

THE  
MASONIC NATIONAL UNION;

A HISTORY

OF THE ORIGIN OF ANCIENT FREEMASONRY  
AMONG THE COLOURED CITIZENS,

IN THE

United States of America.

BY

REV. JOSHUA WOODLIN,

OF BURLINGTON, N. J.

R. W. G. R. Sec. of the G. L. of N. J., and M. W. N. S. G. W. of the M. W. N. G. L.  
of A. Y. M. of the U. S. of N. A.

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BURLINGTON, N. J.:  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.  
1855.

SINCERELY DEDICATED

TO THE

I. P. M.,

EAST, WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH,

BY THEIR

MOST DEVOUT BROTHER,

THE AUTHOR.

## PREFACE.

THE design of this little volume is simply to state facts for the benefit of those who now are, or hereafter may be, members of the craft, without going into detail. Some of our brethren have been innocently led astray by designing men; the error of these I have endeavoured to point out, with the view of bringing them back to the fold of their brethren.

The writer has long believed that such a work would be of incalculable benefit to the craft, and has anxiously awaited its appearance from some abler hand, but, disappointed in this hope, he has himself, while fully conscious of many imperfections, attempted to perform what he believes to be a necessary work. Should it be of use to the craft, and the friends of the order generally, it will entirely accomplish the object of

THE AUTHOR.

25-Jan. 1937 - J. Hugo Satoh 1052

## THE MASONIC NATIONAL UNION.

"TRUTH AND UNION."

### CHAPTER I.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

THE object of this small treatise is to remove the scales and mist of ignorance that has been for a long time cast over the minds of the craft, and has caused many dissensions and rebellions among them, and is yet circulating an influence calculated to destroy the peace and harmony of the craft, for the want of correct information of their origin, to support their dignity as Masons. For Masonry was originally intended for the better government of man, and for the purpose of restraining him from a breach of the established ordinances, as truth has a principle that never stoops to any thing mean or low, and in union there is strength; and if any people on God's earth stand in need of a union among themselves, for the bettering of their condition, and their own elevation, it is the people of colour.

Know ye, therefore, for yourselves, and be ye not deceived, as here we publish facts for the knowledge of the craft, and the world generally, and which we hope will be spread over the boundless continent of America, and to its transatlantic parent, well know-

#### SANCTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY.

Whereas, By a resolution of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Bro. Joshua Woodlin proposed to publish a History of the Origin of Ancient Free Masonry among the coloured citizens in the United States of America, under the title of "The Masonic National Union," be it known, that the said Grand Lodge, having examined said work, do find it in every respect worthy of the sanction of the Grand Lodge, and consequently recommend it to all A. Y. Masons, as a faithful guide.

GEORGE JACKSON, A. G. M.



ing that truth is immutable, and must prevail. We therefore place before its traducers the following facts, that those who have rebelled, and caused dissensions in our ancient and honourable order, and against our Grand Masonic National Union of the Coloured Ancient York Masons of the United States of America, may hide their heads with conscious shame. And that it may conduce to the further diffusion of a system, which next to the propagation of the pure gospel of Jesus Christ, is best calculated to humanize the turbulent spirit of that heterogeneous creature man, and ameliorate the sorrowful condition of the human family at large, for the principle of the society is to be influenced by the same motives, directed to the same object, governed by the same laws, and accessible to the whole brotherhood, wheresoever dispersed around the globe, if found worthy.

It must also create a source of pleasing reflection to those calling themselves Masons according to the old institution, or if you please, "Ancient York Masons," to find that in effecting this Union, it has been done without any sacrifice of principle; not one point for which they have uniformly contended has been relinquished; no innovations, no attempts at removing the ancient landmarks, no, not a "hair's breadth;" but that our wandering brethren who have been innocently led astray by designing men, at the first, have, like the repentant prodigal, returned to the hospitable old mansion of their brethren, and like him have been again received with the fraternal salute of friendship, under the paternal roof, and dressed them with a new name, similar to the new robe the father gave his returning son, namely, "The Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of these United States of North America, of coloured citizens;" the fatted calf was killed, and the guest was truly happy at the reception, and the banner of love and union was again seen flying on the pinnacle of the temple.

Long, very long, may the happy effects of this union be experienced; may peace preside, and good will ever pervade the solemn assemblies of the united brethren throughout the world; may peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces, notwithstanding a few evil-designed men may try to destroy our glorious union. Union is the foundation of the mystic order, and without union the fabric must fall to the ground, the lodges cease to assemble, the brethren be dispersed, the penniless go unassisted, the craft languish, and ancient masonry become extinct among the coloured citizens. The great object which is purposed to be attained by the institution will be frustrated, unless the principles of the society become universal; and to become universal, there must be a unity of design, and a corresponding unity of action pervading the great mystic family throughout the world. The pleasure which this union affords us, arises from the fact that it brings our excellent institution back to its primitive purity, and original principles, in the great work of benevolence and brotherly love; and, therefore, be it known to all Ephraimites, that it is in vain to attempt to destroy that glorious union which was so happily formed by the united brethren, in general grand convention assembled, in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, for the benefit of all true, honest, free and accepted ancient York Masons, and all who wished to become such.

The political head of this country having destroyed its connexion and correspondence between the subjects of these states and the country from which the Grand Lodge originally derived its commissioned authority, and as the principles of the craft inculcated on its professors submission to the commands of the civil authority of the country they reside in, the brethren did assume an elective supremacy, and under it chose a National Grand Master, and grand officers, and erected a National Grand Lodge, with independent powers and prerogatives, to be exercised, however,



on principles consistent with, and subordinate to the regulations pointed out in the constitutions of ancient Free Masonry, that the reputation and utility of the craft under their jurisdiction might be more extensively diffused, and which prevented any encroachment upon the rights of subordinate lodges, thus creating by mutual consent a general grand council, or a high court of appeals, where each and every lodge, both grand and subordinate, and where even brethren can have final decrees, and possessing the requisite power to regulate all matters of the craft, and to suspend or expel all rebellious lodges, and for ever put to silence the assumption of forming two or more grand lodges in one state, independent of each other; as it is clear that the authority of such grand lodges originates in assumption, or otherwise they would acknowledge the head from whence they derived their authority.

We are of the opinion that the doings of the grand convention held in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, on the 24th day of June, A. D. 1847, A. L. 5847, in forming "The Most National Grand Lodge of these United States of North America," thereby uniting together all the coloured ancient York Masons in the United States of North America in one body, were dictated by principles of the clearest necessity, founded in the highest reason, and warranted by precedents of the most approved authority. For in the history of the craft we find, that in England, about the year 1813, there were two grand lodges working independent of each other; in Scotland, the same; and in Ireland, their grand lodge was independent of either England or Scotland. It is clear that the authority of some of the grand lodges originated in assumption, or otherwise they would have acknowledged the head from whence they derived their authority.

In order to unite the craft, and reconcile the masonic family into one indissoluble band of brothers,

and form a complete masonic union throughout the kingdom, we find a general grand lodge formed in England, (similar to our national grand lodge,) under the title of the "United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of England," thereby forming a full, perfect, and perpetual union, so that in all time thereafter they should be represented in one grand lodge; and the Most Worshipful Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, was elected and enthroned grand master, in the presence of the deputation of masons from Scotland and Ireland, to abide and act by the universal recognised obligations until time should be no more.

In like manner did our brethren in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, in 1847, in solemn convention assembled, form a general grand lodge, under the title of "The Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of these United States of North America," thereby forming a full, perfect, and perpetual union, that in all time thereafter, they should constitute but one brotherhood, and that the said community should be represented in one general grand lodge, preventing all controversies or disputes, and producing the most perfect unity of obligations, of discipline, of working the lodges, of making, passing and raising, instructing and clothing brothers; so that but one pure, unsullied system, according to the general land marks, laws, and traditions of the craft, should be maintained, upheld, and practised throughout the masonic world, to abide and act by the universal, recognised obligations from the day and date of the said union, until time should be no more.

