13.

Dr. G. B. Key, the G.M. of Missouri, has himself stated that he and the Jurisdiction of Missouri are watching and waiting for its publication since we kept the records and they did not. One good brother who knows of its value has told me that he would give \$25.00 for a copy. Had you lodges that can afford it subscribed for a copy for each of your widows to be given them as a gift, what a contribution that would have made. I can assure you that had this been the property of some of our sister jurisdictions, they would have had it published long ago. I know of one jurisdiction with assets of *well over a* several hundred thousand dollars and the owners of a modern printing plant that charges their members printing tax for proceedings.

In view of the foregoing statement, think for a moment what could be done if we were to assess each of our members 25¢ per year toward its publication with the provision that one may pay off the entire amount of \$2.00 sooner than due and be free of any further assessment. Were this done, my dear brethren, I think we would have the job done within the next few years. Had I the money--as I have so often said before--I would not be appealing to you in regard to this work, but would personally finance its publication. Brother Clark originally turned over three copies of his manuscript to the Grand Lodge, but one has become lost; and to insure the safe-keeping of at least one of our two remaining copies, I am recommending that the one in the office of G.M. be placed in a safety deposit box until we are able to go to press.

As so many years have passed since we have printed proceedings and the office of Grand Secretary may not be in possession of the records of all actions that have transpired in our Grand Sessions, I believe those years could be somewhat condensed.

Much has been said in recent years about mimeographing this work, but personally I am not in favor of it. First, the Grand Lodge of Iowa (white) the owners of the recognized greatest Mason-

ic library and museum in the world, has favored us with what I believe to be the greatest courtesy afforded any P.H.A. Jurisdiction by a white Jurisdiction in this country by the placing of all our previous proceedings neatly bound in uniform volumes in this great archive of Masonry, and I know all of you are grateful to them for their amity. I have brought with me to this Grand Session a mimeographed proceeding that you may see for yourself that it does not conform favorably with our printed ones either as to size, appearance or durability. Realizing that mimeographing is better to be had than nothing, yet is it not a backward step?

Now, my brethren, over the year I have tried to put you in constant remembrance that our very existence and purpose fits in with the divine economy--that brotherly love, friendship and loyalty are our foundation--to share each other's joys and sorrow within a lodge and between lodges, to be tolerant of each other's faults, to live creditably in your several stations of life, that well managed and well behaved social events have their rewards. It is through social intercourse that we learn to love one another. The dispensing of material relief, <sup>not a spiritual relief</sup> to all mankind, and if need be, seek for opportunities, as charity is the chief of all virtues and demonstrates your love for your fellow man. Lodges without active members, like a harnessed or hidden power, are of little or no value.

14

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER

There's quite a program scheduled  
Are you an active member,  
the kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,  
And mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home,  
and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part,  
to help the work along,  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind that "just belong"?

Do you ever go and visit  
Do you ever go and visit a  
A member who is sick?  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?

There's quite a program scheduled  
Which I'm sure you've heard about,  
And we'll appreciate if you, too,  
Will come and help us out.

So come to the meetings often  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be just a member,  
But take an active part.

Think this over, Brother  
You know right from wrong,  
Are you an active member,  
Or do you "just belong"?

## Visitations

In my visits to the lodges I have sought to impress Masters and secretaries with the importance of managing their Lodges in the best way possible both as to keeping records and creating more interest in the work, and I think that I am safe on saying with some success . I found many of them not only willing but anxious to learn. To tell these brethren what was being done in some of our more progressive lodges to advise and instruct them in regard to their particular cases, was to me far greater than a duty but a pleasure and a privilege which so few of us have had . In my desires to guide my brethren right and put them on the right track again whether it be social or business welfare ---whether it be in regard to law, whether written or unwritten--I have always strived to avoid all appearances of being too cocksure about anything and oftimes sought rather than to give advice . I have tried to listen patiently <sup>and</sup> with open heart to the other brother or brothers' side of all questions. However, I do not think it surprising to find at least a few in a jurisdiction the size of ours who do not feel that they know just about all there is to be known and it is entirely out of the question for them to ever be in error .

There may be virtue in the man  
 Who's always sure He's right,  
 Who'll never hear another's plan  
 And seek for further light ;  
 But I like more the chap who sings  
 A somewhat different song;  
 Who says when he has messed up things;  
 Forgive me, I was wrong .

