

**THE LAW OF FRATERNITIES AND SOCIETIES: A
BOOK OF INTEREST TO MASONS, ODD
FELLOWS, RED MEN, DRUIDS, CHOSEN
FRIENDS, FORESTERS, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS,
MEMBERS OF A. O. U. W., ROYAL ARCANUM,
K. OF H., L. OF H., AND OF ALL SIMILAR
ORGANIZATIONS**

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The Law of Fraternities and Societies: A Book of Interest to Masons, Odd Fellows, Red Men, Druids, Chosen Friends, Foresters, Knights of Pythias, Members of A. O. U. W., Royal Arcanum, K. of H., L. of H., and of all similar Organizations by A. J. Hirschl

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A. J. HIRSCHL

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PYTHIAS, MEMBERS OF A. O. U. W., ROYAL ARCANUM,
K. OF H., L. OF H., AND OF ALL SIMILAR ORGANI-
ZATIONS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
THEIR INSURANCE FEATURE.

BY A. J. HIRSCHL,
Of the Davenport (Iowa) Bar.

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THE LAW
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§ 1. **Introductory Remarks.**—The object of the following pages is to bring into compact form cases decided in the courts of this country in relation to the various bodies named on the title page, and the effort was made to write in such a manner that the book can readily be understood by members of the societies, as indeed laymen in general, and for this reason the facts of the cases and extracts from the opinions are given, so that the matter may be fully comprehended by those who have not access to the law libraries. On the other hand, it is fair to suppose that these pages will not be entirely without interest or value to the lawyers. It is true that the cases given are, after all, but few, yet are they not for that very reason more difficult to find? Every practitioner knows that it is much easier to argue a case on promissory notes, for instance, where there are scores of decisions on every question, than it is to argue where there may be but one precedent, and that, perhaps, difficult to ascertain.

The topics considered are of great and increasing importance. The societies named on the title page include

over 1,500,000 members, and there are many others, such as Conductors' Associations, the Catholic Knights, etc., and as to their revenue, it is simply immense. The Odd Fellows alone are said to have an annual revenue of \$5,000,000, counting the lower and higher bodies together. It must be borne in mind that nearly all of these societies issue insurance policies, thus aggregating, it may be said, hundreds of millions of dollars in risks and liabilities. Under these circumstances, it must be conceded that some information as to the rights and liabilities of members can not come amiss.

No one book thus far has covered the matters of interest, and it is safe to say that the purchaser of this book will find in it what would otherwise have to be laboriously searched for throughout the numerous volumes of a library; but there has been no attempt made to include the ordinary and well known rules concerning corporations; these must be found in the usual books.

Cases concerning building associations, religious bodies and boards of trade, are not included in this book, except a few by way of illustration, as there are now extant separate works on these subjects; neither are all cases given in which societies were involved; those which turned on the ordinary principles of contracts, evidence, etc., are omitted, and only those given in which the decision deals with some phase peculiar to these bodies. There are given, also, English decisions, and cases concerning irregularly organized bodies, e. g., political committees, etc., which cases tend to illustrate the topics in hand.

But it may be stated right here that cases involving associations organized with a view to pecuniary profit, have been studiously omitted, it being deemed that such are neither decisive, nor even illustrative, of the rights and liabilities of members of the bodies under consideration, although in several text books, and indeed in many cases, decided by able judges at that, these two different kinds of associations may be found referred to, respectively, as though they occupied the same position.