## CHAPTER II.

### ORIGIN OF FREE MASONRY AMONG COLOURED CITIZENS.

In the year 1782, Prince Hall, and other coloured men in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, made application to the Grand Lodge of Ancient



A. Y. M., of white brethren, in the city of Boston, the state of Massachusetts, for masonic privileges, which being denied them, by force of necessity they then went to England, where merit and not complexion is the standard of a man. Success crowned their efforts, and they were made masons in English lodges. They then petitioned the grand lodge of England, in London, for a warrant, which was granted to them on September 29th, 1784, at which time, Lord Howard was grand master under his Royal Highness, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master of all the Masons throughout England. In the warrant, Prince Hall was appointed Master; Boston Smith, Senior Warden; and James Saunders, Junior Warden; with full powers to make free and accepted ancient York Masons, and establish lodges in due and ancient form, and according to the usages and customs of the royal craft, in all ages of the world, as often as occasion should require.

The warrant was brought over from London, and safely delivered into the hands of Prince Hall, and the other officers, by captain James Scott, said to have been the brother-in-law of the celebrated John Hancock, first signer of the declaration of American independence. According to this commission, the Right Worshipful Prince Hall opened a grand lodge in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, in ample form, under the title of "The African Grand Lodge, of Boston, state of Massachusetts." After the organization, a celebration took place, of great pomp and splendour.

A very favourable notice of the celebration may be found in the newspaper published in Boston, by Draper & Folsom, in which an error was committed, by giving them the title of "The Saint Black Lodge;" which error was promptly corrected by the Right Worshipful Master, Prince Hall, in the following note:

*Messrs. Draper & Folsom,*

Dear Sirs,—I notice a paragraph in your paper of the 31st, of our celebration of the 27th. We are

styled there the Saint Black Lodge. Believing that you intended to give a fair and candid statement of the facts, I therefore take the liberty to inform you that our title is not Saint Black, but African Grand Lodge; nor do we aspire after any high title, but desire only, that the Supreme Architect of the universe may diffuse in our hearts, the true spirit of Masonry, love to God and to our fellow men, which we humbly conceive to be the grand pillar of ancient Free Masonry. With due respect to the publishers, I beg leave to subscribe myself, your obedient servant,

PRINCE HALL.

From the foregoing note we have conclusive evidence that the Right Worshipful Master Prince Hall, was a man of considerable attainments; and very successful in his profession, as a leather dresser. He presided over the lodge for many years, with dignity and honour to himself, and profit to the craft: he departed this life in 1807. In the year 1797, upon application, by petition, of Absalom Jones and others, he established a lodge in the city of Philadelphia, state of Pennsylvania. He was succeeded by Nero Prince, who presided one year, and then departed for Russia, where he was elevated to the office of a life guard to the Emperor Alexander, which office he held during life. Prince Hall left behind him one son, named Primus; he lived to be about one hundred years old, and left quite a large estate, the result of his own industry. Both Prince Hall and his son Primus were deeply interested in the welfare and elevation of their brethren. The land records show that they have headed petitions sent to the legislature at that early day, in their behalf; they also took a very active part in the education of children, and their example is worthy of imitation by the craft.

The third master was George Middleton; the next Peter Lewis, a distinguished musician; after him S. H. Moody was elected master, and in 1825 established

Harmony Lodge, at Providence, Rhode Island; appointing George C. Willis, master. In 1826, he established Boyer Lodge, in New York, appointing John Platt, master. He was succeeded by John T. Hilton; and the successors to him were C. A. De Randamine, Walker Lewis, Thomas Dalton, George Gaul, and James H. Howe. In 1836, John T. Hilton was again elected master, which office he held until elected to preside over the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of these United States of America, formed in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, in 1847, for the purpose of forming a full, perfect, and perpetual union, that in all time thereafter, the craft should form and constitute but one brotherhood.

### CHAPTER III.

#### COMMENCEMENT OF FREE MASONRY IN PENNSYLVANIA.

In the year 1797, Absalom Jones, Q. Butler, C. Bryon, J. Peterson, J. Tucker, J. Dunkin, J. Henry, and others, made application, by petition, to the Grand Lodge of Boston, for a warrant, which was granted to them, March 22d, 1797, (at which time Prince Hall was Grand Master,) with full powers to make free and accepted ancient York Masons, and establish lodges in due and ancient form, and according to the usages and customs of the royal craft, in all ages of the world, as often as occasion should require. According to this commission, a Lodge was formed in the city of Philadelphia, state of Pennsylvania, under the title of the African Lodge. In the year 1815, on the 27th of December, a Grand Lodge was formed in the city of Philadelphia, state of Pennsylvania, at the Masonic Hall, in South Eleventh Street, below Pine, under the title of the "First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America." This Lodge was very successful in establishing lodges in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, District of Columbia, &c.

### CHAPTER IV.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE REBELLION OF TWO LODGES, UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FIRST INDEPENDENT AFRICAN GRAND LODGE OF NORTH AMERICA, IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, ETC.

In the year 1818, Union Lodge No. 4, and in the year 1828, Harmony Lodge No. 5, working under the jurisdiction of the "First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America," in the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, conspired and rebelled against the aforesaid Grand Lodge, and according to a publication of the said Grand Lodge, they were expelled and considered as rebels, namely, the Union Lodge No. 4, and Harmony Lodge No. 5.

### CHAPTER V.

THE ORIGIN AND FORMATION OF ANOTHER GRAND LODGE IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

We here give you the original proceedings, according to their published documents, in the year 1833. It is there said, that James Miller, W. M. of Harmony Lodge, made application to the Lodge of white brethren at Norristown, and through their recommendation, a warrant was obtained for the consideration of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, of which, the Union Lodge No. 4, paid the sum of sixty-two dollars and fifty cents, from the Grand Lodge of Ohio, according to a published declaration, of which, the following is a copy:—"We, the officers of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, held in the town of Chillicothe, do grant a warrant and constitute a Lodge to be known by the style and title of Harmony Lodge No. 5, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, formerly



working under the Grand Lodge of Eleventh Street; but having now lawfully withdrawn: and we appoint James Miller, W. M., John H. Matthews, S. W., George W. Hilton, J. W., &c.

"Whereunto we affix our seal of the Grand Lodge. Done at our hall, this 8th day of May, 1833.

"[Signed,] HUGH FERGUSON, M. W. G. M.  
ROBERT STEPHENS, R. D. G. M.  
CONRAD VOIGHT, S. G. W.  
JAMES WILSON, J. G. W.  
JONATHAN BATTON, Jr., G. T.  
WILSON HUNTER, G. S."

Again, it is said that Harmony Lodge No. 5, and Union Lodge No. 4, originally working under the authority of the Grand Lodge in Eleventh Street, but having lawfully withdrawn, the Independent Harmony Lodge having obtained an independent warrant or charter from under the authority of the Grand Lodge of the state of Ohio, town of Chillicothe, to James Miller, W. M., J. Matthews, S. W., George W. Hilton, J. W., with proper delegated authority to hold a convention and grant dispensations unto a number of lodges, sufficient to form a regular Grand Lodge, it is said that the Independent Harmony granted dispensations to three lodges, and met in convention on the 17th of July, 1837, and there formed a Grand Lodge under the title of the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, held in South Seventh Street, Philadelphia. This Lodge proceeded to establish lodges, wherever they could, in opposition to the African Grand Lodge.

## CHAPTER VI.

THE AFRICAN GRAND LODGE PUBLISHED THE HIRAM GRAND LODGE AS BEING CLANDESTINE AND ILLEGAL, ETC.

