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**Remarks on
Some Masonic
Book Plates and
Their Owners**



By

A. Winthrop Pope



BOSTON

1908

Remarks on Some Masonic Book Plates in America and their Owners

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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

M. C. M. VIII

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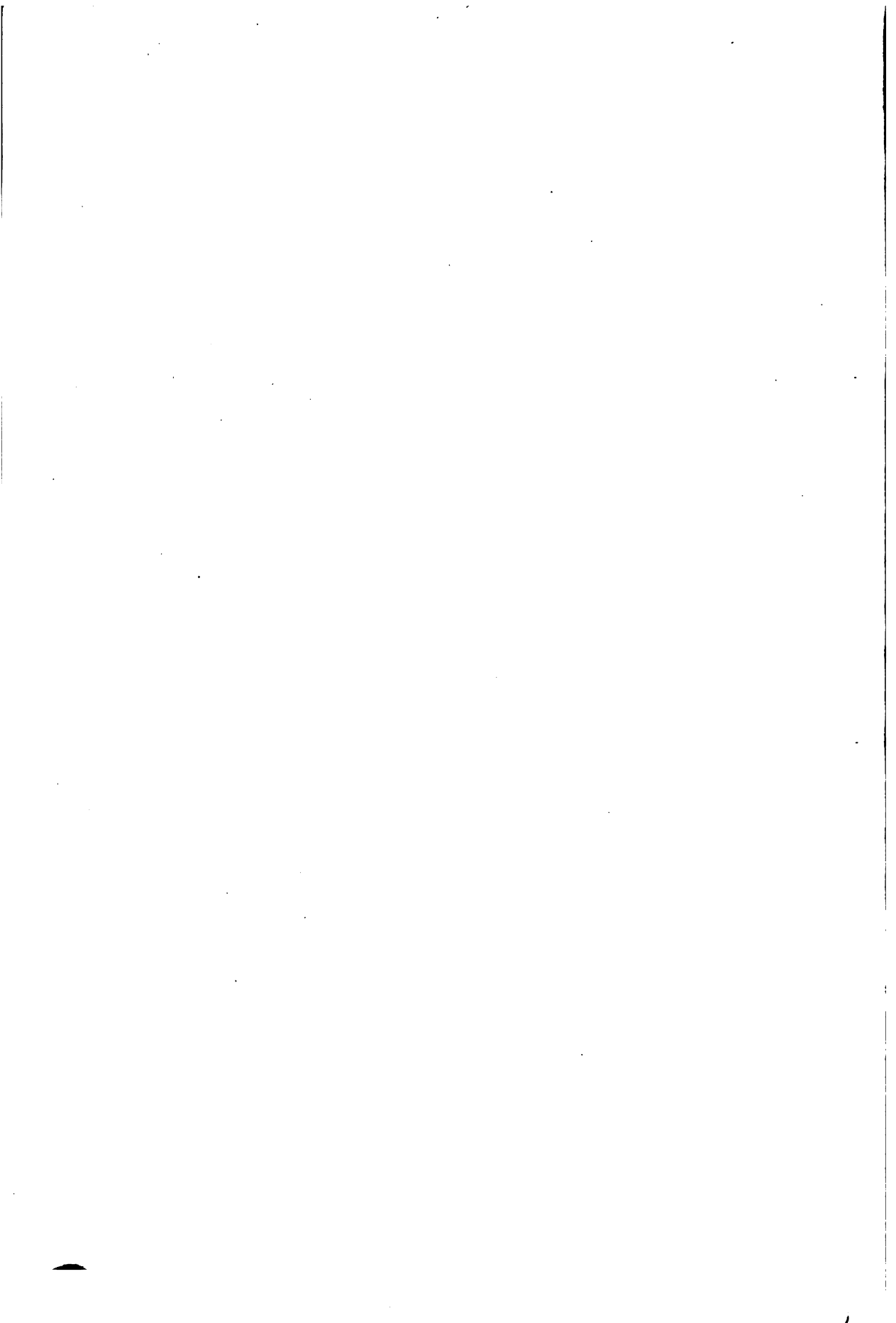
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The New England Craftsman

List of Masonic Book Plates in America.

The Busby Collection.	Theodore Sutton Parvin, 33rd.
Alcide Chausse .	The Pike Library.
The Collins Collection.	Alexander Winthrop Pope.
Danforth.	Robert Fletcher Rogers, 32nd.
Samuel W. French, 32nd.	S. M. Sener.
Melvin H. Hapgood.	David McNeely Stauffer.
Grand Lodge of Iowa.	Supreme Council 33rd, Northern Jurisdiction.
General Washington Johnston.	Supreme Council 33rd, Southern Jurisdiction.
Silas Ketchum.	L. M. Taylor, 33rd.
Kingston.	David B. Wheeler.
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John Fiske Nash.	



FOREWORD.

In the preparation of my remarks on some American Masonic Book Plates and their owners I have had valuable assistance from Secretaries and librarians connected with the Craft, also from brother collectors. Mr. Frederick J. Libbie of Boston, loaned me from his personal collection original impressions of the Danforth and Ketchum plates for the purpose of reproduction here. I have been favored in the same manner by some of the Brethren, also by friends not connected with the institution but whose plates bear the symbols of their profession, which have the same character as Masonic plates. The well known collector, Mr. Walter C. Prescott of Newton Center, Mass. rendered important assistance, as also did Brother Henry Mitchell of the Studio Building, Boston, and also the members of the John A. Lowell Bank Note Co.

All of the above have my most hearty thanks. In addition to the persons here mentioned I had most valuable information from the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Medical Society Communications, and the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, also from the scholarly and interesting essay by Dr. Robert Day, of Cork, Ireland, entitled "Masonic Book Plates" which appeared in the Ex Libris Journal of December, 1903, and from American Book Plates by Charles Dexter Allen, a volume indispensable to collectors of American Plates. Mrs. Zella Allen Dixson's charming little volume concerning Book Plates was of service. I am also indebted to Right Worshipful Sereno D. Nickerson, Historian of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

* * * * *

It is a well known fact among book lovers that their books often mysteriously disappear from their shelves and are forever lost. To prevent such occurrences many persons, on becoming the owners of a new volume, are in the habit of writing their names on the fly leaf with pen and ink or pencil. Others use a book plate. Now the question is frequently asked What is a book plate? So that a brief definition right here may not be out of place. A book plate is a label with a name printed or engraved on it, inserted usually on the inside of the first cover of a book as a mark of ownership. A simple label bearing a name, like a visiting card, answers the purpose, or it may be more elaborate and frequently is characteristic in some manner of the owner,—for instance a gentleman interested in the rubber business may have a picture of a rubber heel with

wings attached, and the words Ex Libris together with his name under it, and he has a complete outfit in the way of a book plate. The heraldic book plate having the owner's name and motto is one familiar to the collector of these little works of art; such book plates are sometimes used by Americans who have no clear genealogical title to them. Others use little pictures with appropriate mottoes or quotations and owner's name or monogram. Whatever form is adopted it is intended to be a neat affair and frequently is an ornament to the volume of which it forms a part.

A Masonic book plate is so called because it bears upon it the emblems or symbols of Freemasonry. It is strange but book plates of this character are few and far between. The writer has a collection of many hundred, and yet after careful search is able to find that he has only about

sixty examples bearing the emblems of the Craft. On this account however, it must not be supposed that members of the institution are not readers, or interested in books, or do not use a book plate; quite the contrary; many fine libraries and many charming book plates are owned and used by members; nevertheless when they have their book plates designed they apparently forget to have any of the Masonic emblems installed therein. What can be in more appropriate taste than for a brother skillfully to embody one or more of the beautiful emblems of Freemasonry in his book plate.

DANFORTH

Of early American Masonic book plates but few are known, the Armorial here illustrated



A. W. S. S.

and described as follows:—

Arms, argent. In chief, the all seeing eye; in base, a lozenge, azure. Crest, three books, ppr.

