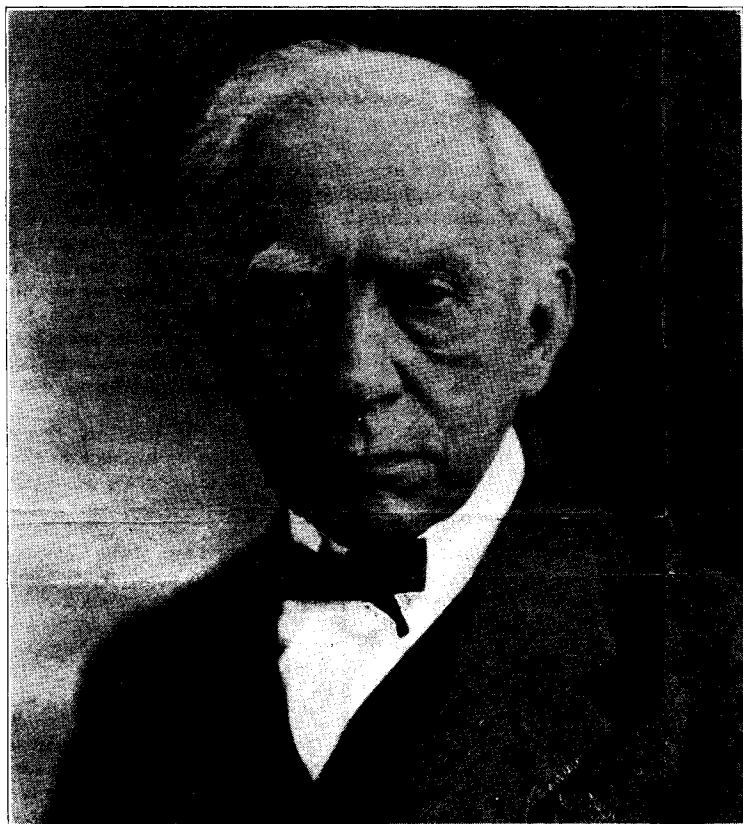


Masonry of Adoption

Important Discovery of Interesting Manuscript Shows Earliest Masonic Recognition of Women's Fraternities
First Publication in this Country

By ALONZO J. BURTON, *Historian of New York Grand Chapter*

CHAPTER II



Alonzo J. Burton

(Continued from last month)

CERTIFICATE

To the Glory of the Great Sun of Light:

In the name and under the auspices of Sublime Grand Master, and of the Sublime Grand Mistress, Union, Silence, Virtue.

From the Orient of the Garden of Eden, whence preceded the first Light, the Lodge of Ladies under the distinctive title of ——— by the mysterious numbers known only to the Enlightened, we the earthly chiefs, directing the Sublime and Respectable Lodge of Ladies having been informed of the zealous desire to reach the Supreme degree of ———, Enlightenment of the dear Sister ——— aged ——— native of ——— possessing the religion, and having judged of her capacity, life, and manners by a scrupulous examination of her conduct both in the Lodge and in the world, and knowing that she has satisfied all duties required by her in the capacity of a Lodge Mason, make known that we have admitted her to the degrees of Apprentice, Companion, Mistress, commanding all our Brothers and Sisters to recognize her as such. To give validity to this Certificate, which we deliver to her for the said reasons, we have signed it

with our hand, affixed the official Seal, and caused it to be countersigned by our Secretary, given at the Orient of the Garden of Eden the ——— day, the ——— week, of the month of the Masonic year ——— answering to the year ——— common era signed by the Wor. Master and Mistress of the Climate of Asia, the Senior Warden and Inspectress of the Climate of Africa, the Junior Warden and Depositress of the Climate of America; signed and sealed by the Archivant and Guardian of Seals, and signed by the Secretary, By command of the Respectable Master.