IN 1845, the following publication appeared in the Public Ledger:

*"Philadelphia, June 18th, A. L. 5845.*

"Notice and caution to all free and accepted Masons throughout the globe, and the public generally. We, the undersigned, a committee appointed by the First African Grand Lodge of North America, in and for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, to show forth the deception that is practised upon the coloured community by an illegal Lodge of Masons, meeting in the Union Hall, South Seventh Street below Lombard, styling themselves the Hiram Grand Lodge of free and accepted coloured ancient York Masons of the state of Pennsylvania, purporting that they obtained an independent warrant or charter from the Grand Lodge of the state of Ohio, town of Chillicothe, with legal authority to grant dispensations to a certain number of lodges, sufficient to form a grand Lodge, said to be chartered May 7th, 1833, and granted to James Miller, W. M., J. Matthews, S. W. G., W. Hilton, J. W., with proper delegated authority to hold a convention and grant dispensations unto a number of lodges, sufficient to form a Grand Lodge, as above mentioned.

"The committee beg leave to state that the two subordinate lodges, namely, Harmony Lodge No. 5, and Union Lodge No. 4, originally worked under the jurisdiction of the aforesaid African Grand Lodge, now meeting in the Masonic Hall, South Eleventh Street below Pine. They having been expelled for conspiracy and rebellion, and are considered by the



said African Grand Lodge as rebels, &c. Know ye, therefore, that we, the committee appointed by the said Grand Lodge, apprehend that such imposition as has been, and now is practised upon the coloured community and the craft in this city and elsewhere, by the Lodge so styling themselves the Hiram Grand Lodge, may possibly prove (if not detected,) very injurious to the fraternity.

"We extremely regret having to appear in public print; but in justice to ourselves and the public in general, we deem it expedient to state the preceding and succeeding facts to prevent such deception from being practised upon the public any longer.

"To demonstrate the fact more clearly, see below.

"[Signed] JAMES BIRD,  
NOAH C. W. CANNON,  
JONATHAN DAVIS." } Committee.

"To whom it may concern,—Whereas, it has been represented to me, that certain persons of colour have established what they call a Lodge of Ancient York Masons, and profess to be working under a dispensation or warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ohio, which they say they obtained while the Grand Lodge was sitting in Chillicothe, in the county of Ross, Ohio, some ten or more years ago, I understand said coloured persons have what they call their Lodge, in South Seventh Street below Lombard Street, in the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania.

"Now, therefore, I, William H. Skerrett, S. W. of Scioto Lodge of No. 6, in Ross county, Ohio, do certify that the Lodge of which I am a member, is the only lodge in Ross county, Ohio; also, that I have been a member of said Lodge for more than twenty years, except from February 1826, to August 1827, during which time the Grand Lodge never was held in Ross county, except when convened to install officers of Scioto Lodge. I have, for twenty years, been an officer in said Scioto Lodge, and by virtue thereof, a

member of the Grand Lodge, and I never heard of a dispensation being granted by the Grand Lodge of Ohio to any persons, such as the first above represented; and if the warrant purports to be from the Grand Lodge in Ross county, Ohio, I do not hesitate to pronounce the same spurious; and if it came from a subordinate lodge, it, of course, is of no avail.

"I, William H. Skerrett, as aforesaid, and as Mayor of the city of Chillicothe, do hereby verify the above by signing my name thereunto and affixing the seal of the city of Chillicothe, this 25th day of September, A. D. 1844, not having the seal of the Lodge convenient.

"[Signed] WILLIAM H. SKERRETT, Mayor."

"Made in Hiram Lodge, Germantown, marked in Concordia Lodge, Philadelphia."

The above publication was answered by a committee from the Hiram Grand Lodge, as follows:

*Philadelphia, June 20th, 1845.*

"To all whom it may concern, and free and accepted Masons around the globe and the public generally: Whereas there did appear in the Public Ledger and other newspapers in this city, a malevolent, libellous, and slanderous publication, purporting to come from a committee from the African Grand Lodge, held in Eleventh Street, denying the authenticity of a warrant hailing from the Grand Lodge of the state of Ohio, and granted to Harmony Lodge No. 5, we here give you the original proceedings:" (those proceedings are the same as I stated in Chapter V.; therefore, I deem it unnecessary again to repeat it, as the reader can see it by referring to said chapter.)

This publication closes by saying, "It was never our design to come before the public in newspaper contest upon Masonry, more particularly, to answer such



insignificant calumnies, but in justice to ourselves and those concerned, we lay it before the public for their consideration."

"[Signed] JAMES NEWMAN,  
GEORGE C. LEWIS,  
JOSEPH WETHINGTON,  
JAMES POWELL,  
MINUS BROWN," } *Committee.*

The above publication was answered by the committee of the aforesaid African Grand Lodge, but as we do not think it necessary to state all that each party says about the other, we prefer giving other testimony, as it is common for contending parties, each to try to make his case to appear right.

The following publication appeared in a pamphlet called the Masonic Review, published in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 1847.

CIRCULAR.

{ Grand Lodge of Ohio,  
Columbus, April 7th, A. L. 5847.

To all the Fraternity, greeting:

A paper purporting to have emanated from this Grand Lodge, has this day been exhibited to me for examination and inspection, of which the following is a copy, viz.: "We, the officers of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, held in the town of Chillicothe, do grant a warrant and constitute a Lodge to be known by the style and title of Harmony Lodge No. 5, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, formerly working under the Grand Lodge in Eleventh Street, but having now lawfully withdrawn; we do appoint James Miller, W. M., John H. Matthews, S. W., George W. Hilton, J. W., &c.

"Whereunto we affix our seal of the Grand Lodge.  
"Done at our Hall, this 8th day of May, 1833.

"[Signed] HUGH FERGUSON, M. W. G. M.  
ROBERT STEPHENS, R. D. G. M.  
CONRAD VOIGHT, S. G. M.  
JAMES WILSON, J. G. M.  
JONATHAN BATTON, Jr., G. T.  
WILSON HUNTER, G. S."

"And having fully examined said paper, I have no hesitation in pronouncing it a forgery. This I do for the following palpable reasons, to wit:

"1st. There neither is, nor ever has been, such a lodge in our jurisdiction, as Harmony Lodge No. 5.

"2d. The Grand Lodge was not held in Chillicothe at the date this paper purports to have been issued thence, nor had been for the preceding fifteen years; but was, on the contrary, and had been, during all that period, held in Columbus and Worthington.

3d. This Grand Lodge never claimed jurisdiction within the bounds of another Grand Lodge, nor assumed authority to grant dispensations or warrants constituting new lodges in the city of Philadelphia, or any other part of the state of Pennsylvania.

4th. No such persons as those whose names are affixed to said paper have ever sustained such offices in the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and the persons are wholly unknown to us and our archives, either as men or Masons. Given under my hand and private seal at the city of Columbus, this seventh day of April, A. L. 5847, A. D. 1847.

[SEAL.] WILLIAM B. THRALL, Grand Master.

It is clear that the authority of some of those Grand Lodges originated in assumption, or otherwise they would acknowledge the head from whence they derived their authority, and the mother would own her children; but deception has been used, and the innocent have been led astray; for I have met with many



who have told me that when they were initiated they were told that there was no difference between the lodges, and that they were all one; but when they came to be examined by the standard of truth, they found they were Ephraimites; and when they found lodges existing among us as separate and distinct bodies, holding no intercourse with each other, and cherishing, in many instances, hatred, where love should exist between them, it led them to believe that some evil genius had been at work. Every honest and zealous mason must, we think, experience much satisfaction at the termination of those unnatural quarrels; for they were too mean and contemptible to be supported and defended by the sober judgment of any enlightened member of the craft who loved to see the prosperity of his fellow creatures. The well informed part of the brotherhood regretted these divisions among the fraternity; for men of intelligence laughed at our pretensions to "brotherly love," while we were quarrelling among ourselves; as this was utterly beneath the dignity of intelligent beings. It was long a source of wonder that the folly of this course had not been overcome, and its abettors put to confusion long before they were. The prosperity as well as the beauty of masonic union is evident to every one, and the idea of a masonic union among coloured lodges throughout the country, was a thing commonly talked of, and desired by the brethren in every section of the country.