Motto, "Ubi plura nitent non ego paucis offendar maculis."

In the upper dexter corner a sun in splendor.

Danforth

N. H. Sc.

is attributed by Mr. Charles Dexter Allen in his "American Book Plates" on page 190 to Dr. Samuel Danforth, of Boston, and it is of particular interest to us because both the owner and the engraver were of Boston, and both were also distinguished members of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Samuel Danforth was born in Cambridge, Mass. August, 1740, and died in Boston at the age of 87, November, 1827. He was tall, thin and erect; his father was Hon. Samuel Danforth, Judge of Probate for Middlesex County. He graduated from Harvard college at the age of 18 in 1758, M. D. Hon. 1790, and commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Rand at Charlestown at a time when high repute for skill in physic was required by nine pence per visit: he then practiced a year or two in Newport, a place at that time distinguished for its prosperity and its literary character. Here he treated some difficult cases with a success that established his reputation, and formed for him friendships which lasted during life. He returned to Boston and having married a daughter of Mr. Watts of Chelsea, settled in Hanover St. By undeviating integrity he shortly became elevated to the front rank of his profession;—when summoned to the sick bed he investigated the case with exactness and in all difficult medical cases his opinion was relied on as the utmost effort of human skill. The confidence of his patients was unlimited, and they feared departure from his instructions almost as they feared the judgment to come; and it is said that his counte-

nance beamed with all the dignified complacency with which it was clothed on beholding his patient rise from a sick bed. He was called "the most scientific chemist then on the stage," and when Dr. John Warren suggested the starting of a Medical School to the Boston Medical Society, at a meeting in the Green Dragon Tavern, he proposed Dr. Danforth as Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica; Dr. Danforth declined the offer of this chair.

After the death of his first wife he married twice, first to Margaret Billings and afterwards to Martha Gray. Later as his business increased he moved to Pemberton Hill, where he lived many years. During the years 1795 to 1798 he was President of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He was corresponding member of the Medical Society (London) and a Fellow of the American Academy.

In 1764, on the 28th day of November, he received his first degree in Freemasonry, and became a member of the Lodge of St. Andrew, November 28, 1765. During the years that Paul Revere was senior grand deacon of the Grand Lodge he was junior grand deacon.

His book plate was made by Brother Nathaniel Hurd, the first, best and most interesting early American engraver of book plates. As an engraver and as an artist Brother Hurd was not content with one "style," but showed enough interest to do the Jacobean, the Georgian and the Ribbon and Wreath. The only portrait of Hurd that I know shows an alert face with large keen eyes, and a young and vigorous physique. He was born in Boston, February 13, 1730, and died December 17, 1777. About forty book plates signed by Hurd are known now, and perhaps fifteen others are attributed to him with more or less reason. He engraved the first book

plate for Harvard college. Brother Danforth's is the only book plate of Hurd's that is classed as Masonic. Impressions of book plates engraved by Brother Hurd are much sought for by collectors and have a commercial value.

Brother Hurd was made a mason in St. John's lodge, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In the records of that lodge under date of July 3, (Thursday) 1755, is the following entry: "Nathaniel Hurd was proposed by the Sec'y. to be made the next Lodge night, and was balloted for unanimously on the following terms, Viz. That he furnish the Lodge with a copper plate for summonses, and a silver seal with the arms of Freemasonry on it, and four hundred stamps for said summonses." July 17, one line records this: "Nath'l Hurd made this night." Neither the copper plate for summonses, the silver seal with the arms of freemasonry on it, or any impression from the copper plate referred to is known to the secretary of St. John's lodge. It is a matter of interest to us of the present day to know that Hurd used the word "Brother" in signing his engravings of this nature. The writer has an interesting and elaborate summons, dated October 4, 1764, addressed to Brother Jenkins, calling a meeting of the lodge at the British Coffee House, which was located at about the present number 66 State Street, Boston. The plate from which the summons was printed is signed by "Brother N. Hurd, Boston, fecit." Brother Hurd became a member of the Second lodge in Boston May 19, 1762, and shortly afterwards a member of the Grand Lodge. He walked in the procession and attended the funeral at the Court House of the Rt. Worshipful Jeremy Gridley, Esq., late Grand Master of North America, which occurred September 12, 1767.

SILAS KETCHUM

Silas Ketchum probably designed his own book plate. It is a circle. Over the upper half is the name Silas Ketchum and below Hopkinton, N. H.; in the center a shield quarterly. In the first quarter a G surrounded by Square and Compasses, in the second a Bible, third an awl and in the fourth a pen. The Crest is an owl with wings expanded holding in the mouth a lantern. Motto: "Ex septem unus." Under the circle "Cond. 1855," below that two ribbons, on one, "No." and on the other "\$."



He was a son of Silas and Cynthia (Doty) Ketchum, born in Barre, Vt., December 4, 1835. On his father's side he descended from Governor William Bradford and on his mother's from Edward Doty, both passengers in the Mayflower. In 1851 he took up his residence in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, where he learned the shoe maker's trade which he followed until his father's death which occurred in 1855, when

he entered the Hopkinton Academy and prepared for Dartmouth college, but on account of ill health he did not enter college, but pursued most of the college courses under private instruction. In 1860 he married Georgia C. Hardy of Brooklyn, New York and the same year entered the Bangor Theological Seminary, pursuing the full course, never missing but one lecture or recitation and supporting himself and young wife by working at his trade as a shoemaker. After graduating from the Seminary he returned to his native state of Vermont and became pastor of a Church in Wardsboro' where he remained for two years. In the library of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Free and Accepted Masons, is a farewell sermon delivered in Wardsboro', Vermont, September 24, 1865. On the inside of the cover of this the following is written:—

"In Sept. 1865, I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, in Mt. Lebanon Lodge, Jamaica, Vermont. For this crime I was dismissed from the Church in Wardsboro', of which I had been pastor two years, and took my leave with the following sermon. Four hundred persons from seven towns came to hear it.

Silas Ketchum."

He then moved to Brattleboro', where in conjunction with D. L. Milliken he was editor of the Vermont Weekly and Semi-Weekly Record, and the Vermont School Journal, until called to the Church in Bristol, New Hampshire, in 1866 where he remained until 1875, and during his residence in Bristol he served as Chaplain of Union Lodge, and received the Chapter degrees in Pemigewaset Chapter at Plymouth. In 1875 he moved to Maplewood, Massachusetts, and later to Windsor, Connecticut. He was a man of many activities, being one of the original members of the Philomathean Socie-



ty at Contoocook—"One of seven"—from which the New Hampshire Antiquarian Society grew, and for six years was its Secretary and President; a member New Hampshire Historical Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society, The Prince Society, The American Antiquarian Society and the New York Historical Society. At the time of his death which occurred in Boston, April 24, 1880, he was engaged in preparing a New Hampshire Biographical Dictionary, and also histories of the Ketchum and Doty families. During his life he gave more than five hundred volumes to the New Hampshire Historical Society, about twelve hundred volumes and three thousand pamphlets to the New Hampshire Antiquarian Society, and over three hundred volumes to the American Congregational Association, Boston, and at the time of his death his library contained about twenty-five hundred volumes.

ALEXANDER WINTHROP POPE.

Became a member of Rabboni Lodge of Boston in 1877.

My book plate was designed by Jay Chambers of New York, and shows a standing figure of a gentleman of the 1830 period, reading at a high table. He is perusing a large volume, his left arm resting on a couple of other books, the back of a third book showing on the table and three others on the floor. Two vases on the table to the right of the reader indicate the fancy of the owner of the plate for pottery. The background, seen through a circular window, shows a bright spring landscape, a succession of undulating fields bordering a quiet stream; the sky is light, with masses of clouds. The ensemble suggests the pleasant tranquility such as appeals strongly to the book lover.

