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MONDAY MORNING JULY 25, 1836.

Testimony taken by the Committee appointed by the House of Representatives to investigate the Evils of Free-Masonry.

MR. STEVENS CHAIRMAN.

[☞Our readers are aware, that at the extra session of the Legislature, the Committee appointed to investigate the Evils of Free-Masonry made their Report, accompanied by the Testimony taken before them. The Report we published at the time, and now proceed with the Testimony. The first witness examined was JAMES A. SHEDD, Esq. an intelligent Lawyer of Dayton, Ohio. The *substance* of his testimony has already been given in our columns, on the trial between Messrs. STEVENS and LEFEVER—a report of which, in pamphlet form, can be had at the stores of Messrs. *Fahnestock, Himes* and *Stevenson*, and at this office—we therefore omit Mr. Shedd's testimony, and commence with that of Mr. M'CLELLAND, a very worthy citizen of Pittsburg.]

The Masonic Testimony.

At a preparatory meeting, the following standing interrogatories were adopted by the Committee:

First Interrogatory—Are you, or have you been a Free-Mason; how many degrees have you taken, and by what Lodge or Chapter were you admitted?

Second Interrogatory—Before you take the time of your taking each of those degrees, was an oath or obligation administered to you?

Third Interrogatory—Can you repeat the several oaths or obligations administered to you or any of them? If so, state the oath or obligation you took when you first entered Apprentice's, and repeat them, literally, if possible; if not, substantially. Listen to the oaths and obligations and penalties as read from this book, (Allyn's Ritual,) and say if the obligations you have taken and find in them from the oaths you took. Is there a trading degree?

Fourth Interrogatory—Did you ever know the affirmation administered to a Master Mason? If so, state when and by what Lodge or Chapter.

Fifth Interrogatory—Are there any other oaths or obligations in Masonry than those contained in Allyn's Ritual and Bernard's Exposition of Masonry?

Sixth Interrogatory—Is Masonry essentially the same everywhere?

Seventh Interrogatory—State the ceremony of initiation in the Royal Arch degree; and particularly whether any allusion is made to the Scripture scene of the burning Bush. State fully how that scene is enacted in the Lodge or Chapter.

Eighth Interrogatory—Are you a Knight Templar? If so, state fully the obligation and ordinances of that degree. In that degree, is wine administered to the candidate out of a human scull? State fully the whole scene. Listen to the account of it as read from this book, (Allyn's Ritual,) and point out wherein it varies from the genuine oath or ceremony.

The following Interrogatories were subsequently adopted by the Committee, in addition to the foregoing:

Ninth Interrogatory—Are you a member of the Society of Odd Fellows? If so, when did you join it?

Tenth Interrogatory—Are oaths and obligations administered in the degrees of Odd Fellowship? If so, state all of them with which you are acquainted, fully. Listen to the oaths and obligations and penalties, as read from this book, (A Exposition of Odd Fellowship, by a Past Grand Master,") 1835.) and point out any variation you find in them from the genuine ones administered in regular lodges of Odd Fellows.

Eleventh Interrogatory—State whether the book just read to you contains a correct exposition of Odd Fellowship, as far as you have advanced therein?

Testimony of Joseph M'Clelland.

MONDAY, January 11, 1836.

JOSEPH M'CLELLAND, being sworn, doth depose as follows in answer to the above interrogatories:

In answer to the first interrogatory he says—

I have been initiated into the secrets of Freemasonry. It was about eighteen years ago, in the Lodge of Brown, in Ireland. Lodge No. 269. I have been advanced as far as the Knight Templar's degree.

2d Interrogatory. Immediately before the degree was administered, I took an obligation in the form set down in Allyn's Ritual, I took an oath with my hand on the bible, but did not kiss the book.

3d. Interrogatory. I cannot repeat the oath.

