

MASONIC CEREMONIES
AT THE
LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONES
OF THE
Monumental Canopy & National Monument,
AT
PLYMOUTH, AUGUST 2d, 1859.

MONUMENTAL CANOPY.

THE Corner-Stone of the structure to be erected upon the Forefather's Rock, will be laid at half-past 8 o'clock, A. M., by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge will meet in the hall of the Plymouth Lodge, and both bodies will march from thence to the place of ceremony.

SERVICES.

PRAYER,

By REV. SAMUEL OSGOOD, GRAND CHAPLAIN.

REMARKS BY GRAND MASTER.

LAYING OF THE STONE.

HYMN,

WRITTEN BY R. W. JOHN H. SHEPPARD, Esq.

Though ages pass—and empires wane,
Our ANCIENT LANDMARKS still remain;
And RITES, which stood the tempest shock,
We now renew on Pilgrim Rock.

We consecrate to Thee, Oh God,
This spot where first the Fathers trod.
Forever sacred let it be,
Beneath a Pilgrim Canopy.

Immortal Rock!—On thee began
The march of mind—the rights of man;
And, taught by Pilgrim Sires, we see,
Nought but the Truth can make us free.

BENEDICTION.

NATIONAL MONUMENT.

The Corner Stone to the National Monument to the memory of the Forefathers, will be laid at half-past 12 P. M., according to the following

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

ADDRESS TO THE GRAND MASTER
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PILGRIM SOCIETY.

ADDRESS BY THE GRAND MASTER.

LAYING OF THE STONE.

G. M. R. W. Senior Grand Warden—This Corner-Stone will now be deposited according to Masonic usage: you will proclaim the fact for the government of the Craft.

S. G. W. R. W. Junior Grand Warden—It is the order of the Grand Master that this Corner-Stone be now laid according to Masonic usage: due notice of which will be proclaimed to the Craft for their government.

J. G. W. Brethren—By order of the Grand Master, this Corner-Stone will now be laid in Masonic form; our services applicable thereto, you will duly observe.

G. M. R. W. Grand Treasurer—You will read the inscription upon the Plate which is to be deposited under the Stone.

Grand Treasurer reads the Inscription.

G. M. The inscription is approved; and it is my order R. W. Grand Treasurer, that you deposit the Plate in the place prepared for its reception.

[*Music by the Band during the act of depositing.*]

The principal Architect presents the working tools (Trowel, Square, Level and Plumb) to the Grand Master, who directs the Grand Marshal to present the Square to the Deputy Grand Master; the Level to the Senior Grand Warden, and the Plumb to the Junior Grand Warden—the Grand Master retaining the Trowel. The Grand Master spreads the cement; after which he orders the Grand Marshal to direct the Craftsmen to lower the Stone to its place. [This is done by three motions, an interval of a moment between each, and the Band at the time playing solemn music. The Square, Level and Plumb are then applied to the Stone and the following dialogue takes place.]

Grand Master. Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master—What is the proper Jewel of your office?

Deputy Grand Master. The Square.

Grand Master. Have you applied the Square to those parts of the Stone that should be square?

Deputy Grand Master. I have, Most Worshipful, and find that the Craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master. By the Square the operative mason forms his work; let us use it as a symbol of morality, to teach us to regulate our conduct by the square of virtue.

Grand Master. Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden : What is the proper Jewel of your office ?

Senior Grand Warden. The Level.

Grand Master. Have you applied the Level to the Stone ?

Senior Grand Warden. I have, Most Worshipful ; the Craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master. By the Level the workman proves horizontals ; by it we are taught that we stand on a level with our fellow-men, partake of the same nature and share the same hope.

Grand Master. Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden : What is the proper Jewel of your office ?

Junior Grand Warden. The Plumb.

Grand Master. Have you applied the Plumb to the several edges of the Stone ?

Junior Grand Warden. I have, Most Worshipful ; the Craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master. By the Plumb the workmen tries perpendiculars ; we use it as a symbol of rectitude, and by it are admonished to walk uprightly, to hold the scale of justice in equal poise and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty.

Grand Master. Having full confidence in your skill in the Royal Art, it remains for me to finish the work.

The Grand Master then gives three knocks upon the Stone with his gavel and says :—

"I find this Foundation-Stone WELL-FORMED, TRUE and TRUSTY, and may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Craftsmen according to the grand design, in Peace, Love and Harmony."

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES,

By REV. E. M. P. WELLS, D. D., GRAND CHAPLAIN.

"Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine." *Genesis xxvii. 28.*

"That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil." *Deuteronomy xi. 14.*

"And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart." *Psalms civ. 15.*

"The field is wasted, the land mourneth ; for the corn is wasted ; the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth." *Joel i. 10.*

"Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith." *Joel ii. 19.*

PRAYER,

By REV. SAMUEL OSGOOD, D. D., GRAND CHAPLAIN.

The D. G. M. receives from the Marshal the vase containing Corn, and pouring it upon the Stone, says :—

"May the health of the workmen employed to carry out the designs of the architect be preserved to them, and may the Supreme Grand Architect bless and prosper their labors."

[The following verses were written by R. W. John H. Sheppard, Esq., for the occasion.]

Whene'er our ancient Brethren went
To build a Church, or Monument—
The Head-Stone laid with skill and care,
They pour'd the CORN of Plenty there.

[The corn is from a parcel of wheat, part of which was used at the laying of the Corner Stone of the Bunker Hill Monument in 1825; at the inauguration of the Statue of Gen. Warren in 1857; and at the laying of the Corner Stone of Minot's Ledge Lighthouse in October, 1858. Until 1857, it was preserved by the family of the late Benjamin B. Appleton, Esq., who was an officer of the Grand Lodge.]

The G. Marshal presents the Wine to the S. G. W., who pouring upon the Stone, says :—

"May the hearts of the American people incline them to tread with gladness in the ways pointed out to them by the examples of the Pilgrim Forefathers."

WINE was the next oblation given,
Emblem of Gladness—dew of Heaven;
For the pure grape—without alloy,
Will cheer the heart with hope and joy.

The G. Marshal presents the Oil to the J. G. W., who pours it on the Stone and says :—

"May the Supreme Ruler of the World preserve this people in Peace and vouchsafe to them every blessing."

Then with the OIL of Peace they sought
A blessing on the work they wrought.
Thus was the stone an altar made,
Where bloodless sacrifice was laid.

G. M. "May the Giver of Every Good and Perfect Gift bless the inhabitants of this land with all necessities, conveniences and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of the monument here commenced; protect the workmen against every accident, and long preserve the work from decay; and grant to us all, in needed supply, the CORN of nourishment, the WINE of refreshment, and the OIL of joy."

LORD GOD of Hosts! To Thee alone
We look, and lay this Corner Stone;
Here let a Monument arise,
Where Faith stands pointing to the skies.

BROTHER ARCHITECT:—It is with much pleasure that I inform you that this foundation, so skilfully and faithfully constructed, meets with the entire approbation of the Grand Lodge. They commend, also, the design and working plans for the super-structure; and trust that your earnest desire for its successful completion will be fully gratified. To your hands are these implements confided; and may the Supreme Architect prosper, counsel and direct you in all your doings.

BENEDICTION.