DECORATIONS

The ceremonies of the several degrees are ordinarily held in the same room which ought to be sufficiently large to admit of its being divided into three parts by means of curtains red, white, and blue. The hangings are red, if the blue hangings of an apprentice are not used. The side of the Climate of the Wor. Master and Mistress in the East is named the Climate of Asia; facing this is the Climate of Europe. The side of the Apprentice is the Climate of America. The side of the Companion is the Climate of Africa; the two Wardens and the corresponding sister officers are placed in the Climate of America and Africa. In Asia are two thrones, or chairs under one dais. In advance is an altar, upon which is a mallet, a naked sword, and a book of the Statutes. At the sides are placed eight allegorical figures representing Wisdom, Prudence, Strength, Temperance, Honor, Chastity, Justice, Truth, and distinguished by their attributes. The Lodge is lighted by five ordoriferous vases placed in Asia. The Brothers and Sisters are ranged in two lines, the Sisters being in advance of the Brothers. Before each dignitary officer is placed a pentagonal table. On the Mosaic pavement is a painting representing the five parts of the world by allegorical figures, the Ladder of Jacob, the Ark of Noah, the Tower of Babel, the sun, the moon. The apron is of white lambskin, having a triangular flap, and bordered with blue silk. The scarf is of blue moire, worn from right to left. Dignitary officers wear the scarf as a collar, and suspended therefrom, for a jewel, a golden trowel. The jewel of the members represents a heart in flower, having an apple in the interior.

The garter of the Order is worn around the left arm, and is of white satin, doubled with blue with the words "Silence is Virtue."

The Brothers wear the Masonic insignia to which they are entitled, also a collar of blue moire to which is attached for a jewel a ladder of gold of five steps.

The dress of the Brothers is a black coat, white vest, trousers and gloves. The clothing of the Sisters is a white apron and white gloves.

APPRENTICE

This class, which is most universally recognized, consists of three degrees. When meetings are held in connection with Lodge or Chapter, the result is that the officers are doubled. At the side of each Brother Officer is a Sister of corresponding rank, viz., Wor. Master and Mistress; Sr. Warden and Sr. Wardess;

Jr. Warden and Jr. Wardess or Depositress; Brother Orator and Sister Oratress; Brother and Sister Secretary; Brother and Sister Treasurer; Introductress, Mistress of Ceremonies.

These three grades are considered to rank with a Chapter of the Ancient and Primitive Rite, and the degrees may be given by communication by a Brother of the thirtieth degree, but cannot be communicated to any not a member thereof. The grades are covered by the OB of any Brother of the A P Rite.

The following are eligible to be received: Masons in good standing; the widows of Master Masons who died in good standing; sisters of Master Masons in good standing; daughters of Masters Masons in good standing.

TABLE LODGE OR BANQUET

The table should be horseshoe form, lighted by five lustres hanging from the ceiling, or in default of lustres by five wax candles on the table. The table articles should be arranged in five lines laid out in ribbons of different colors.

In the middle are the lights; in the second line, the dishes; in the third line, the bottles and decanters; in the fourth line, the glasses; in the fifth line, at the table's edge are the plates.

The mystic names are as follows: dishes, trough; spoons, trowel; knives, swords; bottle jam, decanters; cruise, glasses; lamps, lights, stars; table, workshop; cloth, veil; napkin, apron; plates, chalice.

Drink, Snuff the Lamp; Pass wine, Trim the lam; Wine, Red or white oil; Meats, Materials; Small wine, Strong oil; Liquor, Fulminating oil; Pepper, Union Banquet, Flowers; Manna, White stone; Salt, Dry water; Water, Weak Oil; Mustard, Strong union; Aqapae, Perfume; Taking minutes, Tracing the ladder.

OPENING

Wor. Mistress — (Strikes 11111) (Officers rise) Brother Wardens, Sister Inspectress and Depositress, the *Wor. Master* and myself invite our Brothers and Sisters in Africa and America to assist us in the opening of this Adoptive Lodge of Apprentices in the Climate of Europe, under the auspices of the Respectable Association, and to make our salutation by (strikes 11111.)

Sister Inspectress — (Strikes 11111) Sister Depositress, Brothers and Sisters of the Climate of Africa, you are invited by the *Wor. Master* and *Mistress* to assist them in working this Adoptive Lodge of Apprentices.