In the lower right hand corner is the Masonic Square, Compasses and G, worked in the design in an un-



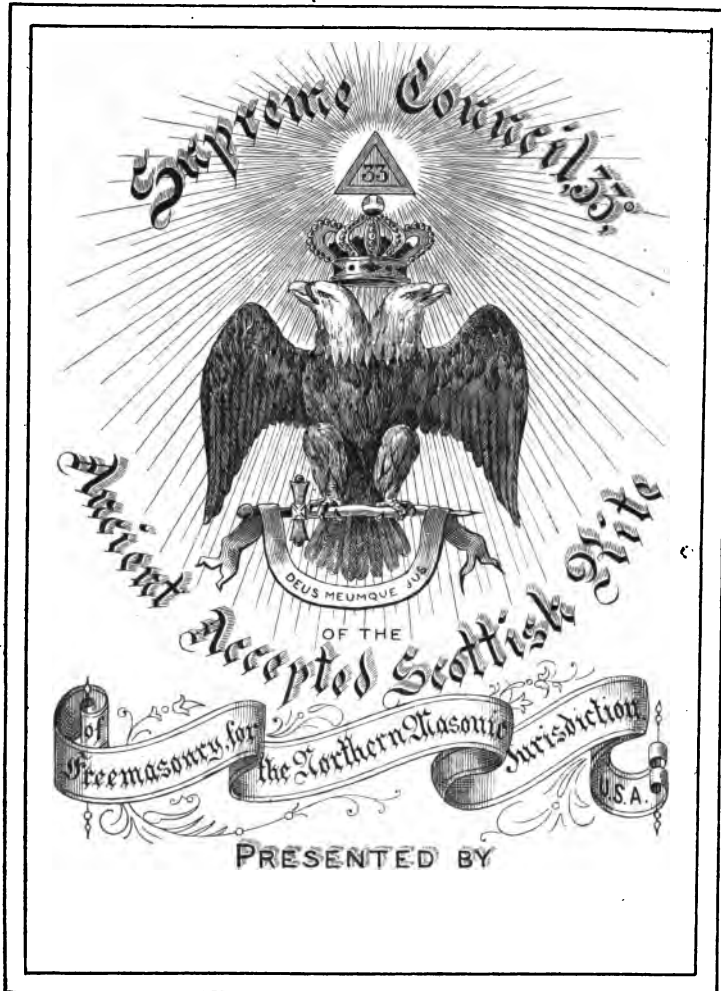
obtrusive way, so that it becomes part of the general scheme. (In books not Masonic I use the same plate with the Masonic emblems omitted.)

JOHN FISKE NASH.

The rare book plate of John Fiske Nash was taken from the cover of a book found in the book store of Pierce & Zahn, Denver, Col.

It is described as follows:

On an oblong tablet a square in which suspended from a delta is a patriarchal cross, on the lower arm of which is a Roman cross, and cross paty. The field around these emblems is irradiated; outside the square are pine cones and sprigs of acacia. On a ribbon above "Ex Libris" and on a tablet beneath "John Fiske Nash."





KINGSTON-WHEELER.

The next two plates are mentioned in Charles Dexter Allen's book "American Book Plates." (I have never seen either of these). Mr. Allen describes them as follows:—

No. 459. Santa Johannis Evangelistae Sigilum Collegi Latomorum. Kingston, Canada, 1794.

Vesica-shaped shield, on which a robed figure holds an open book, which shows Masonic emblems on its pages.

The evidently erroneous Latin I do not attempt to correct.

No. 928 Wheeler. David B. Wheeler.

A Masonic plate. The full sun, eight-pointed star, and crescent moon are above the name, while below it are the square and dividers, crossed: the whole enclosed within a frame of ornamental type.

Supreme Council 33d Northern Jurisdiction.

The volumes in the Library of the Supreme Council 33rd degree of the

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction U. S. A., bear the very appropriate book plate described as follows:—

The Jewel of the 33rd degree.

A double headed eagle of Prussia, with wings displayed, an antique crown resting upon their heads, over the crown a delta surrounding the figures 33 and radiating from it golden rays, the eagle resting on a sword, wavy, and suspended therefrom a ribbon with the motto, "Deus Meumque jus."

Over the emblem in German text,

Supreme Council 33rd degree.

Below the emblem of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and on a scroll, "Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction U. S. A." Presented by.....

**ROBERT FLETCHER ROGERS,
33d DEGREE.**

Is a young member of the Craft, a Guard of Boston Commandery K. T., and a Past Worthy Patron of Middlesex Chapter, O. E. S., and is a life member of eight Masonic bodies including Mt. Hermon Lodge, Boston Commandery K. T., and the Massachusetts Consistory S. P. R. S. He uses a very pleasing and appropriate book plate of modern design, by Homer W. Colby, one of the first Boston artists to design a Masonic Book Plate since the early days of Nathaniel Hurd.

Here we see a Knight in full armor on a horse in armor with shield and lance at full charge, a red passion cross on the shield and a cross "patee" on the saddle blanket. In the back-ground a landscape representing a rocky mound walled and castled in antique architecture.

PART II

SAMUEL W. FRENCH, 32d



ROMINENT citizen, Freemason, physician and designer of his own book plates. When Dr. French designed his first book plate with the quotation of Victor Hugo on the tablet, he had no intention of making it a Masonic book plate; the introduction of the word "Mason" was accidental. Chapter II, Vol. I, Book

V, of Victor Hugo's "Notre Dame de Paris," frequently called the "Hunchback of Notre Dame," was his inspiration in devising this plate.

"The one will kill the other. The book will kill the building. From the beginning of things down to the fifteenth century of the Christian Era inclusive, Architecture was the great book of humanity, the chief expression of man in his various stages of development whether as force or intellect;"—"the Bible of



stone and the Bible of paper," all end in that beautiful allegorical phrase: "All men are on the scaffolding" etc., as on the plate. In all this Freemasonry has had a great hand. Dr. French's first book plate may be described as follows:—

1. Greek border, Roman interior and Hebrew altar, standing for the sources of classic literature.

2. Pantheon, typical of the ancient method of expressing ideas;—opening in the dome for Jupiter Pluvius.

3. Inscription from "Notre Dame de Paris;" "All mankind are on the scaffolding, every mind is a mason, the humblest stops up his hole, or lays his stone; every day a fresh course is laid."

4. Sacred eternal fire on an altar, symbolical of the perpetual light of literature and education.

The device expresses the hope that his books will be heirlooms to generations unborn; hence the last sentence on the tablet.

Dr. French lived in Boston from his earliest infancy until 1879. After graduating from Harvard College in 1873, he spent a year in Europe; on his return he took up the study of medicine at the Harvard Medical School and graduated in 1878. For two years he served as House Surgeon and physician at the Boston City Hospital; in 1879 he left Boston and began the active practice of medicine in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he is still engaged in his profession, though of late years he has paid much attention to his specialty, which is Gynaecology. He was married to Minnie J. Boardman of Danvers, Mass., in 1880. He has been a leader in the organization and promotion of medical institutions. In 1890 the Harvard Club of Milwaukee was organized, and he was chosen the first president: he is a member of the American Climatological Association, of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin General Hospital, and has

written papers for the local Medical Society.

He is a man of many sides and fads. He has played Hamlet on the amateur stage, and can use the pencil and brush, although the camera has taken the place of both. While not a performer on any musical instrument, he has always loved music. He originated and managed the tour of the Gerrish Masonic Quartet of Boston, to Milwaukee, in 1894, where they sang at the semi-centennial of the Grand Lodge, and for numerous other bodies.

Brother French joined Wisconsin Lodge No. 13, F. and A. M., in February, 1884; after serving in various offices he was elected Worshipful Master in 1893. Shortly afterwards he became a member of Wisconsin Chapter No. 7, R. A. M., of Wisconsin Council No. 4, Royal and Select Masters, and also of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24, Knights Templar.