It's hard for anyone to say  
 That failure's due to him --  
 That he has lost the right of way  
 Because his lights were dim --  
 Oh, it takes a man aside to throw  
 His vanity that's strong  
 Confessing, " It was my fault, I know,  
 Beg pardon, I was wrong ."

On September 3 in Davenport, Iowa, I visited with Hiram Lodge No.19, McNeil Lodge No. 21, Dubuque Lodge No.29, Pearl City Lodge No. 39 in the hall of Hiram Lodge No. 19, in Davenport, Iowa .

This meeting was very well attended by representatives of the various lodges comprising this group meeting . Also present was Dr. H.A. Martin, Grand Treasurer and Past Grand Master of No. 29, Bro. Charles Morris ,R.W. Junior Grand Warden of Tuscan Lodge No. 42, Centerville .Brother Claude DOWNing, Secretary No. 42, and Brpther C.T. CULBERSON.R.W. ,Grand Secretary. I believe this to have been one of the finest meetings I have had the pleasure to attend .Open discussion was held pertaining to all matters of interest in the work. After the meeting Brother Culberson and I enjoyed a nice dinner in the home of Brother Josh Roberts,W.M.

On October 4 in Ottumwa, Iowa. I visited with Tuscan Lodge No.42 and Golden Star Lodge No. 4, in the hall of Golden Star Lodge . At this meeting a group of eight members from Hiram Lodge No. 19 was present . We were royally received by the host lodge, and refreshments were served by them . Very encouraging remarks and a brief sketch of his activities while Grand Master were given by Past Grand Master H.E. Williams, who was present at this meeting. Although we were late in getting started due to a funeral service which was to be held at the same hour as the meeting, we did carry on in high spirits until a very late hour . Junior Grand Warden Brother Charles Morris was also present .

18

On October 18, in Ft. Madison, Iowa, I visited with representatives from Union Lodge No. 1, Sumner Lodge No. 3 and Corinthian Lodge No. 43 . Due to the fact that Corinthian Lodge No. 43 does not have a permanent home or the least quarters, we met in Bethel A.M.E. Church. One Past Grand Master was Present in the person of Brother, W.W, Gross, No.1, this meeting was not as well attended by members from No. 1 and No.3 as I had hoped it would be . However, a very wonderful time was had by all, and after the meeting a delicious chicken dinner was served by the sisters of the O.E. S, which was paid for by the lodge entertaining me . At this meeting we had visitors from Golden Star Lodge No.4 in Ottumwa, Iowa .

M.W.

On January 21 in Mason City, Iowa, I visited Perfect Ashler Lodge No.34.

On the evening of February 20 my wife and I, upon arriving in Mason City by train, were met by Brother and Sister Wiginton, who took us to their home for dinner, after which we proceeded to go to their lodge room where the evening was spent in meeting many of my dear old friends and brothers together with making and forming new ones . This was a public occasion and refreshments were served to all by the lodge.

immediately

After the meeting on the 20th , we then proceeded to return to the home of Brother Wiginton where we spent the night . After the meeting on the 21st , we were again entertained for dinner in the home of Brother and Sister Wiginton. After an hour or so of rest we returned to the hall where a public reception and program had been planned . On that day the weather was extremely cold . I believe it to have been about the coldest day of the year for Mason

18

City. However, I believe it to have been attended by everyone  
having any <sup>P.H.</sup> Masonic affiliation who was located there. Refresh-  
ments were again served by the lodge together with some <sup>very delicious that city is famous for</sup> delicious  
delicious chicken spaghetti which had been prepared by Sister --  
--- Warren.

12

On February 21 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, I visited Twin City  
Lodge No. 32. ON arriving in the city of Council Bluffs I was met  
by Brother William A. Givens who immediately took me to breakfast  
in his home where Sister Givens served me some delicious chicken.  
Due to the fact that this lodge has such a small membership, and  
in order to conserve their funds, they have been holding their  
meetings in the homes of various brothers after they were proper-  
ly prepared for such. Therefore Brother Givens had made all nec-  
essary arrangements to hold this meeting in his home. I found  
the spirit of this lodge exceedingly high despite their small  
membership. After our meeting Brother Givens proceeded to take  
me over to the city of Omaha where he had previously arranged for  
a meeting with Brother P.H. Jenkins, M.W. Grand Master of our Sis-  
ter Jurisdiction of Nebraska, together with a number of other

past and present Grand Lodge officers of that Jurisdiction.