#### CHAPTER VII.

A UNION AMONG ALL THE COLOURED MASONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the year 1847, Brother John T. Hilton, R. W. Grand Master of the mother Grand Lodge, of the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, seeing the clandes-

tine manner in which some of the lodges were working, proposed to the Grand Lodge, that the several Grand Lodges of colour in the United States be summoned to assemble in a General Grand Convention on the ensuing Saint John's day, 24th of June, and then and there form a grand bond of union under a national head. That the lodges should be represented in one National Grand Lodge, to be solemnly formed, constituted, and held, from thenceforward for ever. This request was complied with, and the mother Grand Lodge, of Boston, sent communications summoning all the different Grand Lodges of colour (all her legitimate and illegitimate children, that the illegitimate ones might be adopted into the masonic union,) to assemble in a National Grand Convention in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, on Saint John's day, the 24th of June, 1847, then and there to form a full and perfect union, that in all time thereafter the craft should be represented in one general Grand Lodge, that the penniless should not go unassisted, nor uninstructed, and the craft might flourish throughout the world.

The delegates from the several Grand Lodges met, accordingly, in convention, and formed a Grand Lodge, under the title of "The M. W. National Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of Colour, for the United States of North America, and the Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging."

The following is a copy of their published proceedings, viz.:

*To all whom it may concern: health, wealth, and prosperity.*

KNOW YE, That on the twenty-fourth day of June, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, A. L. five thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, a convention of representatives of the state Grand Lodges of colour, to wit: the Grand Lodge of the city



of Boston, state of Massachusetts; the First African Grand Lodge of North America, of the city of Philadelphia, state of Pennsylvania; and the Hiram Grand Lodge of the same city and state, met in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts; and after mature deliberation, the said representatives (the requisite or required masonic number of Grand Lodges being present,) adopted a resolution, unanimously, in good faith, and harmony, to organize and open a National Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, for the United States of North America, and the Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging. The said representatives then proceeded to nominate officers for the said Grand Lodge, (having full power to do so expressed in the credentials.) When the M. W. John T. Hilton, of the African Grand Lodge of Boston, was chosen R. W. G. M. M. W. James Bird, of the First African Grand Lodge of North America, was chosen R. W. D. G. M. M. W. Samuel Van Brakle, of the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, R. W. D. D. G. M. of the Middle States. George C. Willis, D. D. G. M. of the Eastern District. R. W. Martin R. Delaney, D. D. G. M. of the Western District. Br. W. Br. Enos Hall, R. W. Senior Grand Warden. Br. Emery Cronikin, R. W. Junior Grand Warden. Br. William E. Ambush, Grand Secretary. Br. James Newman, Grand Treasurer. Br. J. J. G. Bias, Grand Chaplain. Brs. James W. Powell, and James Carter, Grand Deacons. Br. Alexander Elston, Grand Sword Bearer. Br. Randolph Stokes, Grand Pursuivant. Br. Joseph Doyer, Grand Marshall. Br. Jonathan Miller, Grand Tyler.

#### Delegates.

*African Grand Lodge, Boston.*  
John T. Hilton,  
Henry Harris,  
George Gaul,  
William E. Ambush,  
Walker Lewis,  
George C. Willis,  
William H. Bruce.

*Hiram Grand Lodge, Penna.*  
Samuel Van Brakle,  
Emery Cronikin,  
James Newman,  
Philip Buchanan,  
Jonathan Lopeman,  
James Powell,  
John Anderson.

*Boyer Lodge, New York.*

Alexander Elston,  
W. H. Clark,  
L. Hyden.

*First African Grand Lodge of N. A.*

James Bird,  
Dr. James J. G. Bias,  
James Richmond.

#### *Articles of Union between the Three Grand Lodges of Free Masons of Colour, in America.*

In the name of God. Amen. Have agreed as follows:

ART. 1. The State Grand Lodges shall invariably acknowledge the National Grand Lodge.

ART. 2. The National Grand Lodge shall meet once in each year for the transaction of business, and all matters that shall come regularly before it, and shall hold special meetings whenever requested by three state Grand Lodges.

ART. 3. The election of officers for the National Grand Lodge shall take place every three years, for ever; and each officer shall be attached to some subordinate lodge, working regularly under the jurisdiction of some State Grand Lodge, in which he or they may reside.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the former officers to install their successors in office as soon after the election as possible, to whom they shall deliver the effects of the National Grand Lodge.

ART. 5. All State Grand Lodges shall annually make regular returns of a list of their members in good standing, so that there may be a perfect union throughout; and any State Grand Lodge that shall neglect or refuse to make their regular returns for two successive terms, shall have their warrant vacated.

ART. 6. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to call lodges of emergency, whenever the nature of cases may require it, of which he shall give due notice to his district deputies, that each lodge may be apprized of the same.

ART. 7. The National Grand Lodge shall grant warrants to all State Grand Lodges applying, if worthy, which said Lodge shall be constituted agreeably to ancient rules and regulations.



ART. 8. The National Grand Lodges shall have power to adjourn to meet in any town, city, village, or state, in its jurisdiction, and shall have power to summon its officers, books, and papers of all State Grand Lodges, to examine the doings of all lodges under its jurisdiction.

ART. 9. No State Grand Lodge of colour shall be taken into fellowship, nor be considered legal, which does not hold its warrant under this National Grand Lodge, and agreeably to the declaration of sentiment as signed in open convention, by the delegates of the several Grand Lodges in convention assembled.

ART. 10. The Grand Master shall, on his retiring from office, deliver this warrant, with all the effects of the National Grand Lodge, to his successor in office whenever duly installed.

ART. 11. All State Grand Lodges who shall refuse to comply with all the doings of the National Grand Lodge shall not be considered in fellowship, and as such shall be recorded.

Adopted in the city of Boston, on the 24th day of June, A. D. 1847, A. L. 5847, and signed by the following delegates in open convention.

John T. Hilton,  
Henry Harris,  
George Gaul,  
William E. Ambush,  
William H. Bruce,  
Walker Lewis,  
Alexander Elston,  
James Newman,  
Philip Buchanan,  
W. H. Clark,

James Bird,  
James J. Richmond,  
Dr. James J. G. Bias,  
Samuel Van Brakle,  
James W. Powell,  
Emery Cronkin,  
John Anderson,  
Jonathan Lopeman,  
George C. Willis,  
L. Hyden.

The National Grand Lodge being thus constituted, proclamation was then made that the Most Worshipful John T. Hilton, was elected and installed Grand Master of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of Ancient York Free Masons of the United States of America, and his Worship received the homage of the fraternity, and he was empowered to affix the

great seal thereto, and a copy be sent to each Grand Lodge.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master then announced that in consequence of the appointment which he had received from the Grand Lodge, he made the following proclamation aloud:—

Hear ye, This is the act of union engrossed in confirmation of articles solemnly concluded and signed by the delegates of the several Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, of the United States of America, sealed and ratified by the several lodges respectively, by which they are to be hereafter and for ever known, and acknowledged by the style and title of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of colour, of the United States of America. How say you, brothers, representatives of the several fraternities, do you accept of, ratify, and confirm the same? To which the assembly answered, We do accept, ratify, and confirm the same, under three times three. The Grand Master then said, And may the Great Architect of the universe make the union perpetual. To which the assembly replied, so mote it be.

Done at the National Hall in the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts, this 24th day of June, A. D. 1847, A. L. 5847, and the great seal of the National Grand Lodge affixed.

GREAT  
SEAL.

JOHN T. HILTON, M. W. N. G. M.  
WILLIAM E. AMBUSH, M. W. N. G. S.

This act was celebrated at its consummation, in Boston, by a public parade, accompanied by a band of music and an address by the Most-W. G. M., John T. Hilton, and ended with a soiree in the evening.