He has received the several Scottish Rite degrees up to and including the 32d degree, and is now a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 265, F. and A. M.; Calumet Chapter No. 73, R. A. M.; Wisconsin Council No. 4, R. and S. M.; Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24, K. T., and Wisconsin Consistory, A. and A. S. R., 32d degree.

In 1904, as Commander of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24, Knights Templar, he accompanied the Drill Corps to the Triennial Conclave at San Francisco, and when they returned they were the happy possessors of a trophy valued at eighteen hundred dollars.

Doctor French is a Masonic student, and is never so happy as when trying to solve a Masonic symbol, or planning a Masonic ceremony.

The Book Lover's Dream

The design of this book plate came to Dr. French in the manner illustrated; his daughter had criticised his first plate as not dealing enough with his personal character-

istics, and he was wrestling with that idea when this dream came to him through a combination of two plates, one of Egerton

Castle and one of Karl Koch. It was a long time before he could get the drawing as he desired, as his draftsman was many hundred miles away, and the entire business was conducted by correspondence.

The plate may be described as fol-

lows:—The principal figure is a man who loves his fireside, and is taking his ease before it. He has been reading Ovid, and overcome for a



low moment by the genial warmth of the fire, he has dropped into a doze while the book falls to the floor, and the smoke from his pipe takes fantastic shapes. Books, book plates, designs, gods and goddesses are mingled in his drowsy mind. The

light of literature seems to be symbolized by the chariot of Phoebus, while Mercury, the messenger of the gods, throws messages earthward in the shape of books. The Doctor has styled this "The Book Lover's Dream." The seal of his Alma Mater is in the upper left hand corner, while love of the drama is shown by the bust of Shakespeare on the mantel. His artistic taste is symbolized by the palette in the lower left hand corner; his musical taste by the violin on the table, and his profession by the statuette of

of the plate, *Ex Libris* Sam'l W. French, M. D.

S. STACKER WILLIAMS, 33d

S. Stacker Williams, son of David and Mahala (Squires) Williams, was born March 20, 1836, at Dover, Tenn. He moved to Ohio at an early age, when he attended the Granville Academy, and having a penchant for music made it a specialty; he became in time an excellent vocalist, and as a result was a member of the choir of the Presbyterian Church for more than



S. Stacker Williams

Past Grand Master of Masons.

Esculapius near it. The Masonic shield with emblems of the Scottish Rite is over the mantel. His belief in the Brotherhood of man is shown by the Bible, square and compasses. The armorial device in the lower right hand corner shows the arms and motto of the Frenches. Light is typified in two ways:— material, by the allegorical representation of the sun; spiritual, by the irradiated Bible with Masonic emblems, and the library of books. Motto: "I give light to all nations throughout all ages." Near the base

twenty-five years; after leaving the Academy he spent a number of years in teaching school and vocal music. He became the first Superintendent of Public Schools in Hanging Rock, Ohio, under the present school system in 1856. From 1859 to 1866 he was engaged in stock-raising, and subsequently devoted years to the dry goods business in New York City.

Brother Williams was made a Master Mason in Centre Star Lodge, No. 11, in Granville, Ohio, March 17, 1864; a Royal Arch Mason in

Warren Chapter, No. 6, Newark, Ohio, February 6, 1865; he received the Cryptic degrees in Bigelow Council, No. 7, on the 8th of the same month; was Knighted in Clinton Commandery, No. 5, K. T., at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, April 22, 1865, and received the degrees of the A. and A. S. R., 4th to 32d inclusive, in the Cincinnati bodies, December 2 to 21, 1865. At the session of the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U. S. A., held in Providence, R. I., September 20, 1887, he was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33d degree, and elected an honorary member of that body. At the annual meeting of his Lodge in 1864, he was chosen Secretary, and in 1867 became its Worshipful Master. For thirty successive years he installed the officers of his Lodge, the last time in 1901, on which occasion, being unable to go to Granville on account of sickness, the officers elect of the lodge went to Newark, and were installed by him in the parlor of his home. He held membership in all the Masonic Grand Bodies of the State, and served them all faithfully in some official capacity. For twelve years he was president of the Masonic Veterans' Association of Ohio, and was also president of the National Association.

He was elected in 1885, and re-elected in 1886 and 1887, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and it was to the official service which he rendered to the Grand Lodge that Brother Williams's fame is most largely due. He was a great Masonic student, and for many years an intelligent collector of literature concerning Freemasonry, and this valuable library he gave to the M. W. Grand Lodge. His book plate is:—

A fac-simile of his autograph, S. Stacker Williams, together with the words: Past Grand Master of Masons, placed under a shield bearing

the Williams coat of arms;—Azure, A lion rampant, argent. Crest, A moor-cock proper. Motto: Cognosce occasionem, and between the shield and ribbon, Williams (in script) another motto, Y FYNO DWY FYDD on a scroll beneath the name, alludes perhaps to the Welsh origin of the Williams family. It signifies "What God willeth will be."

Brother Williams died before he had an opportunity to make any use of his book plate.

LEROY MORTIMER TAYLOR, 33d

We now come to the book plate of Dr. Leroy Mortimer Taylor, 33d. He was born at Delaware N. Y.,



April 17, 1836. At the age of twelve he moved to Washington, D. C., and continued to live there until his death, which occurred September 27th, 1904. He was for a number of years a page in the United States Senate; afterwards he became a clerk in the land office of the Department of the Interior. While serving in the latter position he studied and graduated from a medical school. As early as 1858 he became interested in Freemasonry and took membership in Federal Lodge No. 1, during that year.

About a quarter of a century later, or more particularly in 1884, he received the Scottish Rite degrees, and between that year and 1891, all the other degrees.

He gathered together a rare collection of curios, engravings, etchings, draperies, etc., which he obtained in all parts of the world during years of travel. His library, where he spent most of his time comprised about 8,000 volumes, the greater portion being devoted to occult, philosophical, mystical, magical and kindred topics, embracing also spiritualism, physical subjects, and works on Eastern and Oriental religions, and forming one of the best collections of occultism in the United States. He was nearly a life-time in bringing together this library, which cost about \$15,000. It was given to the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, and bears his name.

His book plate is somewhat difficult of description to one who is not familiar with the symbolic characters used by teachers of the hermetic philosophy. Within a circle formed by a serpent devouring his tail,—the emblem of eternity,—is a pentalpha, on the points of which are mystical symbols; between the lower points is a scimeter, the symbol of death; on the horizontal bar is the Hebrew tetra grammaton; in the centre is a cypher combining the crescent, cross and circle, emblematic of the three prominent religious creeds, below which are the serpents of Esculapius, or his daughter Hygeia, which may typify wisdom, or perhaps allude to the medical profession. The Masonic significance of the five-pointed star or pentalpha needs no explanation. Beneath the device is the Sanscrit motto, "Om mani padme hum," a solemn invocation familiar to the students of Buddhism, said to signify "Oh, the jewel in the lotus, Om," the last word being a name

for their chief deity. Below is the owner's name in script.

**THEODORE SUTTON PARVIN
AND THE IOWA MASONIC
LIBRARY**

Theodore Sutton Parvin, LL. D., born, January 15, 1817, was the oldest of thirteen children born to Josiah and Lydia Harris Parvin, in Cedarville, New Jersey. At an early age he met with an accident which he relates as follows:—

"Workmen were repairing a dam across a creek near the home of my childhood, when, one day, rather than be 'dared' by the little fellows of my own age (some 6 or 7 years),



I jumped from the bank into the sand below. That jump crippled me for life, and thus ended the hope of making a navigator of me (as was my father's intention, he being a sea captain). Owing to my lameness, I could not join the boys in their sports; hence I was thrown much into the society of my mother, a woman possessed in a remarkable degree of all the loveliness of Christian virtues; to her I owe, under God, all the good I have been able to accomplish, aided in later years by a wife like unto her; and I was destined to plod among the books, for which I soon developed a surprising taste."