We met in the Masonic Hall in that city for this meeting <sup>and</sup> ~~where~~  
 some pictures were taken by Brother Holliday of <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ Nebraska Juris-  
 diction. After a complete tour of their temple, Brother Grand Master  
 Jenkins took us over to his home where the party was served another  
 very delicious chicken dinner. Sister Jenkins had prepared service  
 for ten. Brother Jenkins is a great Grand Master, full of enthusiasm  
 and is doing marvelous things for the Jurisdiction of Nebraska. It  
 was indeed a pleasure and a privilege to have met such an individual.  
 I shall always remember their kindness.

On April 17 in Waterloo, Iowa I visited St. John's Lodge No. 35.  
 Having previously written <sup>them</sup> ~~at their~~ ~~Lodge No. 35~~ of my intent to ar-  
 rest their charter, <sup>they</sup> the meeting was attended by <sup>every</sup> all active members of  
<sup>the</sup> ~~their~~ lodge. <sup>who</sup> Their membership is small and ~~the~~ treasury ~~is~~ depleted.  
~~Now~~ they are fighting to survive. <sup>and</sup> After carefully examining  
 their books of accounts and records, I decided that it would not add  
 to the good of <sup>P.H.</sup> Masonry in the city of Waterloo to arrest their charter  
 and the Grand Lodge of Iowa under the existing circumstances would not  
 benefit materially, but would possibly lose. <sup>for</sup> ~~them~~, after a heart  
 to heart talk with the various members present, they decided that they  
 would put on a campaign to do something about reviving the interest  
 in <sup>their</sup> ~~St. John's~~ Lodge. ~~No. 35~~. This they have done and I am very happy

to report the same to you. Several years ago St. John's Lodge had a secretary who failing to account for about \$600.00 left them in this embarrassing financial and moral condition, and at the time of my visit they had only twenty dollars in their treasury, yet were willing to pay and did pay my traveling expenses and offered to pay the traveling expenses of Bro. Gibson, R.W.S.G.W. who with Bro. B. G. Tayler, W.M. No. 17 were present at the meeting. Besides being heavily indebted to the Grand Lodge they are far behind in the payment of taxes on their hall. However, they informed me that they were making arrangements to borrow the necessary amount to make a payment on these taxes to keep from losing their building.

~~Word further came to me from one~~ Word further came to me from one of the Sisters representing the Eastern Star Chapter of Waterloo while attending the Grand Chapter in Des Moines that St. John's Lodge is really beginning to work again. I thought this indeed encouraging especially when coming from a Sister. I am also happy to report that since my visit there Bro. William Bell, P.G.C., has organized a Degree Team, and they have since taken in 11 new members and reinstated 10 members. In jest, though from the heart I am adopting St. John's Lodge No. 35 as my own. It has always been a weakness of mine to be ~~and~~ with and pull for the under-dog, and they are certainly fulfilling their pledge to me in reviving St. John's Lodge No. 35

"We 'adn't much regalia,  
 Our lodge was old and bare.  
 But we knew all the ancient landmarks  
 And we kept 'em to a hair."

Sioux City, Iowa I met with Decatur Lodge No. 14.  
 Living in that city I was met by Brother \_\_\_\_\_ Bean, W.M. and Bro.  
 Louis J. Carter, Secretary from No. 14. Bro. Carter took us to his  
 home where Sister Carter had prepared a delicious breakfast for us.  
 After resting a couple of hours, we proceeded to attend church ser-  
 vices at \_\_\_\_\_ Church, of which our dear  
 friend and brother \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter, of the Jurisdiction of Il-  
 linois is pastor. Many of you will recall Brother Hunter by his hav-  
 ing taken us through the Masonic Home of the Grand Lodge of Illinois  
 and Rock Island when our Grand Lodge held its Grand Session in Davenport  
 in 1940.

After the services Bro. Carter proceeded to get in touch with var-  
 ious brothers whom he thought might not have been informed of the meet-  
 ing. Accompanying him gave me an excellent opportunity to view the  
 city. At one point by being in Iowa we could see into South Dakota  
 and Nebraska, which was very interesting.

