

**DEGREE BOOK OF THE INDEPENDENT
ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF THE
RIGHT WORTHY GRAND LODGE:
SECOND. DEGREE OF FIDELITY; THIRD.
DEGREE OF CHARITY; PP. 7-63**

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VARIOUS

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CONFERRING THE DEGREES.

In connection with the adoption of the Degree Work, at the Twelfth Annual Session of the R. W. Grand Lodge, held in Boston, in May, 1866, the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved—“That the several Grand Lodges shall have power and authority to legislate in what manner and by whom the Degrees shall be conferred, and how Degree Temples shall be instituted.”

No general rule can, therefore, be laid down, but Degree Temples and Officers will be governed by the Constitution or laws adopted for their governance by the Grand Lodges of their respective jurisdictions.

It will be understood, however, that no portion of the Degree Ritual can be altered or abridged, such action being a violation of the laws and decisions of the R. W. G. Lodge.

Members of the Temple should always rise when the obligations are being taken by Candidates.

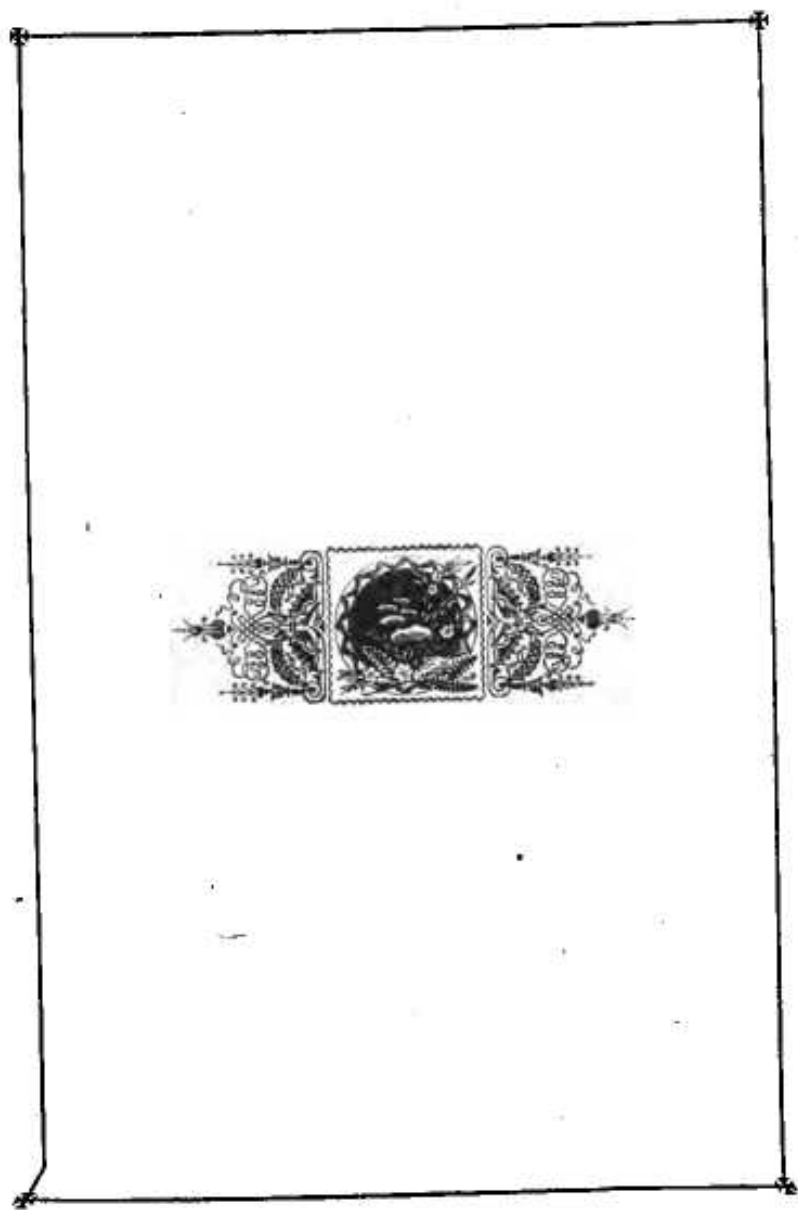
1-17 5, 1866

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening Ceremonies.
2. Calling the Roll of Officers.
3. Reading Minutes of Previous Meeting.
4. Application for Degree and Election of Candidates.
5. Initiatory Ceremonies.
6. Unfinished Business.
7. Reports of Committees.
8. New Business.
9. Good of the Order.
10. Closing Ceremonies.

SECOND.

DEGREE OF FIDELITY.



OPENING CEREMONIES.

*[The Degree Templar calls to order with*** ** of the gavel, and says:—]*

D. T. We are now about to open this Temple in the Second or Degree of Fidelity. If any present have not taken its sacred obligations, they will please retire. The officers will now repair to their respective stations.

[Should any officer be absent, the Degree Templar will fill the vacancy pro tem.]

D. T. Vice Templar, is the Guard correct in the Degree Word?

[The V. T. reports.]

D. T. The Vice Templar, with the Past Degree Templar, will prepare for examination.

[When the Temple is called up, the members march in line to the Vice-Templar, giving that officer the Subordinate Password and explanation, passing to the Past Degree Templar, giving that officer the Word of the Degree; then proceeding to the Degree Templar, give the Degree Salutation, after which the Report may be made as follows:—]

V. T. Degree Templar, all are correct in the Subordinate Pass-word and explanation.

P. D. T. Degree Templar, all are correct in the Degree Word.

*

D. T. The Marshal will desire the Sentinel to appear for examination.

D. S. (*Enters and gives the Salutation.*) I await your pleasure, Degree Templar.

D. T. You will give me the Pass-word. (*Sentinel gives it.*) Your duty is to give attention to all who make the proper signal at the outer gate of the temple; to admit those who give you the Pass-word of the Subordinate Lodge; to see that members are properly clothed in regalia, and informed that the Temple is working in the Degree of Fidelity; that order is preserved in the ante-room, and that candidates and visitors are made welcome. Be faithful to your official duties.

[*When the Sentinel has retired, the Degree Templar rising says:—*]

D. T. We meet here this evening for the purpose of conferring the Degree of Fidelity; and transacting such other business as may properly be brought before the Temple, and to aid in securing the prosperity and perpetuity of our noble order. Let us attend to these duties with true fraternal forbearance and charity—ever mindful that to err is human, to forgive divine. The members will please sing our opening ode.

* * *

OPENING ODES.

20. 1.—8, 7.

GOD of nature and salvation,
 Let thy blessing linger here;
 May we ever fill life's station
 By Thine aid and in Thy fear.

Bless our noble cause and calling;
 Cheer the weak ones in the strife;
 Strengthen, Lord, and keep from falling,
 Those who battle most with life.

Let Thy mighty arm uphold us,
 As we go life's journey through;
 Do Thou guide, protect, and shield us,
 Make us useful, brave and true.

21. 2. *Tune.*—"TRAMP, TRAMP."

BROTHERS, life has glorious heights for our youthful feet to
 climb;

There are shining crowns that we may work and win;
 Like Excelsior, a cry, ringing down from summits high,
 Sings to us, through all the revel's wildest din.

Rise, oh, rise to nobler manhood,
 Dash the tempting cup away,
 And with purpose firm and sure,
 Let your vows for aye endure,

As you take the onward, upward Temperance way.

We will loose no friendly grasp, we will never turn aside,
 From the youthful friendships formed and nourished here;
 But with manly purpose strong, let us sing a grander song,
 As we pledge anew in accents strong and clear.

Rise, oh, rise to nobler manhood, &c.