

# The American Freemason

IN PUT AT THE LOW PRICE OF ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Not because it is believed to be worth no more, but to the end that every Freemason in America may feel that he can afford to take a copy of it.

It is devoted to the vindication of the rights of Freemasons in their lodges—rights which, to admit of our present style of American grand lodges, are violated, until they are, in great measure, at present unknown. In its vindication of these rights the AMERICAN FREEMASON shall advocate such reforms as, if adopted, will make the Freemasonry of America a model for that of the whole world. Among these reforms will be the following:

1. The complete recognition of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity among the brethren, Freemasons of every rank, country, race, and color, in their lodges.

2. The total rejection of those ideas of caste, creed, race, and color which at present are recognized and made pre-requisites to initiation and affiliation.

3. Freedom for brethren Freemasons to select such rite as they may elect, by which to perform their work, provided the same embodies the usual obligations and modes of recognition.

4. Freedom to obtain a charter to organize a lodge from any authority competent to grant the same, provided that the authority set up by the lodges of that particular jurisdiction refuses to grant such charter.

5. Freedom for any stated number of operative lodges, not less than three, in any of the United States, to organize a grand lodge, mainly recognizing in such organization and constitution the rights and convenience of the brethren.

6. Freedom for every grand lodge so organized to enjoy like privileges and powers with every other grand lodge extant in America, or elsewhere.

7. All business transacted at the annual sessions of our present grand lodges, except election of officers, to be divided among and intrusted to the grand officers elect; and the reports of such officers, fully and clearly written, and with the necessary appendent resolutions for the consideration of the grand lodge, should be submitted at the annual grand lodge or general assembly for final action. A grand lodge being nothing but a general assembly of the brethren of any given grand lodge jurisdiction, its business should be confined to the reception of the reports of its grand officers, the adoption, rejection, or amendment and final passage, of the appendent resolutions, and the election of officers for the ensuing year.

8. Freedom to resist all levy or tax of any kind or for any purpose, unless the proposition to pay the same may be adopted by a clear majority of the brethren in general assembly, after full and free discussion.

9. Freedom for all brethren entitled to represent their respective lodges in their respective grand lodge to do so, particularly Lodge Past Masters, and Masters and Wardens elect, *en masse*, or as they may individually elect to attend; provided that, in the event of the full attendance of such from each lodge in the jurisdiction not being present, those present shall have and exercise the right to poll the full vote of their respective lodges.

10. Total freedom at all times, and under all circumstances, from any tax or levy assessed to pay mileage or *per diem* to any representative or officer of a grand lodge; but, instead, freedom at all times to make liberal provision to pay grand officers for the performance of the duties assigned them, as the executive of that body.

11. Freedom to resist all attempts to centralize power by at all times resisting every proposition which may be made to erect costly buildings for a stationary grand lodge; but, on the contrary,

12. Freedom to aid in every proper manner the brethren everywhere in the erection of suitable meeting houses, at moderate prices, for the use of operative lodges in cities and other localities where one or more of such lodges may exist, to the end that the brethren may have their own places of business in which to perform their rites and ceremonies in a satisfactory and uninterrupted manner.

13. Freedom for individual brethren of any Masonic rite to visit lodges of any rite working the degrees corresponding to those which they have taken; and this irrespective of creed, race, or color, but upon the broad principle of Universal Fraternity.

14. Freedom for operative lodges of any rite to receive as visitors brethren of any rite, creed, race, or color, provided the same can prove, by the usual tests upon examination, that they have been accepted and properly initiated into the Fraternity.

The foregoing, and such other needful reforms as may be considered necessary, will find in the AMERICAN FREEMASON an intrepid and intelligent advocate; and all who feel that such reforms are required for the present Freemasonry of America, by subscribing for this paper, and inducing the brethren in their respective localities to do the like, will contribute in an effective manner to their eventual adoption.

☞ Brethren who shall obtain ten or more subscribers each will be allowed a commission of 25 per cent. on the regular rate of One Dollar each which they may receive for the same. This commission will not, however, be allowed on a less number than ten.

☞ All subscriptions commence with the March and end with the following February numbers of the twelve months within which the subscription is received.

☞ All remittances exceeding a single subscription should be made, if possible, by Postal Money Order, or, if not, in registered letters. In no other manner can money be remitted securely by mail. Address all correspondence and subscriptions to

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