Financially this lodge is, <sup>about</sup> as well off as the average. <sup>but</sup> The interest in the work is not what it should be. <sup>as</sup> They <sup>have</sup> had been unable to hold their meetings regularly in the past few months. Peace and harmony seem to prevail among all brothers ~~the lodge has~~ ~~all the members~~ Their biggest handicap, I believe, can be laid to the fact that there is in their midst a clandestine lodge which seems to be drawing very heavily on prospective members in that city. However, believing that right will always win over wrong, we can hope that the day will not be too far distant when they will ~~cease to exist~~ and legitimate Masonry will take its rightful place in the ~~city of Sioux City.~~ <sup>that</sup> city.

On June 21 in Marshalltown, Iowa I visited Eureka Lodge No. 20. Having previously written this lodge for a date to visit them without having gained any success on June \_\_\_\_, I noticed by the calendar that they would have only one more stated communication before the sitting of the Grand Lodge; therefore, I wrote them of my intent to visit them on that evening, which I did. However, because of <sup>the</sup> a change of their stated meeting--having been forced to do so by the leasing of their lodge rooms--they had changed the date of their stated meeting <sup>date</sup> from the fourth Tuesday to the fourth Monday. I found this lodge to be in a very good financial standing but not so well off in interest, by the meeting having been poorly attended. Those present were those old standbys and live, awake Masons who are so familiar to all of us in the Grand Lodge. Past Grand Master Suter being of that lodge and a firm and ever booster of the fraternity was present and gave some very encouraging remarks.

On June 26 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa I visited with Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17. Brother H. E. Jacobs (No. 2) accompanied me on this visit.

Thus, during the year I have visited with every lodge or with its representatives in our Jurisdiction, and except on a few occasions found them <sup>all</sup> well officed. It was a most pleasant tour, for everywhere I have <sup>went</sup> gone I was royally received, and my expenses were promptly and cheerfully paid by the lodges <sup>and</sup>. On several occasions I received sums in excess of actual traveling expenses.

24

We found this to be a very wide awake lodge and really going places. On May 8 they started buying a new hall. At this meeting a class of 7 was raised, after which a <sup>such</sup> delicious lunch was served by the candidates. Owing to the large class, it was very late when we finished with the work. However, everyone had an enjoyable evening. Brother H.A. Martin, Grand Treasurer, arrived in the city the morning of the 27th with whom I had the occasion to have a very profitable discussion of the conditions and problems confronting our Grand Jurisdiction. While in Cedar Rapids we were the guests of Brother P.E. Gibson, our Senior Grand Warden. On returning home that evening we stopped in Iowa City and visited with Brother C.T. Culberson, our Grand Secretary, with whom we also had a very profitable discussion of the business affairs of our Jurisdiction.

#### ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

This beautiful order of wives, mothers, sisters and daughters has been presided over the past year by Sister Elizabeth Jones as Grand Matron and Brother B.N. Hyde as Grand Patron. Under Sister Jones the order has made great strides toward coming back into the position they used to hold as to membership and financial conditions. I had the pleasure of meeting Sister Jones during the sessions of the Grand Chapter. She is indeed a marvelous individual, having without a doubt one of the sweetest dispositions of any Grand Matron you should ever expect to meet. I would that each and every one of you were to have that same privilege some day. She is ~~without a doubt~~ <sup>not only a bundle of</sup> one of the biggest boosters of Masonry there is within our Jurisdiction. Were

we to boost the Star as much as she boosts our Blue Lodge, ~~what strides~~ <sup>how far we would go</sup> ~~we could make in the future.~~

What great things for Masonry could be done in this jurisdiction. There are 24 E.S. Chpts. 22 of which are active

25

DISPENSATIONS

During the year the following dispensations have been issued by me.

Sept. 14 To North Star Lodge No. 2, Des Moines, Iowa, Dispensation to confer three degrees in one evening. Fee \$5.00, turned over to Grand Secretary October 19.

Dec. 8 To Summer Lodge No. 3, Burlington, Iowa, Dispensation to elect and install officers out of time. Fee \$0.00.

Dec. 8 To Summer Lodge No. 3, Burlington, Iowa, Dispensation to change date of stated meeting, Fee \$0.00.

Dec. 28 To Union Lodge No. 1, Keokuk, Iowa, Dispensation to install officers out of time, Fee, \$0.00.

Feb. 25 Perfect Ashlar No. 34

To avoid the <sup>delay</sup> ~~waste~~ of time. Returned unused

March 10 Decatur Lodge No. 14

elect and install officers Fee \$0.00

To ~~change date of stated meeting~~

May 14 Decatur Lodge No. 14

To change date of stated meeting in May, Fee, \$0.00.