By an action of the National Grand Lodge, notice was sent to the different Grand and subordinate Lodges, summoning them to meet on the 24th day of

June, 1848, in the city of New York, to celebrate Saint John's day, in confirmation of the formation of the National Grand Lodge Union. As the 24th came on Sunday, the day was celebrated on Monday the 25th, at which time a splendid banner was presented to the National Grand Lodge, by her subordinates. It was computed that five thousand Masons formed the procession. The various newspapers complimented the imposing appearance of that body, on that great day, as being superior to any thing of the kind ever before witnessed in that city.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### RE-ORGANIZATION OF STATE GRAND LODGES IN KEEPING WITH THE NATIONAL UNION.

We will here give their published proceedings.

*To all whom it may concern.*

*Agreement between the two committees appointed to settle the difficulties between the two Grand Lodges of colour, in the State of Pennsylvania, African Grand Lodge of North America, and Hiram Grand Lodge.*

A committee of conference was appointed by the National Grand Lodge, for the purpose of devising ways and means of effecting a union between the African Grand Lodge of North America, and the Hiram Grand Lodge. In accordance with the recommendation of the National Grand Lodge, June 1847, A. L. 5847, it was

1st. *Resolved*, By the mutual consent of both of the committees, that Brother Walker Lewis, of the Grand Lodge of Boston, act as chairman.

2nd. *Resolved*, That Brother James P. Clay act as Secretary.

3rd. *Resolved*, That for the mutual consent of uniting the two Grand Lodges of Colour, in the state of Pennsylvania, that the oldest Lodge shall have the Grand Master, and the next senior Lodge shall have

the Deputy Grand Master, and so on, until all the officers are appointed.

4th. *Resolved*, That if the Grand Lodges do not receive the appointment of the committee, that each Grand Lodge shall have the right to nominate such brothers of their Lodge as they may think best; then the brothers so chosen or appointed, shall be installed and proclaimed grand officers to their respective offices.

5th. *Resolved*, That we, the committee, apply to the National Grand Lodge for a warrant for the state of Pennsylvania; that the warrant be delivered to the said Grand Lodge.

6th. *Resolved*, That in the event that either of the two Grand Lodges refuse to comply with the above resolution, that the Grand Lodge which shall comply shall receive the warrant.

Signed by the committee, Dec. 10th, A. D. 1847, A. L. 5847.

*African Grand Lodge, N. America.*

Dr. James J. G. Bias,  
Jonathan Davis,  
James P. Clay,  
James Wilson,  
Perry Tillman.

*Hiram Grand Lodge.*

Robert Brown,  
Emery Cronikin,  
James Newman,  
James W. Powell,  
George C. Lewis.

WALKER LEWIS, *Chairman.*  
JAMES P. CLAY, *Secretary.*

Attest, JOHN T. HILTON, M. W. G. M.  
JAMES BIRD, D. G. M.  
SAMUEL VAN BRAKLE, D. D. G. M.  
JAMES J. RICHMOND, D. G. S.

The committee submitted the following resolution:  
*Resolved*, That for uniting the two Grand Lodges in the state of Pennsylvania, the African Grand Lodge have the choice of Grand Master for the year (then) ensuing, and the Hiram Grand Lodge the D. G. M., &c. &c., which was unanimously agreed upon.



### *Formation of the Grand Lodges for the State of Pennsylvania.*

At a meeting of the Masters, Wardens, and legal Representatives of the subordinate Lodges, under the African Grand Lodge of North America, and the Hiram Grand Lodge, held in the Hall of the African Grand Lodge, January 19th, 1848, according to previous notice and arrangements for consolidating the two Grand Lodges, did agree that the two Grand Lodge warrants, and all former and succeeding warrants and dispensations under their jurisdiction, are hereby revoked and declared forever, hereafter, null and void, and did, then and there, form a Grand Lodge for the state of Pennsylvania, under the style and title of "The Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Colour, for the state of Pennsylvania, and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging," did elect and install the following named brethren, for the ensuing Masonic year, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Bro. William H. Riley, R. W. G. M.	Jacob Jenkins, R. W. D. G. M.
Thomas Black, G. S. W.	Yeter Anderson, G. J. W.
Robert Brown, G. T.	James P. Clay, G. S.
William Douglas,	George C. Lewis, G. M. C.
Solomon Clarkson,	Henry Brooks, G. S. B.
Dr. J. J. G. Bias,	Jonathan Miller, G. M.
Samuel Gray,	Prince Black,
William Cropper,	John Anderson,
Andrew Brown,	John Minton, G. T.
	Emanuel Cohen, G. P.

I here give the officers entire, that the craft may see who they are. Everything passed off in peace and quietness, during Bro. William H. Riley's administration, he being a true-born son of Levi; but under the administration of the next Grand Master, Jacob Jenkins, there was conspiracy and rebellion, he not being a son of the right stamp, as will be seen hereafter.

### *Formation of the first Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Colour for the State of New Jersey.*

Agreeable to notice duly given, a convention of A. Y. M., for the State of New Jersey, was held on the 12th of June, A. D. 1848, A. L. 5848, in the Masonic Hall, city of Burlington.

Bro. Samuel Van Brakle, D. D. G. M. of the National Grand Lodge, was chosen chairman, and Joshua Woodlin secretary. The following Lodges were represented, and the Grand Lodges where hailing from.

<i>African Grand Lodge.</i>	<i>Hiram Grand Lodge.</i>
<i>Unity Lodge No. 11, Burlington.</i>	<i>St. John's Lodge No. 8, Trenton.</i>

#### DELEGATES.

John H. Romeo,  
Joshua Woodlin,  
Joseph Cornealious,  
Alexander Brown,  
Benjamin Jackson.

#### DELEGATES.

Benjamin Steward,  
George Shrive,  
Charles James,  
John C. Perkins,  
Henry Ellsbury.

<i>Mount Moriah Lodge No. 12, Salem.</i>	<i>Rising Sun Lodge, No. 19, Camden.</i>
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#### DELEGATES.

John S. Rock,  
John D. Shockley,  
David D. Shockley,  
Henry M. Bias,  
Richard Harris.

#### DELEGATES.

Littleton Williams,  
George Jackson,  
Thomas Barnes,  
Wesley Arpatrong,  
John Blake.

After mature and serious deliberation, they did then and there, form a Grand Lodge for the State of New Jersey, under the style and title of the "Union Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. for the state of New Jersey and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, did elect and install the following named brethren for the ensuing Masonic year, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Bro. George Shreves, R. W. G. M.	Littleton Williams, D. D. G. M.
Benjamin Jackson, D. G. M.	George Jackson, G. J. W.
Henry M. Bias, G. S. W.	Joshua Woodlin, G. R. S.
Henry Ellsbury, G. T.	Charles James, S. S.
William Stanley, S. D.	Joseph Cornealious, J. S.
John Stratton, J. D.	Thomas Barns, G. S.
John S. Rock, G. M. C.	Alexander Brown, G. T.
John C. Perkins, G. P.	John Blake, G. M.
	John D. Shockley, G. C.

Formation of the Rt. W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the city of Boston, state of Massachusetts. Four subordinate Lodges formed A. D. 1848, A. L. 5848, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Formation of the United Grand Lodge for the state of New York. Six subordinate Lodges formed A. D. 1848, A. L. 5848, did elect and install the following named brethren for the ensuing Masonic year, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Bro. James Barnett, R. W. G. M.	Jacob R. Gibbs, D. G. M.
Alexander Elston, G. S. W.	Arnold Hicks, G. J. W.
Ransom Wake, G. T.	Jacob Frances, G. S.
James B. Webb, S. D.	Charles Bryce, J. D.
C. Johnson, S. S.	George W. Hilton, J. S.
Charles Horton, G. M. C.	Samuel Byard, G. S.
Thomas Benjamin, G. P.	T. Eddy, G. T.