Sister Depositress — (Strikes 11111) Brothers and Sisters of the Climate of America, you are invited by the *Wor. Master* and *Mistress* to assist them in working this Adoptive Lodge of Apprentices. Brothers and Sisters, the announcement is communicated in the Climate of America.

Sister Inspectress — (Strikes 11111) *Wor. Mistress* the announcement is carried to Africa and America.

Wor. Mistress (Knocks 1) To order. Asia rises.

The Sr. and Sisters (knocks 1) To order. Africa rises.

The Jr. Warden and Sisters (Knock 1 and say), To order. America rises.

Wor. M. — What is our first duty?

S. D. (At the door) To see that the Lodge is secure.

(The *Sister* Knocks 11111 on the door, and is answered by the *Outer Guard*.)

S. D. — The Lodge is securely guarded within and without.

Wor. M. — What are the duties of an Adoptive Mason?

S. D. — To listen, work, obey and be silent.

Wor. M. — Let us listen to Masonic instruction; let us work as Masons; let us obey our superiors in the Order; let us be silent upon our mysteries in the presence of the profane.

Brothers and Sisters of all the Climates of the Order, attention (give signs, salute, knocks 11111) *vivat* (repeats 11111).

The labors of Adoption are open. Brothers and Sisters of the Climate of Asia be seated. *Sister Inspectress* and *Depositress* make the announcement known in your respective Climates.

Sister Inspectress — *Sister Depositress*, Brothers and Sisters of the Climate of Africa, the labors of Adoption are open. Take your seats. (America is seated.)

Sister Depositress — *Wor. Mistress*, the announcement is complete. ODE: "Here around the altar meeting, etc., etc."

(If there are any visitors in the Court they are announced, and admitted, upon which they are complimented by the *Master* and *Mistress* of Ceremonies, after which the following general welcome is given.)

A welcome and a greeting you,
To gentle friends and sisters true,
Around the place where Masons bow,
And pay their homage due.
On checkered floor, 'neath starry sky,
Welcome kind friends of Masonry,
To her who finds a Brother here,
Or Brother's strong, and trusty hand;
To her who mourns the lost and dear
Once cherished in our band;
To her who husband's love doth own,
Greeting and welcome every one,
Welcome the light our emblems shed,
Welcome the hope your volume gives,
Welcome our covenant spreads,
The wages each receives,
And when is past life's toilsome week,
Welcome the home that Masons seek.

RECEPTION (INITIATION)

The *Sister* of Eloquence retires and prepares the aspirant, She conducts her to the Chamber of Reflection. This Chamber is hung with black. A single lighted lamp is suspended over a table upon which is a skull, and these three questions:

1. What do we owe to friendship and society?
2. What do we owe to husband and children?
3. What do we owe to father and mother?

Before the table is a stool, and upon the walls devices suited to the situation. The *Mistress* of Ceremonies having conducted the aspirant into this Chamber, causes her to be seated upon the stool; she then inquires if she has reflected upon her desire to enter an Order so respectable as that into which she seeks admission, if she is in a state of good health before undergoing the required proofs, which have nothing in them opposed to modesty or virtue. She engages to submit with firmness to their proofs, and her left garter is replaced by a blue ribbon, and may be tied around her arm, and she takes off her right glove. She is desired to reflect upon the answer to the three questions upon which she will be examined.

This done, the *Sister* of Eloquence knocks at the door, and having gained admission reports as follows:

S. E. — *Wor. Mistress*, there is in the Chamber of Reflection a pupil of wisdom, who aspires to the honor of being admitted into the Society. She has answered the three questions, which were presented to her as follows. (Reads them).

Wor. Mistress — Brothers and Sisters, you have heard the favorable report of the *Sister* of Eloquence. Is it your pleasure that the aspirant be admitted. All answer Yes.

Wor. Mistress — Let the aspirant be admitted. (Done.) Let us pray. "We beseech Thee, etc., etc."

S. E. — Do you persist in your resolution to become a member of our association, and promise to undergo the required trials with firmness? (Reply, I do.)

S. E. — Then have faith in me as a Sister, and follow blindly. (Bandages the eyes of the aspirant: Strikes 11111 on the door.)