June 7 To St. John's Lodge No. 35,

Dispensation to elect and install officers out of time. Fee \$0.00

July 5 To Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17

Dispensation to ballot out of time

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July 5 Dispensation to elect and install officers out of time. Fee \$0.00

To Mt. Olive No. 17 Fee \$0.00

Dispensation to ballot out of time

You will note that I did not charge any fee's for dispensations except for the one as stipulated by law

GRIEVANCES

*Grievances*

I really don't quite understand just what is the trouble with this brother. However, briefly, here is the story as I see it. Filed in the Grand Lodge against myself as Grand Master by Bro. A. J. Hicks (14)

1. Has a Grand Master the power or authority to grant a lodge permission or dispensation to use a paper ballot instead of the conventional box, if such box is not available and the lodge desires to ballot on the candidate? My decision was Yes, when requested by a vote of the Lodge, in this case by unanimous vote, and witnessed by the Grand Master himself.

2. Can a Grand Master consent to letting a committee on investigation report their findings on a petitioner for the degrees of Masonry without first waiting upon the petitioner in person? My decision, Yes. It is for the committee to decide what constitutes an investigation of the petitioner involved. If they know him to be a poor prospect, well and good. If they know him to be a good prospect, well and good; and in either of those two cases they could report their findings at any time it is requested by the lodge. If they are dubious of the character of the petitioner, they and they alone have the right to decide on what manner they will investigate. The lodge involved--No. 14--has been having a very hard time. Not only do they have a clandestine lodge in their midst, which from all appearances is prospering, but they did not have their election of officers until the Month of May because of their inability to meet regularly. The petitioner is one of the finest men not only in the State of Iowa but in our country. He is well known no doubt to all of you <sup>in</sup> Cedar Rapids and ~~in~~ Davenport, having been in those cities before being transferred to Sioux City. Bro. Hicks has openly said that he had nothing against the petitioner or myself. If that be the case, why the grievance? However, I think the truth of the matter is that Bro. Hicks does not approve of my being Grand Master solely because of my <sup>age</sup> ~~years~~.



...this order... I do not  
consider it necessary either in the adhering to Masonic ethics or  
business principles for the Grand Secretary of a Jurisdiction like  
ours to deposit funds belonging to the Grand Lodge. Under our  
present procedure the Grand Master of a Jurisdiction is never in  
position to know just how much money we have on hand for any given  
date during the recess of the Grand Lodge. Prior to October 18 I  
*believed* knew the office of the Grand Secretary to have received \$75.00 to  
be credited to the Relief Fund but only \$29.00 was forwarded to  
the Grand Treasurer; also that office had received at least \$114  
to be credited to a General Fund, but only \$77.00 was turned over  
to the Grand Treasurer.

It has been said that it is necessary for the Grand Secretary  
to retain a portion of funds received in his office to secure any  
checks that fail to clear the banks. If that be true I believe  
this situation could be remedied by allowing the Grand Treasurer  
a contingent fund to be deposited in his name as Grand Treasurer  
since it is supposed by some that it takes too long in going  
through our regular procedure to withdraw funds, that these ac-  
counts may be adjusted.

Jan. 25 Wrote Attorneys E. L. Wick and Howard Smith, Cedar  
Rapids, Iowa, % W. L. Denby of intent to pay any benefits due to  
Bethel A.M.E. Church.

27  
OFFICIAL ACTS

- August 2 Made a trip to Iowa City to visit with the Grand  
Secretary.
- July 18 Signed application for Fidelity Bond for Grand Treasurer.
- Aug. 17 Appointed Past Grand Master, W. W. Gross (1) C.C.F.C.  
*re ing*  
to take the place of Past Grand Master F. S. Johnson (1) who found  
that he could not serve.
- Aug. 27 Convened an occasional Grand Lodge in Des Moines, Iowa  
for the funeral of Worshipful Brother R. A. Wilburn, a charter member  
of the Grand Lodge (authority Betts Resolution 1917.)
- Sept. 1 Signed warrant to pay claim <sup>Exp.</sup> % J. W. Martin (17)
- Nov. 7 Telegram of greetings and felicitations from the Juris-  
diction of Iowa to Grand Master Royal W. Bailey, District of Columbia,  
(Testamonal.)
- 7 Closed bank account of the Grand

Nov. 22 Sent letter of greetings and felicitations to the Grand  
Mastery of the forty sister jurisdictions with whom we have fraternal  
relations.