Formation of the Rt. W. Union Grand Lodge for the state of Maryland, in the city of Baltimore, of Ancient York Masons of Colour. Three subordinate Lodges formed A. D. 1848, A. L. 5848, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Formation of the Rt. W. Grand Lodge for the state of Ohio, in the city of of Ancient York Masons, formed A. D. 1848, A. L. 5848, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Formation of the Rt. W. Union Grand Lodge for the District of Columbia, city of Washington, of A. Y. Masons. Three subordinate Lodges formed A. D. 1852, A. L. 5852, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

Celestial Lodge No. 2 in the state of Rhode Island, city of Providence, in union with the National Grand Lodge.

A subordinate Lodge in the state of Connecticut, in National Union.

A subordinate Lodge in the state of Indiana, in National Union.

A subordinate Lodge in the state of Louisiana, in the city of New Orleans, in National Union.

A subordinate Lodge in the state of Virginia, in the city of Norfolk, in National Union.

Hannibal Lodge No. 1, California, held in the city of San Francisco, formed A. D. 1852, A. L. 5852, in National Union.

Not being in possession of copies from the original records of the several Grand and subordinate Lodges in the Union, I am unable to give the exact date, and the officers elected at the formation of all the Lodges. The brethren failed to send them according to promise. I had almost forgotten to mention the two subordinate Lodges in the state of Delaware, city of Wilmington, formed A. D. 1854, A. L. 5854, in National Union.

Be it known to all men, that the act of union between the several Grand and subordinate Lodges of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of Colour, in the United States of North America, is solemnly signed, sealed, ratified, and confirmed by those present. And therefore the several fraternities are one, to be from henceforth and forever known and acknowledged by the style and title of the "M. W. N. (Union) Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons (of Colour) of the United States of North America, therefore our union is perfect and full, being in the superlative degree. And may the great Architect of the Universe make our union eternal; so mote it be.

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garment; as the dew of Hermon, that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there



the Lord commanded a blessing, even life for evermore."

Therefore, in view of this great Masonic union and the lasting good that it is calculated to exert in behalf of the down-trodden sons of Africa, we adopt the language of the Rev. Dr. J. J. G. Bias, "Whereas the spirit of conspiracy and rebellion has in all ages of the world, been looked upon as one of the greatest sins, both in ecclesiastical and civil courts; and whereas, in all governments, political or ecclesiastical, those who conspire to overthrow and subvert the fundamental principles of government, which they help to form, rule themselves out of the pale of all law, and render themselves unworthy of the protection of the law. The principle is a clear one, founded in God's own moral government; for when Adam conspired against God's moral government, he was driven from the garden of Paradise, and never permitted to return.

And that when persons are found conspiring to overthrow the governments, they being found guilty and expelled, ought never to be permitted to return again into said government; and all who should encourage said rebels, ought to be considered unworthy of confidence, and not the true friends of the craft."

We feel thus compelled to give these sentiments to our brethren, as we daily feel the truth of the observation, as will be seen in the following chapter.

How true that saying of the Scriptures, 2 Peter, ii. 22: "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

## CHAPTER XI.

### CONSPIRACY AND REBELLION AGAINST THE NATIONAL UNION, ETC.

*To all whom it may concern.*

*These presents come, greeting:*

Whereas, The United Grand Lodge of the State of New York, has refused to comply with the provisions of their charter, also the constitutional authority of the National Grand Lodge, from whom they received their authority; therefore the most Worshipful National Grand Lodge (of Colour,) of these United States of North America of Free and Accepted A. Y. M., now in Grand Lodge assembled on the 25th day of June, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849, at the Masonic Hall, south Eleventh Street, Philadelphia, do, by these presents, make known that the United Grand Lodge of the state of New York, and her warrant, is hereby expelled from the Masonic Union and Fraternity, together with her officers, viz.:

James Barnet, R. W. G. M.	Jacob R. Gibbs, D. G. M.
Alexander Elston, G. S. W.	Arnold Ricks, G. J. W.
Ransom F. Wake, G. T.	Jacob Frances, G. S.
James B. Webb, S. D.	Charles Bryce, J. D.
C. Johnson, S. S.	George Hilton, J. S.
Charles Horton, G. M. C.	Samuel Byard, G. S.
Thomas Benjamin, G. P.	T. Eddy, G. T.

and all the subordinate Lodges that may, or have adhered to the said expelled United Grand Lodge, which are as follows:

Boyer Lodge No. 1, of New York,  
 Rising Sun, No. 3, " " "  
 A faction expelled from Celestial Lodge No. 2, N. Y.  
 Hiram Lodge No. 4, Brooklyn.

their warrants and men from the fraternity for the

term of nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine years, nine months and nine days, for the violation of the following articles of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge.

ART. 1. The State Grand Lodges shall invariably acknowledge the National Grand Lodge.

ART. 9. No State Grand Lodge of Colour shall be taken in fellowship, nor be considered legal, which does not hold its warrant under the National Grand Lodge, agreeable to the declaration of sentiment, as signed in convention assembled.

ART. 11. All State Grand Lodges who shall refuse to comply with all the doings of the National Grand Lodge, shall not be considered in fellowship, and such shall be recorded.

And against the following article, being the 4th of declaration of sentiment, (which declaration of sentiment was signed by Alexander Elston, representative from the Lodges of New York, as their representative, and by their instructions,) "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge ourselves to each other in solemn ties of brotherhood."

And furthermore, for neglecting and refusing to elect the officers of the said United Grand Lodge in the December of each year, as laid down in the warrant, for the government of the United Grand Lodge of the state of New York, granted to her by the said National Grand Lodge, which became null and void when disobeyed, the violated constitution and sentiment were signed by Alexander Elston, of New York, and the other delegates and members of the National Grand Lodge, in solemn convention, on the 28th of June, A. D. 1847, A. L. 5847.

Therefore, I do now hereby certify that the before mentioned expulsion, is the act and deed of the National Grand Lodge, and by authority of the National Grand Lodge, Brother Joseph W. Smith, the D. D. Grand Master of the state of New York, Connecticut

and Rhode Island, is hereby authorized to form a Grand Lodge for said State, without delay; and all true Masons that are favourable to the National Union, are respectfully requested to call at his office, No. 7 West Broadway, or to that of Brother John N. Thompson, No. 40 Grand Street, and register their names.

Done under my hand, and I do cause the seal of the National Grand Lodge to be affixed this 29th day of June, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849.

GREAT  
SEAL.

JOHN T. HILTON, N. W. N. G. M.

Attest, JONATHAN DAVIS, N. G. S. Pro tem.

JONATHAN DAVIS,  
JOSHUA WOODLIN,  
ROBERT BROWN, } Committee.

*Published by order of the National Grand Lodge.*

And in accordance with the authority vested in Brother Joseph W. Smith, D. D. G. M., and agreeable to the call of the National Grand Lodge, for all good Masons to register themselves, the following came forward.

Hiram Lodge No. 1, Brooklyn.  
Celestial Lodge No. 2, New York.  
Meridian Lodge No. 3, New York.  
King Solomon Lodge No. 4, New York.  
Eureka Lodge No. 5, New York.  
Union Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg.

Therefore, these are legally warranted lodges, and working under the National Grand Lodge of the United States of America, of Coloured Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, and in accordance with instructions, a State Grand Lodge was formed October 13, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849, holding jurisdiction over the several subordinate lodges, above mentioned,



continuing in national union, of which the following brethren were elected, and installed officers, viz.:

- Brother John Flamer, R. W. G. M.
- " R. F. Smith, R. W. S. G. W.
- " George W. Levere, R. W. G. Sec.
- " R. H. Cusins, R. W. D. G. M.
- " D. T. Curry, R. W. J. G. W.
- " John Hall, R. W. G. T.
- " Rev. B. N. C. Worrick, R. W. G. C. &c.