Sister Depositress to Sister Inspectress. A postulant knocks at the door of our Temple, who aspires to be made an Adoptive Apprentice.

Sister Inspectress to Wor. Mistress. — A postulant knocks at the door of our Temple who aspires to be made an Adoptive Apprentice.

Wor. Mistress. — By whom is the postulant recommended?

S. E. — She is well and worthily recommended.

Wor. Mistress. — Is the postulant under the authority of husband, father, mother or guardian? (Demands her name, surname, age, profession, place of birth, and residence.) This is fully answered, and the aspirant's head is covered with a white veil, and crowned with roses, then a chain is placed upon her wrists.

Wor. Mistress — Admit the postulant. (The doors are opened with some noise, and the aspirant brought in and seated.)

Wor. Mistress — As Masonry is a secret science, decried by the envious, and those who have no knowledge of it, what has inspired you with the desire of uniting yourself with our Order?

Postulant — The good opinion which I have formed of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to benefit my fellow creatures by associations with you in works of benevolence and charity.

Wor. Mistress — That is well, but are you willing to submit to the trials which are required from all postulants? (Assents.) Then Sister Eloquence, you will cause the postulant to take the probationary journeys. (She is led three times around the room, encountering slight obstacles at each round, and at each a little more difficult — the third or last journey is under the Arch of Steel, accompanied by the clash of swords.)

Wor. Mistress. — Madam, the journeys you have taken are symbolical of this life, the path is rough and difficult, but perseverance in goodness will assist us in vanquishing all obstacles and obtain for us that repose which is generally the reward of a

well-spent life. I have now a series of questions to submit for your consideration to which I must beg you to reply. Madam, What is honor?

Honor is that feeling which impels us to noble actions, such as courage, loyalty, consideration, glory, and all estimable qualities; it is the instinctive sentiment of virtue. Honor among ladies is evinced in Truth, Modesty, and Chastity. Honor is everything that we honor.

Wor. Mistress — What is consideration?

Consideration is the regard which we have for talents, virtues, dignities, and good actions; it is a virtue which produces more happiness than the preceding one.

Wor. Mistress. — What is virtue?

Virtue is energy of soul, applied to habitual practice of goodness, justice, and duty, and more especially modesty, and chastity; these good qualities seem to include all others, for if they are lost to woman, all is lost. The world is so convinced of the truth of this that in speaking of the modesty of a woman it is customary to say simply her virtue, for it is that quality by which she merits esteem and love.

Wor. Mistress. — What is chastity?

It is that virtue which controls the pleasures of love, and causes abstinence from all impropriety. The possessions which a young lady should bring in marriage are modesty and chastity; absolute chastity or celibacy is opposed to nature, and therefore ceases to be a social virtue.

Wor. Mistress. — What is pudicity?

Pudicity is that virtue which cases modesty; it is especially a sentiment of woman, and is derived from the respect which all have for what is honest. A woman without modesty is never beautiful, and the honor of woman should be public protection.

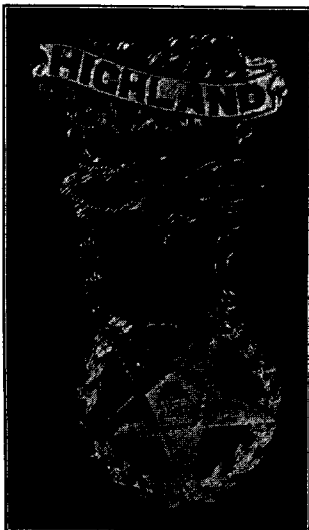
Wor. Mistress. — What is modesty?

Modesty is moderation and discretion without affectation in speaking of ourselves. It is one of the most beautiful ornaments of women, and springs from a doubt of one's real merit.

Wor. Mistress. — What is sweetness?

Sweetness is a quality which moderates human passion, impertinence, irritability, etc. It is the opposite of violence; no one can obtain firmness as such as by sweetness, and ladies do not sufficiently comprehend how far sweetness gives them renown.

(Continued next month)



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