Dec. 4 Sent greetings and felicitations from the M.W. United  
Grand Lodge of Iowa to the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in its  
Seventy-fifth Annual Communication.

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22

MOST WORSHIPFUL UNITED GRAND LODGE OF IOWA A.F. & A.M.

(P.H.A.) OFFICE OF GRAND MASTER

(2)

December 12, A.L. 5942, A.D. 1942

Hon. G. L. Hodge, Jr., M.W. Grand Master,  
590 Charles Avenue,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Most Worshipful Sir and Bro. Grand Master:

I am writing you in behalf of a Mr. Millard Easter, of Albert Lea, Minn. who is desirous of affiliating with the Masonic Fraternity. Since there is a Lodge in Mason City, Iowa, (Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 34, A.F. & A.M. working under a Regular and Unforfeited Charter from the M.W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M., Prince Hall Affiliation) which, I am informed is within forty miles of Albert Lea, Minnesota, and the nearest Lodge to him in your honored Jurisdiction is around ninety miles, it is his desire to petition Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 34 as it is nearest his home.

Therefore, I, Carl M. Mays, Grand Master of Masons in and for the State of Iowa (P.H.A.) do pray your Hon. Sir the M.W. Grand Master of Minnesota to waive your jurisdiction over Mr. Millard Easter, that his petition for the Mysteries of Masonry may be received and accepted in Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 34, A.F. & A.M., Mason City, Iowa.

In Witness Whereof, I have subscribed my name and affixed the private seal of the Grand Master of Masons in Iowa, at Des Moines, Iowa this 12th day of December, A.L. 5942, A.D. 1942.

.....  
Carl M. Mays, Grand Master

P.S. May I expect an early reply, and with all fraternal felicitations, to you and the Jurisdiction of Minnesota, I am,

29

Yours most fraternally,

used for this purpose for a number of years. The Grand Lodge can ill afford to decrease this amount at this time, and I do not feel it is urgent or necessary to increase it at this time. However, I feel that this recommendation will do much to clarify the payment of this Special Tax, as it has been very confusing to a large number of the craft, and it will greatly simplify bookkeeping in both the Grand and subordinate lodge.

Article XIII Section 3

Be amended to read as follows:

In the assessment of annual dues, no distinction shall be made between members on account of age or for other causes except that there shall be no Grand Lodge dues charged against a member while actively engaged with the armed forces of our country.

Under Article XIII, Section 3 you will please note that I have added "except that there shall be no Grand Lodge dues charged against a member while actively engaged with the armed forces of our country."

In this case, my brethren, a plan similar to this has been adopted in most all jurisdictions with which I have communicated. However, under no circumstances are benefits paid in regard to relief because of death. It is almost an impossibility for a brother to remit these dues from the far flung battle fields of the world, and it is almost an imposition to require some of our smaller lodges to pay these dues for their members who are in the armed forces. In many of our sister jurisdictions, members who are in the service are given cards stating such facts and showing them to be in good standing in the fraternity that they may visit lodges of any jurisdiction that <sup>they</sup> may happen to be stationed in.

Chapter IV Section 36(a)

Be amended to read as follows:

The Grand Secretary shall keep an accurate, separate and complete record of all lodges and all moneys paid by them to the Grand Relief and Burial Fund under provisions of Article XIII of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge for the Relief Department of which One Dollar (\$1.00) per quarter shall be paid for each member except those actively engaged with the armed forces of our country.

Thus you will note that under Chapter IV, Section 36 (a) I have added "except those actively engaged with the armed forces of our country." This is to make it in accord with the provision of Article XIII of the constitution of this Grand Lodge. However, I want to make one more recommendation in regard to this--that the lodges on filing their returns to the Grand Secretary will write in names of those members who are in the service, after which state such facts and what branch of the service they are in.

Chapter XIX Section 212

Grand Lodge Dues

Be amended to read as follows: Each chartered lodge in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall collect from its members annual dues, exempting none, and shall pay into the Grand Lodge Treasury, the sum of \$1.00 for each person who is a member of the lodge on July 1, and \$1.00 for each person who is a member of the Lodge on December 1 of each year.

I think this recommendation is self-explanatory.

Chapter XIX Section 214

Grand Lodge Dues And How Paid

Be revised to read as follows: It shall be the duty of the Master of each subordinate lodge on or before June 25 to collect from each member in good standing the sum of Two Dollars together with all other moneys due the Grand Lodge, and forward to the Grand Secretary the amount; and a failure so to do shall be prima facie a neglect of duty, and shall be

41

attended with the same disqualifications and consequences as provided in Section 211 of this Code; and said lodge shall have no voice or vote in the Grand Lodge until said sum is paid.

#### RELIEF DEPARTMENT

This branch of the business of our Grand Lodge somewhat resembles that which in some Jurisdictions is nearly an insurance department. However, for the information of those brethren who might not fully understand, may we say that as a Grand Lodge we do not write or carry any insurance upon the lives of any members of this Jurisdiction. We simply--and in accordance with the rules of the Relief Department, have for a number of years made little donations to the nearest heir of each member who dies in good standing in his local lodge and on all records of our Grand Lodge. All donations, of course, have been made in excess to or supplemental to whatever a subordinate lodge may under its own regulations give to the family of a deceased brother.

Now, my dear brethren, your humble servant has been accused on several occasions of trying or attempting to tear down our Relief Department simply because I have tried to--and I think and hope, somewhat succeeded in--presenting to the craft of our Grand Jurisdiction the true condition and policy of this department. A number of you know that for several years a few members of the craft have, after their way of thinking, been aware of the unsoundness of or the impossibility of our continuing to make donations of these amounts with the funds we have available for this purpose. Now, may I again, in defense of myself state as I have often stated before that I am not for scutteling the ship--to use a little slang, but am whole-heartedly in favor of and in support of any and all recommendations that will patch up the boat and keep it from

42

sinking that it may sail on in an even keel.

In presenting the chart in regard to this department to our subordinate lodges as I visited them, I did not fail to take along the proceedings of our Grand Lodge for the year, tabulated for my own satisfaction and absolute proof of figures shown. Not once have I had any of these figures disputed or contested. Thus the display of the chart, my brethren, was done solely to impress upon the craft of our Jurisdiction the necessity, in my opinion, of creating a more reliable or stable Relief Department; and in order to do this I did not wait until the sitting of our Grand Lodge as I was told to do by some of our more illustrious votaries, but rather have done my best to present these facts to as many M.M. in our Jurisdiction as possible that we may come together at this time with a greater realization and understanding of the problems confronting us, and have more ideas as to how we may go about improving our condition. The synopsis of the situation is that we cannot continually pay out more money than we are due to take in--not to mention the amount which is actually taken in--as we all know it has been less than that which was due.

Now, my dear brethren, I firmly believe that each and every member of our Jurisdiction must share alike all benefits, responsibilities and obligations of our Grand Old Order. Under the law as it now exists, we are somewhat divided. However, to a small extent it may be good that this has happened, for it has been tended to bring the true condition of things to light. I therefore believe that we should and without delay make necessary amendments, alterations or regulations governing this department that it may be more sound and practical. In my bulletin No. 5 to you I made two suggestions simply to give you something to

44

work on. However, at this time I would like to make a recommendation in regard to Article XIII, Section I (c). Realizing that perfection is yet to be obtained in this world, I know that this proposal is not perfected in form, but I do think that it has or there are some small bits of good if carefully studied be obtained from it.

I, therefore recommend that from division (b) of Section 36 strike second paragraph and substitute:

"Upon the death of a M.M. in good and regular standing, satisfactory evidence of the death submitted, the Grand Lodge may donate the sum of \$50.00 to \$200.00 relief money."

Sec.33 Part 2--As this fund is known as the Relief Dept. for the M.W. United Grand Lodge, A. F. & A.M. (P.H.A.) for the State of Iowa. Further, this fund is not and cannot be under Masonic Law and usage a life insurance fund or company or an endowment bureau, and it does not provide for burial benefits. There is no policy issued and no contract of any nature whatsoever between an M.M. and the M.W. United Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. (P.H.A.) of Iowa.

Sec. 33 (a)--All donations shall be made on the last day of each regular annual Grand communication for all the deaths occurring the preceding fiscal year of the Grand Lodge provided satisfactory proof of death has been submitted and proper claimants established as hereinafter provided.

Sec.33(b)--Every M.M. shall donate to the Relief Fund a charitable donation of \$4.00--suggested, but the amount to be fixed by the Grand Lodge per year. The donations are to be paid in quarterly payments of \$1.00 per quarter through his lodge, for each member on its roll the first day of July, October, January and April respectively.