The oath of an Entered Apprentice was then read to witness from Allyn's Ritual, in the following words:

"I ——— of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God, and this worshipful Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, erected to God, and dedicated to the holy St. John, do hereby and hereon most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will always hail, conceal, and never reveal any part or parts, art or arts, point or points of the secret, art and mystery of ancient Freemasonry, which I have received, am about to receive, or may hereafter be instructed in, to any person or persons in the known world, except it be a true and lawful brother or Mason, or with the body of a just and lawfully constituted lodge of such; and not unto him nor unto them whom I shall hear so to be, but unto him and them only whom I shall find so to be, after strict trial and due examination, or lawful information.

Furthermore do I promise and swear, that I will not write, print, stain, mark, cut, carve, indent, paint or engrave it on any thing, movable or immovable, under the whole canopy of heaven, whereby or whereon the whole, or any part or parter, mark, stain, shadow or resemblance of the same may become visible or intelligible to myself or any other person in the known world, whereby the secrets of Masonry may unlawfully be obtained through my unworthiness. To all which I do most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, without the least equivocation, mental reservation or self-evasion of mind in me, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Answer.—It is the same, though there may be a slight variation in the words.

The Fellow Craft's oath was then read to him from the same book, in the following words:—

"I ——— of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and this worshipful Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons, erected to God, and dedicated to the holy St. John, do hereby and hereon, most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, in addition to my former obligation, that I will not give the secrets of this degree to any of the uninitiated, or to any being in the known world, except it be a true and lawful brother Fellow Craft Mason, or within the body of a just and lawfully constituted Lodge of such, and not unto him nor them whom I shall hear so to be, but unto him and them only whom I shall find so to be, after strict trial, due examination or lawful information.

I furthermore promise and swear, that I will not wrong this Lodge, nor a brother of this degree, to the value of one cent, knowingly, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Answer.—It is substantially the same as administered to me, though there may be some trifling variation in the words.

The Master's oath was then read to him from the same book, in the following words:

"I ——— of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God, and this worshipful Lodge of Master Masons, erected to God, and dedicated to the holy St. John, do hereby and hereon, most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will never wrongfully deprive a Master Mason, or his family, of the benefit of any lawful gain, part or share, I may hereafter become a member, if I shall be present when the same is lawfully acquired, and I shall be able to do my duty therein, or I shall be informed in the manner and form I am hereafter to be taught, that I will not wrong this lodge, nor a brother of this degree, to the value of one cent, knowingly, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Ans. *Substantially* it was—though there was nothing as administered to me, about wronging a brother of "*one cent*,"—it was not to wrong him in any way; and where the words are to support the constitution of the "*Grand Lodge of this state*," as administered to me, it was the "*Grand Lodge of Ireland.*"

The oath of the Royal Arch degree was then read to him in the following words:—

"I ——— of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God, and this chapter of Royal Arch Masons, erected to God and dedicated to Zerubbabel, do hereby and hereon most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, in addition to my former obligations, that I will not reveal the secrets of this degree to any of an inferior degree, or to any being in the known world, except it be to a true and lawful companion Royal Arch Mason, or within the body of a just and legally constituted Chapter of such; and not unto him nor them whom I shall hear so to be, but unto him or them whom I shall find so to be, after strict trial, due examination or lawful information.

I furthermore promise and swear, that I will not wrong this Lodge, nor a brother of this degree, to the value of one cent, knowingly, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Ans. *Substantially* it was—though there was nothing as administered to me, about wronging a brother of "*one cent*,"—it was not to wrong him in any way; and where the words are to support the constitution of the "*Grand Lodge of this state*," as administered to me, it was the "*Grand Lodge of Ireland.*"

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I furthermore promise and swear, that I will not wrong this Lodge, nor a brother of this degree, to the value of one cent, knowingly, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Ans. Substantially it was—though there was nothing as administered to me, about wronging a brother of "*one cent*,"—it was not to wrong him in any way; and where the words are to support the constitution of the "*Grand Lodge of this state*," as administered to me, it was the "*Grand Lodge of Ireland.*"

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I furthermore promise and swear, that I will not wrong this Lodge, nor a brother of this degree, to the value of one cent, knowingly, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same.

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Ans. They have; they are to represent the twelve apostles.

By the same. In the progress of the degree are any of those candle extinguished, and are you informed that such shall be the fate to all traitors to Masonry?

Ans. Yes.

By the same. Do they, while at the foot of the triangle, drink certain libations, five in number?

Ans. They do.

By the same. What is the fifth libation taken out of; and what is the drink?

Ans. It is wine, and taken from a human scull.

By the same. When it was presented to you, did they say our Saviour was not excepted from taking the same?

Ans. They did.

By the same. When you drank the wine, did you repeat the following: "This pure wine I take from this cup, in testimony of my belief of the immortality of the body and the immortality of the soul; and as the sins of the whole world were laid upon the head of our Saviour, so may the sins of the person whose skull this ever was, be heaped upon my head, in addition to my own, and may they appear in judgment against me, both here and hereafter, should I violate or transgress any obligation as Masonry, in the orders of knighthood, which I have heretofore taken, to be at this time, or may hereafter be instructed in, so help me God?"

Ans. I did—the same.

By the same. Did you go through these obligations voluntarily?

Ans. Yes; though I made some objection to it myself, the next informed me that it was the custom, and must be gone through.

The 9th interrogatory was then put.

Ans. Masonry is essentially the same everywhere.

Question by Mr. Stevens. Were you ever any lodge in America when information was sent to that lodge Masonically, from any Masonic authority, relative to the intended disclosures of the secrets of Masonry by William Morgan? If so, state to what lodge it was, whether it was before or after the abduction of Morgan, how the information was communicated, whether by individual members, or by lodge?

Ans. In the summer of 1826, I was visiting member of Lodge No. 45, in Pittsburgh, when one of the wardens, Mr. Perry Johnson, read a letter received from some lodge in the state of New York, and informing them that a man by the name of Morgan was about to publish, or disclose the secrets of Masonry.

Question by Mr. Stevens. Is there in the Royal Arch, or in any other degree, a representation of the scripture scene of the burning bush?

Ans. There is in the Royal Arch degree.

Mr. S. Describe the manner in which that was done in the chapter where you was initiated.

Deponent. They had the representation of the bush burning, i. e. a candle placed in a bush.

Mr. S. State whether any one is behind the bush, and whom he personates.

Deponent. The Master is behind the bush, and personates God himself, as it is represented God spoke to Moses, in the bible.

Mr. S. Are these the words:—"God call'd unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Exodus, chap. 3.

Ans. Those are the words read.

Mr. S. When that is said by the person behind the bush, are the shoes taken off from the candidate?

Ans. They are.

Questions by Mr. Spackman. Was the following clause in the Master Mason's oath *obligatory*? "Furthermore do I promise and swear, that a Master Mason's *secrets* given to me in charge as such, shall remain as secure and inviolable in my breast, as his before communicated, murder and treason only excepted: and *they* left to my own election?

Furthermore do I promise and swear, that I will never wrongfully deprive a Master Mason, or his family of the benefit of any lawful gain, part or share, I may hereafter become a member, if I shall be present when the same is lawfully acquired, and I shall be able to do my duty therein, or I shall be informed in the manner and form I am hereafter to be taught, that I will not wrong this lodge, nor a brother of this degree, to the value of one cent, knowingly, myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, a cable-tow's length from the shore, at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; so help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same."

Question by Mr. Stevens.—Was that the oath as administered to you?

Ans. Substantially it was—though there was nothing as administered to me, about wronging a brother of "*one cent*,"—it was not to wrong him in any way; and where the words are to support the constitution of the "*Grand Lodge of this state*," as administered to me, it was the "*Grand Lodge of Ireland.*"

The oath of the Royal Arch degree was then read to him in the following words:—

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