Brother Parvin graduated from Woodward College, Cincinnati, in 1837. He had but just passed his twenty-first birthday when he

sought to gratify his long expressed desire and intention of becoming a member of the Masonic Fraternity. He received the degrees in Nova Caesarea Harmony lodge of Freemasons, of Cincinnati, May 9, 1838.

The first meeting from which the history of Masonry in Iowa dates, was held in Burlington, November



12, 1840. To Parvin was intrusted the work of taking the necessary steps to secure a Charter from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and of forwarding the same to the Grand Master. The necessary power having been obtained, Burlington Lodge No. 41 upon the roster of Missouri, afterwards No. 1 on the roll of Iowa, was instituted. Later he secured a demit from Burlington lodge, in order that he might join the lodge at his home, and his name appears as one of the petitioners for Iowa lodge, which numbered 42 of Missouri, and was later No. 2 when Iowa Masonry became a separate body.

Mr. Parvin received all the other degrees in Freemasonry between this time and 1859, in which year he received the 33d degree. He took an active interest in introducing and starting all the various Masonic bodies in the State.

His interest in libraries and library matters was early shown and given opportunity of development. During his college days the college library was his favorite haunt.

The Iowa Masonic library is located at Cedar Rapids; the building

was erected in 1884, at a cost of about \$35,000; and is the only Masonic structure (fire-proof) exclusively used for a library. It is said to be one of the best equipped buildings in the world occupied solely for that purpose. The Freemasons of Cedar Rapids showed their liberality by giving the ground on which the building stands, and \$10,000 in cash. It has sets of Proceedings of all the various Masonic bodies, periodicals old and new, both of this and of the old world, and many hundred pamphlets mostly of a Masonic nature.

Of the first volume placed on the shelves of this library, the following amusing story is told:—Dr. Parvin was visiting at the house of a young lady friend, where he found on the table a copy of "Ahiman Rezon." Becoming absorbed in the volume he forgot his surroundings and the young lady, until she suggested that if he found the book more interesting than her company, he had better take it and go, which he did. Certain it is that this book, which was the first Masonic work destined for the library, was presented to the Grand Secretary by a young lady at whose home he found it; but whether she gave him his conge at the same time is not stated in the more serious history of the event. Brother Parvin placed this volume in the library in 1844; he continued in charge of it from that day until his death, which occurred June 28, 1901.

Among the objects of interest in this unique collection may be mentioned its attractive display cases. In the entrance hall stands a large oak cabinet, twelve feet by nine, beautifully carved, and bearing the inscription "Presented to the Iowa Masonic library by L. Harbach, Des Moines." This case affords a splendid opportunity to display the rare and curious specimens collected from all parts of North America by the late Librarian during his

long life, and presented by him to the library. There is also the Eastern Star case, presented by the Grand Chapter of Iowa, Order of the Eastern Star, as a memorial of their appreciation of his services. In the centre of the hall of the library proper stands a magnificent display case, forty feet in length, six feet high and three feet in width, with plate glass on all sides and top, and large drawers in the base, making a fine receptacle for large prints, charters, engravings, charts, pictures, etc.

Another case is devoted to the display of autograph letters and portraits of prominent members of the fraternity from all parts of the world, including elective officers of all State and national Masonic bodies, editors, authors, representative Masons, American and foreign.

Still another case was presented by the Nobles of El-Kahir Temple, of Cedar Rapids, and is devoted entirely to Shrine material. These are only some of the attractions and it is quite true

"If you stroll through this Library at your leisure,
You may find something for your pleasure."

For some years it has been customary to loan Masonic books to Brethren all over the State, and there are many instances where not only a single volume, but small Masonic libraries have been sent to various portions of the country, from Maine to California; in this manner was inaugurated the "Iowa Travelling Masonic Library."

Some of the volumes in this library have a book plate described as follows:—A scroll bearing the name of T. S. Parvin, Librarian, extending over the top of the central device; above is a closed book and resting upon it is an antique lamp. Below the scroll is a shield between two pillars each supporting a globe. On the base of the left pillar is a mallet and on the

base of the right pillar two quill pens crossed; against each base leans a closed book. On the shield the extended compasses on a chevron between three open books (no tinctures). Crest, a radiant G. Crossing the base of the shield a pen. These arms are surrounded by a circle lettered Librarian above, and Grand Lodge of Iowa below. Between the bases of the pillars, Founded 1844.

Motto, on a ribbon:—Vita Sina (an error for sine) Literis Mors Est.

The plate used in volumes presented by Dr. Parvin to the Library is a "portrait book plate," showing Brother Parvin three-quarters facing to the left, in citizen's dress; below which in six lines, Theodore Sutton Parvin, LL. D. Presented this volume to the Iowa Department of the Iowa Masonic Library.

Another attractive book plate is used to mark some of the volumes in connection with those mentioned above. Description: The irradiated Holy Bible open; on it a square and compasses, crossed: at the left, Number; above the Bible on a ribbon, Grand Lodge, and beneath it, Library Instituted Jany 8th, 1844, Iowa in three curving lines; beneath them a coffin; all surrounded by a looped cable-tow suggesting the form of a shield; in the loops at the top are a gavel, guage, and chapter working tools.

PAUL REVERE'S BOOK PLATE

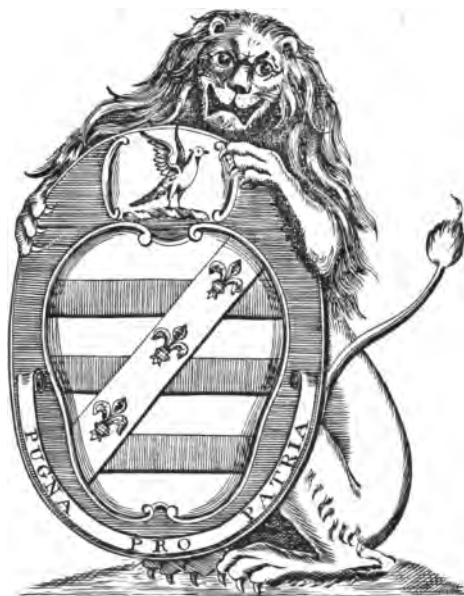
Arms:—Barry, argent and gules; over all, on a bend sinister argent, three fleurs-de-lis, sable. Crest:—A dove rising, argent. Motto:—Pugna pro patria. At the bottom at the right, Revere in script.

The tinctures as described are in accordance with the engraving, and show that Revere was not familiar with the rules for "metal and color" in heraldry. The crest in the engraving is not that used by his father, which was an annulet. The son adopted the motto. There is a

family tradition that Revere copied his father's seal exactly as engraved; as his father's plate, still preserved, also has a bend sinister, the tradition may be doubted. The French ancestral family arms bore the bend dexter. It has been thought by many that the "bend sinister" is a dishonorable ordinary, but this is denied by the best heraldic authorities.

The arms are placed on the elliptical cartouche held by a lion seated

owns the original copper plate which was made by his great grandfather, Paul Revere, and who has been good enough to lend it to me for the purpose of having this reproduction made. I am assured by him that originally the plate bore the full name; but for the purpose of making it a family plate, Paul Revere himself removed his Christian name, and in that condition the plate has remained to this day. Impressions bearing the full name are



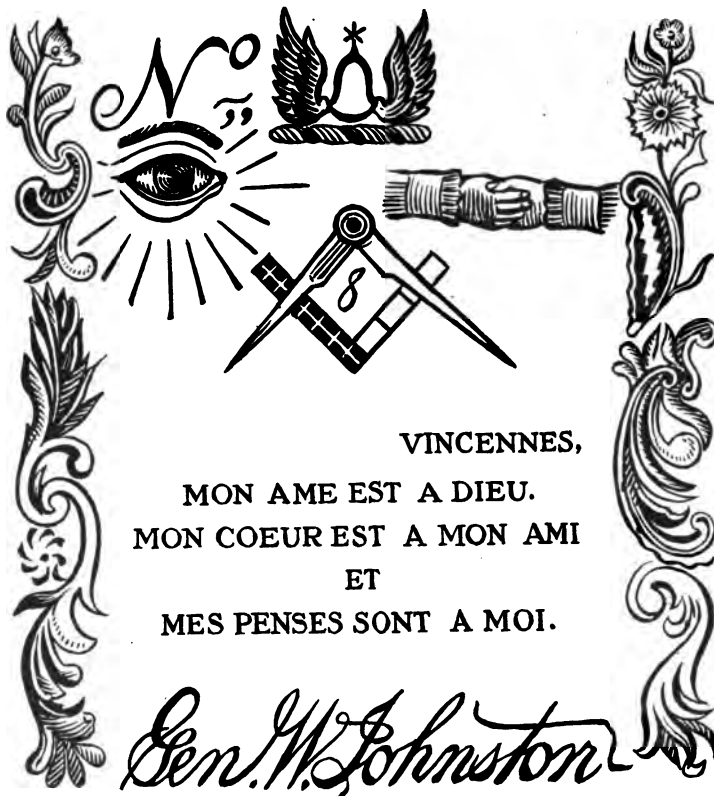
Revere.

(not part of the arms), whose head and copious mane appear above.

This book plate is not Masonic, but I have been asked to include it in this article, and, as he was the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1795, 1796 and 1797, it seems proper to comply with the request. The plate is illustrated here in its present form, perhaps for the first time in any work on Ex Libris, by the kind permission of Mr. E. H. R. Revere of Canton, whose family

extremely rare; one is owned by the Revere family, and I know of but two others. Only five book plates are known to have been engraved by Paul Revere. They are all rare and much sought by the collector, not particularly because they are so nicely designed, or so well executed, but because they are the work of the distinguished patriot, the self-taught engraver, and the curious artificer or scientific worker in metals as well as in Freemasonry.

PART III



VINCENNES,
MON AME EST A DIEU.
MON COEUR EST A MON AMI
ET
MES PENSES SONT A MOI.

Gen. W. Johnston

We now come to the truly Masonic and curious example of an early western book plate of

General Washington Johnston* who had two differing plates, both unquestionably of his own design; of these the earlier has fewer orna-

ments and Masonic emblems. But one original impression of the first and two of the latter are known to be in existence: they were found in Washington, D. C., about twelve years ago. That first discovered is thought to be the more recent plate, and is described as follows:

(*Note. The word General is part of his name, not a title.)

A device made up of Masonic emblems surmounted by the Johnston family crest,—a winged spur. On each side of the device are scroll ornaments; on the left side of the crest at the top, No.; space is left for a number at the right; under the word No. is the all-seeing eye; and beneath the space for a number are two right hands joined; just under these and near the center of the field, are the square and compasses, and below that "Vincennes" (the name of his residence and his Lodge), followed by "Mon Ame est a Dieu Mon Coeur est a Mon Ami" in five lines; under the motto. "Genl. W. Johnston" in script.

The second plate is known to be in existence in the possession of a collector, but I have been unable to obtain a description.

General Washington Johnston was a charter member of Vincennes Lodge, No. 1, F. A. M., Vincennes Indiana, where his Bible containing the family register in his own handwriting may be found upon the altar. The Secretary still uses his inkstand, a combination of china and ebony, and the Lodge carefully preserves the old wooden gavel he used.

Brother Johnston was born in Culpepper County, Virginia; he moved to Indiana, and settled in Vincennes in 1793, where he had the distinction of being the first attorney admitted to the Knox County Bar, of which he became a prominent member, and continued in practice until his death. He held many offices of trust under the Borough of Vincennes, became Auditor of the Territory of Indiana in 1813, and during the same year was commissioned Treasurer of the Territory, serving until it was admitted into the Union as a State. He was several times elected a member of the territorial legislature, and was chosen Speaker of the Second and Third Sessions. In connection with John R. Jones, he compiled the first

revision of the laws of Indiana. This compilation was published by Elihu Stout, who established the "Vincennes Sun," the first newspaper published in the Territory, and who was afterwards Grand Master of Masons in Indiana. Brother Johnston was the first postmaster in the town where he resided, and was twice appointed judge of the local court. He married in Vincennes and was the father of a large family. He died there October 26, 1833, and there he was buried. The house in which he lived, built partly of adobe after the old French style, with a long porch in front, was torn down not long since.

Vincennes Lodge was the first in that town; it worked under a charter dated August 31, 1809, issued by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, until it received a new charter bearing date Jan. 13, 1818, after the foundation of the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

On the records of the meeting held April 3, 1809, the following entry appears:

"Brother General W. Johnston, from the committee appointed on the 17th ult. to draw up a set of By-laws for the government of this Lodge, which after being distinctly read, article by article, and section by section, were unanimously agreed to, and being signed by the several members, are ordered to be safely kept and preserved by the Secretary among the archives of the Lodge."

They have been "safely kept," and are still in an excellent state of preservation. They are handsomely written with a quill pen by Brother Johnston, who was a fine penman.

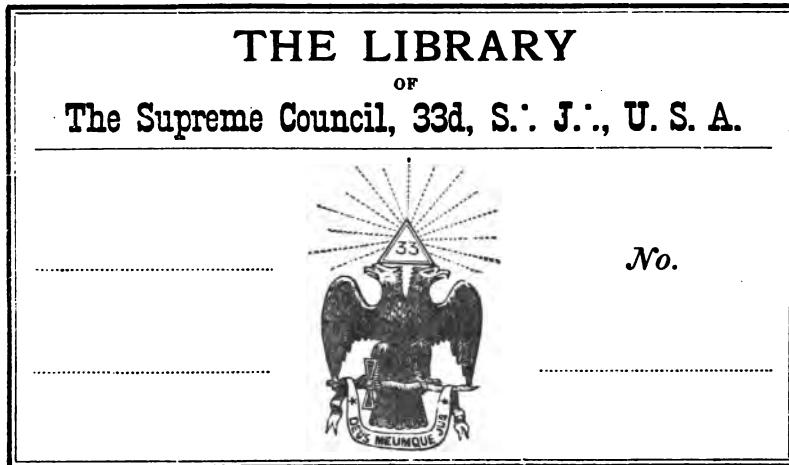
He was the most distinguished member of the Lodge and the moving force which brought Masonry into Indiana. At a meeting of several Lodges in the State at Corydon, Dec. 3, 1817, which was called to consider the advisability of forming a Grand Lodge, his name is the first

appearing on the records. At that meeting he was appointed chairman of the Committee to formulate an address to the Grand Lodges of Kentucky and Ohio, notifying them that the Lodges represented had determined to form a Grand Lodge, and would recede from their Mother Grand Lodge as soon as a State Grand Lodge should be organized. The address is said to have been "a model of terseness and elegance of diction." His first appearance in the Grand Lodge of Indiana was in

**THE LIBRARY OF THE
SUPREME COUNCIL**

S.: J.: 33d.