*To all whom it may concern, these presents come,  
Greeting :*

Know ye, that at the annual meeting of the National Grand Lodge of the United States of America, held at the Masonic Hall, Chatham street, New York, on Friday, June 21, A. L. 5850, A. D. 1850; and after being duly organized, an interesting and voluminous report was presented by Brother J. W. Smith, M. W. D. D. N. G. M., stating the important fact of the formation of a State Grand Lodge for the State of New York, under the title of the "Union Grand Lodge for the State of New York, of the Ancient York Masons," in national union, and six subordinate lodges, which was, upon motion, resolved by the body assembled, that the report should be confirmed, thus entitling a full representation from the State of New York.

Reports from other State Grand Lodges were then read, and referred to the Committee on Reports. The Address of M. W. John T. Hilton was then read—a masterly document, exhorting the brethren to stand firm in Union, Love and Friendship, and declining a re-election. After which, a vote of thanks was tendered to him for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties, for the last three years; and Brother Enos Hall was elected M. W. N. G. M., &c.,

and installed, and received the homage of the fraternity, &c.

Given under my hand and seal of the N. G. Lodge, this 25th day of June, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850.



ENOS HALL, M. W. N. G. M.

Attest,

JAMES J. RICHMOND, N. G. S.

Know ye, that I, Samuel Van Brakle, duly elected and installed R. W. D. D. G. M., by the unanimous suffrages of the Grand Lodge of these United States, by representation, in general convention assembled, and by the N. G. L. of the United States of America, to have power and jurisdiction over several State Grand Lodges;

Therefore take notice, that authentic information has been received by me, that Jacob Jenkins, R. W. G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, for the State of Pennsylvania, (of colour,) together with other officers and representatives, have been guilty of violating their obligations, to the disunion of our noble Order.

Therefore I, Samuel Van Brakle, R. W. D. D. G. M., declare the officers' seats in the Grand Lodge to be vacant, and remain vacated by them, until they are brought to trial, and prove themselves innocent of the charge—I therefore appoint our worthy P. R. W. G. M. William H. Riley, to act as Grand Master of the said Grand Lodge, for the State of Pennsylvania; and Mr. Jacob Jenkins will deliver up the charter seal, and all other property held by him to the said R. W. G. M. William H. Riley, without fail, and may peace and happiness attend you.

Given under my hand and the seal of the N. G.



Lodge, this 12th day of November, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849.



S. VAN BRAKLE, D. D. G. M. N. G. L.

*To all whom it may concern, comes greeting:*

Know ye, that on the 13th day of November, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849, at a special communication of the Grand Lodge, for the State of Pennsylvania, held at the Masonic Hall, South Seventh street, Philadelphia, it was, on motion, resolved, that the following named brethren be suspended until the next regular communication of the Grand Lodge, when they are hereby ordered to appear, and show cause why they shall not be expelled, viz.: Jacob Jenkins, Isaac Wester, John Lopeman, George Galbraith, Joseph Wethington, Lewis Foreson, Francis Fancet, William Winters, Reuben Turner, John Diton, James Parker, James Wilson, Abraham B. Johnson, Henry Robinson, Jas. Cole, Thomas Chain, David Hall, John Allison, Solomon Marshall, Richard Davis, Elisha Thitcher, &c.

*To all whom it may concern, comes greeting:*

Know ye, that on the 15th day of November, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849, that the Grand Lodge, for the State of Pennsylvania, met at the Masonic Hall, South Eleventh street, Philadelphia, pursuant to adjournment, on the 13th instant, to consider the action passed on the 9th instant, by the following named lodges: Union Lodge, No. 4; Sheba Lodge, No. 7; Fidelity Lodge, No. 8; Harmony Lodge, No. 10; Prudence Lodge, No. 11; Christian Lodge, No. 12, and Paxton Lodge, No. 16: when it was, on motion, resolved that the above named lodges be, and are hereby suspended until the next quarterly commu-

nication of the Grand Lodge, at which time they are hereby summoned to appear, and show cause why they should not be expelled, and that all brethren of said lodges, who are not concerned in the plot, or conspiracy and rebellion against the National Union, with those lodges, are hereby requested to report themselves to the Grand Secretary, forthwith. (Extract from the minutes.)

Attest,

DOCT. J. PECK, G. Sec.

At a quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, for the State of Pennsylvania, of Ancient York Masons of colour, held December 17; A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849, the lodge being opened, in due form, by Brother William H. Riley, P. G. M., the documents referred to were read and approved, &c.; and all the members and lodges therein charged with conspiracy and rebellion against the National Union, in violation of their obligations, to the disunion of our noble Order, were ordered to appear before the said Grand Lodge for trial, and were accordingly expelled; and a committee of five appointed to obtain the warrant, seal and other property of the said Grand Lodge. (Extract from the minutes.)

Attest,

DOCT. J. PECK, G. Sec.

It does seem to me, that some of our masonic brethren are so lost to all the honour and dignity of the craft, that if they ever were made in a regularly constituted lodge, and instructed in the duties of the royal craft, they have lost it all; for when we were made a Mason, we were instructed that the world's great architect was our supreme master, the Bible our guide; to be a peaceable subject to civil powers, and never be concerned in plots of conspiracy or rebellion against the well-being of the nation; to cultivate brotherly love; teach truth, peace and concord; open our ears to the cries of the unfortunate, to extend our hands to them, with the cup of consola-



tion; that misery unites men of all nations in one affectionate band of brotherhood. It shows us we are all upon a level, and that merit is the only just distinction. It orders us to live within compass, and always to act upon the square with the world, and with one another: forbids intemperance, and is a superstructure fixed with solid firmness on the broad basis of moral and social virtue.

But it does seem to us that some of our masonic brethren in Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, act as if they had been obligated for the destruction and disunion of the craft, and instructed to sow the seeds of rebellion among them; for so deeply were they steeped in the spirit of conspiracy and rebellion, and lost to all sense of union, peace, and harmony of the Royal Craft, that they could not content themselves in their own domain, but sneaked over the Delaware river, to the peaceful little State of New Jersey, and crept up to Rising Sun Lodge, No. 4, of Camden, and St. John's Lodge, No. 8, of Trenton, (under the jurisdiction of the Rt. W. Union Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. of Colour of New Jersey,) and with all the serpent venom of malignity, there sowed the seeds of conspiracy and rebellion. But the pillars of Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, of Camden, being established in wisdom, strength, and beauty, withstood the temptation, but St. John's Lodge, No. 8, of Trenton, fell by the hands of the tempter, as will be seen by the following letters, &c. There were two other lodges in the State which these tempters did not dare to approach, namely, Unity Lodge, No. 2, in Burlington, and Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 8, of Salem. They well knew that those lodges were of the true-born sons of Levi, and roots and branches of the Royal Craft, (Prince Hall,) and that they wore the blue and scarlet garter, and on their breasts a blazing star; and that if they approached them in the spirit of conspirators, they would be sent back whence they came.

*Philadelphia, April 10, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850.*

To Brother Joshua Woodlin, Esq.;  
G. R. S. State of N. Jersey:

Dear Sir,—

I have been credibly informed that a Mr. Samuel Sharp, of Snow-Hill, N. J., with others, are desirous of getting up a Masonic Lodge in that place, to which end I have directed him to communicate with you or brother Benjamin Jackson, who would give them all the necessary information in regard to the matter. My advice to you now is, that you had better attend to them forthwith, as Jacob Jenkins is doing all he can to split your masonic body. He has been in Camden two or three times, and had nearly succeeded in dividing the brethren; and I suppose he would have taken the whole of the brethren there with him in a revolt, if it had not been for the firmness of their Worshipful Master, George Jackson, who refused to put the question.

Yours, fraternally,  
JONATHAN DAVIS,  
G. R. S. G. L., State Penn'a.