Sec. 34(a)--The moneys thus collected over the period of one year shall be equally divided among the proper claimants whose rights there to have not been impaired as otherwise provided for in this chapter.

Sec. 34(b)--It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the subordinate lodges of this jurisdiction, and they are hereby requested to forward to the Grand Secretary as hereinafter provided on or before the date of their stated meeting in July, October, January and April reports to be made in triplicate form on blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary showing the names of the members for whom it is paid and the amount donated--1 copy to be sent to the Grand Master, 1 to the Grand Secretary with the check or money order for payment and 1 to be retained by the secretary of the lodge, and no money paid into the Grand Relief Fund shall be transferred or loaned to any other department.

Sec. 35. The Grand Lodge does not assume any responsibility where lodges fail, from any cause whatsoever, to remit their contributing to this fund, and where there is such failure of remittance during any fiscal year benefits will be proportionately reduced.

The synopsis of this recommendation is that moneys collected in over the period of one year are to be held by the Grand Lodge and to be equally divided among the proper claimants or beneficiaries on the last day of each Grand Session for the deaths during the preceding year unless their rights thereto have been impaired as provided last year in this Code.

I recommend that a copy of this recommendation be immediately placed in the hands of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

I recommend that each month the Grand Treasurer send the Grand Master the originals or duplicate statements from the bank or banks in which the funds of the Grand Lodge are deposited for review and examination by him.

I recommend that all lodges in remitting to the Grand Lodge are to make all checks, drafts or money orders payable to the U.W. United Grand Lodge.

I recommend that all files of Grand Masters five years or more old be placed in the lodge rooms of one of our subordinate lodges, (No. 17 nominated.)

I recommend that the copy of the Clark History in the office of G.M. be placed in a safe deposit box to insure the safe keeping of at least one of our two remaining copies until we are able to go to press, as this is entirely too valuable a piece of work to be promiscuously tossed around.

I recommend that the salary of \$25.00 for C.C.F.C. be cut to \$10.00. My reason for this is that too few proceedings have been

47

reviewed by our C.C.F.C. the past few years. During the last year only <sup>6</sup>four or five proceedings were received to be reviewed by our C.C.F.C., which represents a cost to the Grand Lodge of between \$4.00 and \$5.00 per copy. Twelve of the 41 (P.H.A.) Jurisdictions have combined the office of C.C.F.C. with that of the Grand Secretary, thus reducing immeasurably the expense, but since it is one of the most interesting positions in Masonry, I believe it should be retained as a separate office in this Jurisdiction.

I hope, Brother Gibson, Brother Taylor and Brother Buckner, that when it shall come our turn--according to the normal course or procedure of life-- that we will not and I pray not frown upon one who has taken the same vows as we simply because of the short period of time he may have been in the world, as some of the ~~the~~ older members of the craft say should be done and are doing today. I have often said to these brothers who are of that mind that it is true we have not had the pleasure to spend as many years in this Grand Old Order, but we love it just as much as they do. I wish it were possible and I had your permission to continue to serve you in some capacity another year, as there are few designs left upon my trestle-board, but believing so many of you oppose not only the methods I have used in conducting this High Iowa office, but I am more subject to the draft for the armed forces now than I was a year ago.

I have noticed when a fellow dies,  
No matter what he's been;  
A saintly man or one whose life  
Was deeply steeped in sin,  
The folks forget the bitter words  
They spoke but yesterday,  
And now they find a multitude of  
Kindly things to say.

I fancy when I'm cold in death,  
A friend may bring to light  
Some kindly deed or loving word  
Long buried out of sight.  
But if it's just the same to you,  
I'd rather have instead;  
The bouquets while I living,  
And the brick bats when I dead.

Now, I would not have this address leave you with a tinge of sadness in your heart; for I have thoroughly enjoyed the work despite all unpleasantness witnessed while traveling down the course. Now, may I say that I have no desire whatsoever to hinder the progress of this Grand Old Jurisdiction. Mine is only to help with heart and hand.

If there be anything accomplished, I am happy, and for all mistakes I am indeed sorry and implore your pardon, for my heart has been in all my efforts. There are Masons who think that the office of Grand Master should be passed around and that I am too young a man for the job and am in need of a few more years of seasoning. They may be altogether right, but in the future as well as in the past, be I your general or a private, where your star leads, I will follow; whether the star be descending toward the moorland, as a hart panteth for the water land, I run; or if your star mounts up to the mountain top, faint and yet pursuing, I climb!