The Library of the Supreme Council with its departments which have been founded by prominent Brethren comprises about seventy-five thousand volumes and embraces every branch of literature. It is especially strong in old and scarce and out-of-the-way books. In general literature of various countries and languages, including poetry, the drama, etc., it is especially rich, and



the session of 1828, when he was present as the Worshipful Master of Vincennes Lodge, No. 1, Elihu Stout of that Lodge being Grand Master. He was chairman of the Committee on Grievances, on Foreign Correspondence, and of a select committee relative to the appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters. At this meeting he was elected and installed Deputy Grand Master. He was also present at the session of 1829, and again elected Deputy Grand Master. He was not present at the session of 1830, and there being no quorum, owing to the Morgan excitement, an adjournment was taken until December of that year, but he was not present and never appeared in the Grand Lodge again.

in rarities and valuable reprints. General Pike who was the father of the library formed its nucleus by his contribution of his own valuable collection, and as he was a versatile scholar on nearly every literary topic, his library was a very general one; after the donation of this collection, he continued to buy along the same lines for the Supreme Council, having agents throughout the world, on the lookout for his wants. It is one of the best Masonic Libraries using a book plate, and the volumes are appropriately marked by a book plate having the jewel of the 33d degree; above it in three lines The Library of The Supreme Council, 33d, S.: J.:, U. S. A.; all surrounded by a rule border.

The Pike Library.

This was the gift of General Albert Pike, who was born in Boston, December 29, 1809, and received his education at Newburyport and Framingham, Mass. It is a miscellaneous collection of about five thousand volumes, being his personal library which has been absorbed into the general library of the Supreme Council of the 33rd degree for the Southern Jurisdiction. Thousands of the books of the latter library were selected and purchased by him, with funds of the Supreme Council, of which he was the Grand Commander from January 3, 1859, until the day of his death, which occurred in Washington, April 2, 1891.

poems appeared in a short-lived periodical published in Boston in 1834-35; they were written on the prairie while the poet's horse was feeding at his side.

He was versed in many languages, including Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Sanskrit, French, Spanish and Italian. It was not until 1850 that he became interested in Freemasonry; during that year he was made a Mason in Western Star Lodge, No. 1, at Little Rock; in November of the same year he became a Royal Arch Mason in Union Chapter, No. 2, also at Little Rock; a Royal and Select Master in Columbian Council, Washington, D. C., Dec. 22, 1852, and a Knight



His parents were in humble circumstances, and although from childhood he was surrounded by an atmosphere of culture and refinement, he was forced at an early age to pursue the occupation of teaching, first at Newburyport, and later at Fairhaven, Mass.; but he soon made his way westward and became connected with the "Arkansas Advocate," which he edited until 1834, when it became his property. He married in that year, and settled in Little Rock, where he began the practice of law, which became very lucrative; it is said that on one occasion he received a single fee amounting to one hundred thousand dollars.

He was an author, editor, lawyer, soldier and poet. His best known

Templar in Washington Encampment in the same city, February 9, 1853. On March 20 of that year he received the 32d degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Charleston, S. C., and the 33d degree (Honorary) April 25, 1857, at New Orleans; on March 20, 1858, he was crowned an active member of the Supreme Council at Charleston. In 1859 he received the honorary degree of Master of Arts from Harvard College.

In 1858 he had a unique experience. The death of Col. Albert James Pickett in December of that year led to a report of the demise of Col. Albert Pike, and the latter enjoyed in advance that rare felicity of good fortune beyond even the "happy opportunity of death,"



coveted by the ancients, of perusing glowing epiciedian tributes to his own "departed worth."

In the next month the appearance at Washington in life and health of the deeply lamented was celebrated by a social festival, the incidents of which have been fully recorded in an attractive volume (privately printed in August, 1859), entitled "The Life Wake of the Fine Arkansas Gentleman who died before his Time." An entertainment was given by J. F. Coyle, Esq., and it was decided to receive Pike with the genial usages of an Irish wake. An eloquent memorial was produced and a response was made by him whose loss it was intended to commemorate, in terms solemn, affectionate and instructive.

The scene was enlivened by numerous contributions of others and they were succeeded by a splendid entertainment.

Brother Pike served as a Brigadier General in the Confederate army during the war; his estate was confiscated, and retained by the United States until after his death, when a part was returned to his children. He was given command

of the Department of the Indian Territory and of all Indian regiments. In March, 1862, at the head of several regiments of Cherokees, he took part in the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The General who commanded the Federal troops in this engagement reported that the Indians under Pike were allowed to fight according to their own methods. This charge was afterwards investigated by Congress, but it was never confirmed.

His library was said to be one of the largest and most costly in the south, but it is not always the greatest man who has the handsomest and most expensive book plate; it is a fact that very many elegant book plates are designed and printed which are destined never to see the inside cover of a book.

The books in the Pike Library are marked by a simple plate, described as follows:

An oblong plate, having within a rule border, The Pike Library of The Supreme Council, 33d, S. : J. :, U. S. A. in three lines; the lower



portion is divided into three sections; in the left of these. Additions by the Sup.: Council with a space below to show the department. In the right section, the word No. twice repeated and places for the number of the volume; in the centre, the Pike family arms in an ellipse; Per pale argent and gules; over all a chevron azure between three trefoils slipped; the tincture

in each role played by this distinguished Mason, orator, poet, historian, soldier, diplomat, author, and linguist, he had but one destiny, the front rank, and in that brilliant line he was ever the central figure.

His ability, learning and character were recognized and honored throughout the world, and he was esteemed one of the greatest Masons of the age in which he lived.



of the trefoils is not indicated, Crest, A pike naiant argent. On a ribbon the family motto, which is illegible in the engraving. The device is surrounded by a garter, on which above, Albert Pike and below, Grand Commander. A small Teutonic cross follows his Christian name, and a triangle his surname. At the bottom of the plate, separated by a rule, Purchased 14th May, 1881.

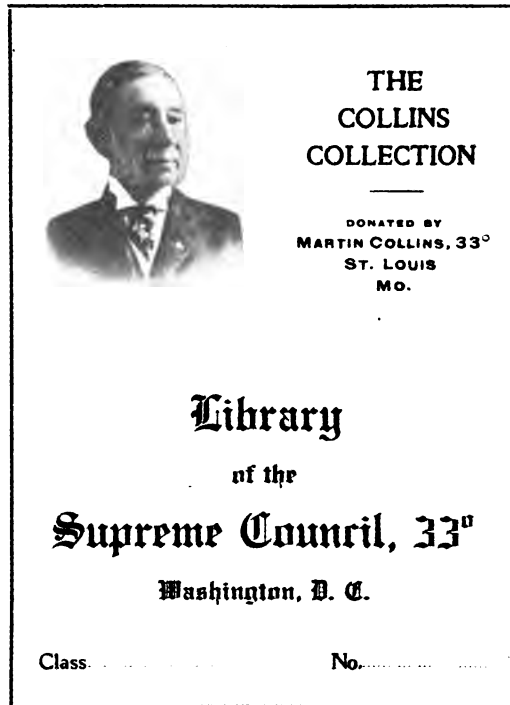
It is a chronological fact, as well as a historical American truth, that

The donation of the Taylor collection to the Supreme Council prompted the Grand Commander James D. Richardson, 33d degree, to suggest to the Supreme Council in session in Washington on October 16, 1905, the advisability of making a portion of their library a Memorial Library, the alcoves in this particular wing of the building to be filled by some member with books, and the collection named after him, thus making a perpetual memorial to his name, and

at the same time increasing the size of the library. Brother Richardson said that if the Council approved the suggestion, he himself would fill one alcove with works which should relate alone to the politics, history and the public men of the United States, and the suggestion was unanimously adopted by the Supreme Council.

States; then of sectional portions like New England, the Western States, etc.; travels by States, and travels in possessions of the United States. The librarian was many months in selecting the 1065 volumes of this welcome gift, which cost about \$1,300.

Brother Collins was born May 15, 1826, in Lancaster, Penn.; in 1851



Martin Collins Collection.

As a result of this recommendation the first one to take advantage of the proposed plan was Martin Collins, 33d degree, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Missouri, who chose the subject of travel and descriptions in the United States and its possessions. After selecting this subject he furnished the Librarian with funds to make the collection. It comprises books on the art of travel, general travels and descriptions in the United

he married Miss Mary Crabbe, daughter of Captain Crabbe of the U. S. Marine Corps, and resided in St. Louis from 1852 until his death, May 25, 1908. He was for many years a successful business man of that city.