Brother Benjamin Jackson, Rt. W. G. Master of the Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. of Colour for the State of New Jersey, hearing of the confused state of the Craft under his jurisdiction, visited, with the Grand Secretary, Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, of Camden, and found the Craft in a very confused condition. On inquiry into the cause, we found that Littleton Williams, District Deputy G. Master of the G. Lodge for the State of New Jersey, one of the Grand Master's officers, and a member of Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, had drank deeply of the spirit of rebellion, (instructed by Pennsylvanian emissaries,) and was trying to instil the same rebellious spirit into the members of Rising Sun Lodge No. 4. The Grand Master endeavoured to show him his error, and the wickedness of such a



course, and the Craft that had adhered to his rebellious teaching; but some of them had drunk so deeply of the spirit of disunion, that it seemed of little use to attempt to turn them from their course. The Gr. Master then issued the following—

#### PROCLAMATION.

Know ye, that I, Benjamin Jackson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. of Colour, for the state of New Jersey and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, and having jurisdiction over the several subordinate Lodges. Therefore, take notice, that authentic information has been received by me, that Littleton Williams, D. D., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. Y. M., for the state of New Jersey, of Colour, together with other members of the Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, of Camden, and the members of St. John's Lodge No. 1, of Trenton, have been guilty of violating their obligations in trying to destroy our National Union.

Therefore I, Benjamin Jackson, Rt. W. G. M. of the said Grand Lodge, declare they are suspended until they are brought to trial and prove themselves innocent of the said charge. Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Lodge, this 12th day of April, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850.

[SEAL.] BENJAMIN JACKSON, R. W. G. M.

*To all whom it may concern, comes greeting:*

At a special communication of the Rt. W. Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. of Colour, for the state of New Jersey, held April 26th, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850.

The Grand Lodge being opened in due form by Bro. Benjamin, G. M., documents were presented, charging the following named brethren with conspiracy and rebellion against the National Union, in violating their obligation, to the disunion of our noble order.

*Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, Camden. St. John's Lodge No. 1, Trenton.*

Littleton Williams,  
William D. Brown,  
James Harper,  
James Green,  
James Staton,  
Thomas Rhynes,  
Cornelius Cuff,  
Charles Warfield,  
Charles Barnes,  
Thomas Pratt,  
Benjamin Buck,  
Ephraim Gould,  
Joseph Eli,  
Reed Carter,  
John Rodney,  
Clement Banerd,  
Simon Branson,  
Charles Simons,  
Joseph Chase,  
Henry Chattin.

Benjamin Steward,  
Robert Thomas,  
Henry Ellisberry,  
Joseph Simons,  
Samuel Anderson,  
Alfred Wood,  
Charles Ricco,  
Edward Johnson,  
Peter Vactor,  
Isaac Welch,  
Henry Smith,  
James Shruby,  
Charles Latou,  
Charles Vansickle,  
George Rodman,  
John Robins,  
Reden Johns.

It was on motion, *Resolved*, That the above named brethren be suspended until the next regular communication of the Grand Lodge, and that they be notified to appear and show cause why they shall not be expelled for a violation of their obligation, in conspiracy and rebellion against the National Grand Union.

*(Extract from the Minutes.)*

Attest, JOSHUA WOODLIN, G. R. S.

*To all whom it may concern, comes greeting:*

At a quarterly communication of the Union Grand Lodge, for the state of New Jersey, of A. Y. M., held June 24th, A. D. 1850, A. L. 5850,

The Grand Lodge was opened in due form by Bro. Benjamin Jackson, R. W. G. M. The document that was presented at the special meeting of the Grand Lodge held April 26th, 1850, was read and approved, and after mature deliberation it was, on motion, *Resolved*, That all the brethren named in the document of Rising Sun Lodge No. 4, of Camden, N. J.,



be and are hereby expelled from the Union Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. for the state of New Jersey, of Colour and masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, for conspiracy and rebellion against the said Grand Lodge and the National Grand Union; it was, again, on motion,

*Resolved*, That all the brethren named in the document of Saint John's Lodge No. 1, of Trenton, together with their warrant, be and are hereby expelled from the Union Grand Lodge of A. Y. M. for the state of New Jersey, &c., for conspiracy and rebellion against the said Grand Lodge and the National Union.

*(Extract from the Minutes.)*

Attest, JOSHUA WOODLIN, G. R. S.

## CHAPTER XII.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

We are now brought to our concluding remarks, after passing through the dark clouds of discord, confusion, and apparently insurmountable difficulties and barriers to be overcome; yet we have overcome them and the countenance is beaming with smiles, and each breast reciprocates feelings of brotherly love, union, and truth, though the prospect looked dark and gloomy, and exhibited little but discord and confusion. We enjoy, with satisfaction, our prosperity, and the violent opposers to our National Union have been taught a lesson long to be remembered. A short time has unfolded more than past expectations had hoped to realize, and love and union, with all their endearing ties, are smiling on the craft; and those who but yesterday cast angry looks and threatened extermination to our glorious Masonic Union, are hiding their heads with conscious shame.

It always grieves and pains us to the heart to see

a Mason, or a man calling himself one, we should have said, sowing discord and disunion among the craft, causing division and animosities among our down-trodden and degraded people.

These divisions and animosities are the very things that have ruined our people, and a man calling himself a Mason, should be the last man to do such dirty work.

These first induced the tribes to make war upon and sell each other, in Africa; this opened the door for the slave trade; this was just the condition in which the slaves of Charles the Fifth found them in the sixteenth century, riven up into rebellious animosities and into petty tribes, and no union among them, ready to be made their dupes. There is no reason why we should dodge the truth on this subject. If our ancestors have committed a mistake, we can have no reason for closing our eyes against the fact, but rather let us profit by it.

This should furnish us with a motive to unite together and adore that God who must be the centre and the circle of all true Masons, in the conflict in which we are now engaged, to recover from the sad degradation into which we have been sunk, and to clear away the rubbish that has been cast upon us by the accursed system of American slavery; for I read this day, in the Public Ledger, dated Nov. 24th, 1854, that the United States Circuit Court of Illinois has decided that a free coloured man is not a citizen of the United States, within the meaning of the Constitution, entitling him to sustain a suit before the United States court. The case was that of Mitchell against Lamar. Judge Drummond made the decision and Judge McLean coincided.

We shall need eminently to rely upon God; and to do this, we must not be so blind as to believe that any means, or system of means, doctrines, efforts, or sentiments, are worth any thing without love and union among ourselves, and unless that God who wrought



for the children of Israel, be the life and soul thereof. It is said that in union is strength, and "knowledge is power." To use the language of the talented Bishop Payne, "That sanctified knowledge is a power at once beneficent, glorious, and tremendous. It is beneficent, because it is always delighting in good works, and conferring blessings upon mankind; it is glorious, because it shines forth with the brightness of the unclouded sun; it is tremendous, because the man in whom it dwells is like an angel of God, armed with thunderbolts, crushing the stronghold of the empire of Satan."

Therefore, brethren, lay aside all malice, and guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings. If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious: to whom coming as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up sacrifices, acceptable to God. Wherefore, also, it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion, for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste to pass it over. Unto you therefore which believe it is an honour; and even to them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. Brethren, this is the will of God, that with well-doing ye put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men, love the brotherhood, fear God; and may the God of all light and truth, (who is the giver of all good gifts and graces,) bless, prosper, and direct the craft in all their public and private (lawful) undertakings, and make our union eternal, is the hearty prayer of a brother Mason, for truth, love, and union. "So mote it be."

Caution. In the first place, when you intend to be made a Free Mason, go with your friend to the Lodge,

and desire him to show you the warrant, or dispensation, by which the Lodge is held; that is to say, an instrument printed or written upon parchment, and signed by some Grand Master, his Deputy, and Grand Wardens, and Grand Secretary, and sealed with the Grand Lodge Seal, &c., constituting and appointing particular persons, (therein named,) as master and wardens, with full power to congregate and hold a Lodge at such a place, and therein make and admit Free Masons, according to the most ancient and honourable customs of the royal craft, in all ages and nations throughout the known world, and not contrariwise, with full power and authority to nominate, choose, and install their successors, which if genuine, he will find it to be in union with the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of these United States of North America, of Ancient York Masons of colour, and masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging.