

**CATALOGUE OF BOOKS ON THE MASONIC
INSTITUTION: IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF
TWENTY-EIGHT STATES OF THE UNION,
ANTIMASONIC. IN ARGUMENTS AND
CONCLUSIONS WITH INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS, AND A COMPILATION OF RECORDS
AND REMARKS; PP. 1-267**

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HENRY GASSETT

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CATALOGUE OF BOOKS

ON

THE MASONIC INSTITUTION,

IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF TWENTY-EIGHT STATES OF THE UNION,

ANTIMASONIC

IN ARGUMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS.

BY DISTINGUISHED LITERARY GENTLEMEN, CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES,

WITH

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, AND A COMPILATION OF
RECORDS AND REMARKS,

BY

A MEMBER OF THE SUFFOLK COMMITTEE OF 1829.

(*Henry Cassett.*)

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY DAMRELL & MOORE.

1852.

REMARKS.

FREEMASONRY AGGRESSIVE.—ANTIMASONRY DEFENSIVE.

IN the volumes comprised in this Catalogue, the character and designs of the order of Freemasonry are clearly unfolded. It will be found to be a system of fraud, of deception, of baseless assumptions, of arrogance even to the defiance of the world to put it down; and all these for the self-interest and aggrandizement of its members to the disregard of the equal rights of others. It declares itself to be of ancient, very ancient origin, and in the tracery, hardly a stopping place. But where is the evidence? *Now*, it is striving to rear monuments of its existence, in building Masonic Temples and laying corner-stones, but where are such monuments found of *ancient days*? “No authentic book, manuscript, coin, medal, engraving, painting, sculpture, architectural remains, — no historian, poet, moralist, antiquary, biographer, novelist, makes the slightest reference to speculative Freemasonry *prior* to the year 1717.” In that year, out of

the Stonemasons' Society in London, was formed the secret society of Freemasons. Thence, to sustain and give it celebrity, began absurd pretensions, imposture, and the masonic penalty, *death masonically inflicted*.

The first three degrees, named like those of the Laboring Masons' Society, — Entered Apprentice — Fellow Craft — Master Mason, — were revealed by Pritchard in 1730, and again by the author of "Jachin and Boaz" in 1762, and lastly by William Morgan in 1826.

Many deaths and sudden disappearances can now be pretty satisfactorily accounted for by the probable infliction of the *masonic penalty*. By circumstantial evidence more or less plain the following may be considered martyrs to Antimasonry:

SAMUEL PRITCHARD, for publishing in London, 1730, "Masonry Dissected."

——— PRIEST, for being associated with him in this publication.

THE AUTHOR of "JACHIN AND BOAZ," which he published in 1762. This date, although several writers have placed it later, is assumed to be the true one. It was given to the writer by a gentleman much given to the preservation of records and dates. Many years since, he saw a London edition of it of this date, and made a record of it. ——— Ward, in his Antimasonic Review, vol. 1, p. 231, says it was published between 1770 and 1780. In a very valuable 12mo volume of 372 pages, published in Louisville, Ken-

tucky, 1833, title "Manual of Masonry and Antimasonry," is an article on the origin of Antimasonry, by James G. Dana. He says, "'Jachin and Boaz' made its appearance in 1768, and that the author *disappeared* suddenly and strangely." A pamphlet, styled "Freemasonry in reply to Antimasonry in the American Quarterly Review," printed in Boston, 1830, says, "the author of 'Jachin and Boaz' was found murdered in the streets of London, with the masonic mark, *his throat cut from ear to ear*, on his lifeless corpse."

The writer has before him a copy of "Jachin and Boaz," printed in Boston, 1803, by Gilbert & Dean, without any intimation whence re-printed, and a copy of "Three Distinct Knocks, or an Authentic Key to the Door of Freemasonry," re-printed from a London edition at Monegan, 1795. The two are exactly similar in their contents, and evidently one a copy of the other; and there is no way to determine which is the original or prior one, unless it be decided, from the notes to the Fellow Craft's Song in each, which was the elder Grand Master, Lord Rawdon or Lord Burlington. The line in "Jachin and Boaz" is

"From Jabal down to Rawdon's Lord."

"*Note.* The present Grand Master."

The line in the "Three Distinct Knocks" is

"From Jabal down to Burlington."

"*Note.* Burlington was the late Grand Master; at present Lord Aberdeen fills the station."

The proper conclusion seems to be that there was but one martyr for the two publications, "Jachin and Boaz" and the "Three Distinct Knocks."

LIVINGSTON, a native of New York State. He acknowledged that the publication of "Jachin and Boaz" was a true exposition of Freemasonry; for which he was summoned to a Lodge, and after leaving his family to attend this summons, has never been seen.

NOAH SMITH, a Freemason of Manchester, Vermont. He re-published "Jachin and Boaz," and in consequence was so annoyed by Masons, that he sold his property and left for Kentucky. On his way he was murdered, about the year 1798. After he had started, a Mason of high standing said, "Mark my words, he'll never reach Kentucky."

Capt. ARIEL MURDOCK, a Freemason, murdered at Renselaerville, N. Y., October, 1803. (See note to Solomon Southwick's oration, July 4, 1828.) Murdock's wife having obtained a copy of "Jachin and Boaz," frequently entertained her friends from the amusing contents. Thence Murdock became suspected. In company with Masons he left his house and family, and his corpse was found next day with his throat horribly cut. His body was laid out in the woods, where found, and borne next day to a place of interment.

WILLIAM MICHENER resided in the village of Jenkinstown, ten miles north of Philadelphia, and was

found in a piece of woods, with his bowels torn out, his heart taken out, in his hand, and a knife by his side. A jury of inquest was called, and, strange to tell, returned a verdict of suicide. There was considerable excitement among the people. It was said he had revealed the secrets of Masonry. (See Boston Antimasonic Free Press, Oct. 3, 1828, extracted from the Rochester Balance, dated Rochester, Oct. 12, 1826, and signed J—— S——.)

A singular suicide! — his bowels out and his heart in his hand! Like a man hanging himself and putting his corpse in the coffin.

LORING SIMONDS, of Albany or vicinity, murdered in 1809, for having made one or more Masons clandestinely. In the Free Press of Aug. 13, 1830, see the attempt of Freemasons to ward off the imputation of any agency in the case.

—— SMITH, of Rhode Island.

WILLIAM MILLER, a Royal Arch Mason, murdered at Belfast, Ireland, June 4, 1813. He violated his Masonic obligation by saying "Jachin and Boaz" was a true book.

OLIVER GAVET, of Ohio. In 1824 he disappeared very mysteriously, after the discovery that he had made a Mason contrary to Masonic law.

JOAB HUNT, a Freemason of Boston. After Morgan's disclosures he spoke too freely and truthfully of Freemasonry. For this, he was summoned to a Lodge; and when about to attend the summons that evening,

he said he intended it to be his last visit to any Lodge. He was returned to his house a corpse that evening, Nov. 15, 1827, his brethren of the craft saying that he died in a fit; and in accounting for the black circle around his neck, said he fell with his neck on the back of a chair. The interment was hastened under Masonic management, and with scrupulous care that the corpse should not be viewed; probably murdered in the manner of William Miller. (See Anderton's affidavit in many libraries in this Catalogue.)

Since writing the above of the death of Joab Hunt, the following extracts concerning the same have been handed us. It is a mistake that he is named therein Joab Hunter:

From the Boston Free Press, May 15, 1829.

"But we will call upon these 'Bloody Knights of the Scull Bone' to answer some hard questions in this case. What kind of fit was it that Joab Hunter died of? What kind of fit was it that made the eyeballs look bloodshot, and as if started from their sockets? What kind of fit is it that makes an indentation with a black and blue mark around the neck? Did not the Masons pay close attention to the corpse?—so much so, that some of them were with it nearly every moment? When an inquisitive female connection, who tells the story, noticed this mysterious mark around his neck, did not a Mason instantly cover it up, saying, 'THAT IS WHERE HE HURT HIMSELF AGAINST THE ROUND OR RIM OF THE CHAIR WHEN HE FELL?' But could such an accident make a mark ALL ROUND A MAN'S NECK? Why were the Masons so opposed to having the