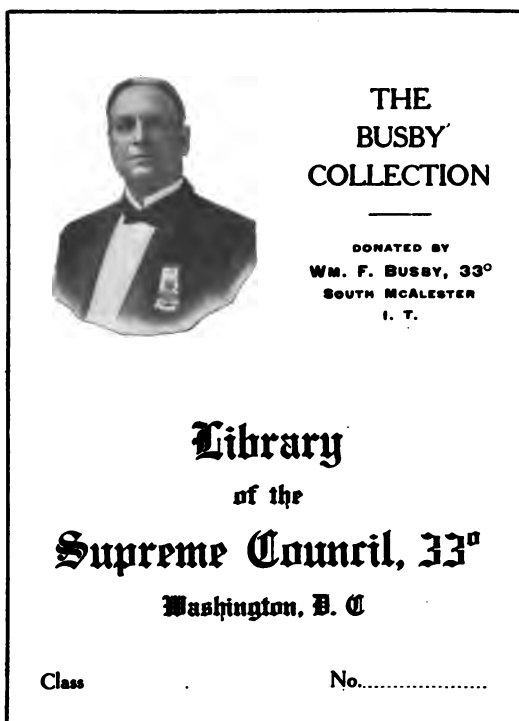
He was made a Mason in 1853, and was often honored by the Brethren of his State, serving them as Grand Master in the Grand Council in 1869 and 1870; as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter in 1867; as Senior Grand Warden of

the Grand Commandery, K. T., and as Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge in 1865.

He received the 33d degree of the Scottish Rite in 1865, and in 1867 was crowned an active member of the Supreme Council. He has filled all the offices in that body from Grand Herald to Grand Constable; in 1891 he was elected to the station of Grand Minister of State, and later served as Grand Prior. Broth-

chase science, and like Brother Collins had the Librarian select and purchase the books. It comprises science in general, mathematics, physics, astronomy, electricity, mechanics, geology, ethnology, botany and natural history, with many subclasses of these general heads; it cost \$1,880, and comprises about 1,050 volumes. This collection has been appropriately catalogued.

Brother Busby was born in Penn-



er Collins was also an active worker in the cause of charity, and for more than thirty-five years the presiding officer of the St. Louis Masonic Board of Relief.

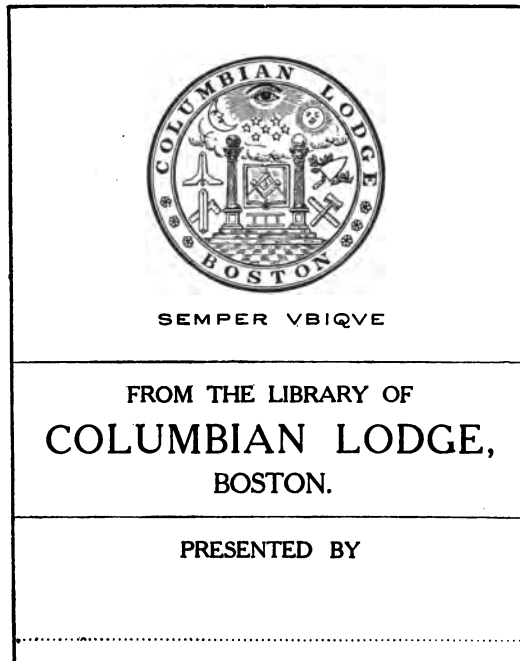
William Busby Collection.

This is the gift of Brother William Busby, 33d degree, of South McAlester, Indian Territory, a wealthy business man and an enthusiastic Mason of that town. He

ington, New Jersey, September 5, 1854. Early in life he went west and settled in Kansas, where he became a Master Mason, August 14, 1886, in Temple Lodge, No. 237, at McCune. He was made a Royal Arch Mason September 21, 1887, in Parsons Chapter, No. 39, in Parsons, Kansas, and a Knight Templar, Nov. 11, 1887, in Coeur de Leon Commandery, No. 17, in the same city. He received the Scottish Rite to the 32d

degree in 1895, in Topeka, Kansas. He was elected by the Supreme Council a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, October 19, 1897, and was crowned Inspector General (Honorary), 33d degree, on October 20, 1899. He has held quite a number of offices in the various bodies to which he belongs, and is at present Deputy Inspector General in Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

from type with a somewhat elaborate border of rule work. The upper part in four lines reads: Extract from By-laws of the Masonic Library Association San Francisco; the first and third curving; over the word Masonic a small square and compasses and under the line a beehive. The remaining space is filled with the By-law cited.



The volumes in the Collins and Busby Collections are marked with special book plates. The lower half of each reads, Library of the Supreme Council, 33d degree, Washington, D. C.; on the upper half is a small half-tone portrait of the donor in the upper left corner, and the name of the collection, with the donor's name and residence at the right.

SAN FRANCISCO MASONIC LIBRARY.

The Masonic Library Association of San Francisco has a plate printed

COLUMBIAN LODGE, BOSTON

Columbian is one of the five older Lodges in Boston, its Charter having been signed by Paul Revere, then Grand Master, in 1795. Its Centennial Anniversary was celebrated in a most elaborate manner in June, 1895. Its membership-roll bears many distinguished names, among them Winslow Lewis, who was initiated in Columbian in 1830, and elected Grand Master in 1855, to succeed R. W. Bro. Randall (afterwards Bishop), who was also a member; Grand Masters Jenkins, Flint, Heard, Coolidge, and Briggs,

were also initiates, and many of its Brethren have held prominent offices in the Grand Lodge. Father Taylor, the famous Seamen's Chaplain, was an Honorary Member, and Chaplain of the Lodge for many years. He it was who in discharging his clerical duties prayed that the hard hearts of the Anti-Masons might become as soft as their heads.

It was peculiarly appropriate that this old Lodge should be the first to adopt a book-plate. The leading device is the seal of the Lodge, which was designed, it is believed,

MASONIC LIBRARIES.

There are other large Masonic Libraries in America: that of R. W. Brother Samuel C. Lawrence of Medford, Massachusetts, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts, is one of the largest, most complete and best collections of the kind ever gathered together. In certain departments it is unexcelled. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts also has in the Masonic Temple at Boston a large and choice collection of books, pictures, medals, relics and curiosities relating to Masonry.



by R. W. George G. Smith, (initiated 1819, and D. G. M. 1838-40). This seal bears various Masonic emblems, among which the pillars surmounted by globes and the working-tools of the Order are conspicuous; under the seal is the Lodge motto, SEMPER VBIQVE, beneath which, in three lines, From the Library of Columbian Lodge, Boston. Some of the plates also have Presented by, with a place for the donor's name. The name and location of the Lodge appears on the seal.

The Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and New York have fine libraries of value to the craft, and besides these there are many others, both public and private but they do not use a book-plate that can be termed Masonic to the author's knowledge, and so are not included in this article.

EMBLEMS ON NON-MASONIC PLATES.

Non-Masonic book plates which bear emblems of the Craft are not uncommon; one displaying the in-

struments used by an architect, a civil engineer, or a builder,—emblems of the same character as those used by the Fraternity,—may easily be mistaken for a Masonic book plate. This is shown by the examples here illustrated: not one of those who used these attractive plates was a member of the institution when he adopted it, but the working tools of the profession of each owner, or of some of their ancestors, are displayed in the plates designed to mark the volumes in their private libraries.

My pleasant task would not be complete if I omitted to extend my warmest thanks to R. W. Brother Oliver A. Roberts, the genial Librarian of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge Library, and Junior Grand Warden, and also to R. W. Brother William T. R. Marvin of Columbian Lodge of Boston, and Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, both of whom have given much and very valuable assistance, and whose names were accidentally omitted in the foreword.



