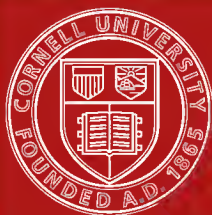


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*HISTORY
of the
Laureation*

of

R.: W.: Bro. Fay Hempstead

*Poet Laureate of
Freemasonry*



*CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
October the 5th, 1908*

HISTORY of the

LAUREATION

of

R.:. W.:. BRO. FAY HEMPSTEAD

POET LAUREATE

of FREEMASONRY

*CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
OCTOBER 5th, 1908*



Hayden Hempstead

POET LAUREATE OF FREEMASONRY

Preface.

THE undersigned were appointed a Committee by the Grand Lodge of F. & A. Masons of Arkansas to prepare for publication a History of the Proceedings incident to the Laureation of R.'. W.'. Fay Hempstead. This we have accomplished by gathering such matter as has from time to time appeared in Masonic Magazines and other publication relative thereto, and supplying a statement of the incidents comprising any portion of the subject that has not appeared in print, drawn from the statements and descriptions of Brethren who were present on the occasion of the Coronation, and in this way we have collated what we feel to be as full and accurate an account of the matter as can be obtained, which we herewith present.

In taking this action we are conscious that the Grand Lodge of Arkansas does so for the purpose of testifying to her appreciation of the action of those Brethren who were instrumental in bestowing this great honor upon a member of this Grand Body, and her thanks to them one and all therefor; a fact which we have set forth through the following Resolutions, to wit:

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas has learned with pleasure of the selection and coronation of our esteemed Brother Fay Hempstead, for over a quarter of a century the R.'. W.'. Grand Secretary of that Grand Lodge, as Poet Laureate of Freemasonry of the United States. They feel that while the honor is one well deserved by Brother Hempstead whose gifted and poetic life has for forty years been devoted to Masonry, this Grand Lodge feels that it is but proper to show it's appreciation of the great honor conferred on one of its members. More especially does it feel that thanks are due to Brother Roswell T. Spencer who initiated the proceedings, and Ravenswood Lodge No. 777 under the jurisdiction of the M.'. W.'. Grand Lodge of Illinois for the interest they took in the matter.

Therefore be it resolved; That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be tendered to the Masons of the United States and to Brother Roswell T. Spencer and Ravenswood Lodge No. 777 for the honor conferred on our Brother Fay Hempstead, and the assurance to all Masonic Brethren throughout the United States of our great appreciation thereof.

Be it further Resolved; That these resolutions be spread upon the records of this Grand Lodge, and that copies thereof, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, be sent to Brother Roswell T. Spencer and Ravenswood Lodge No. 777.

Fraternally submitted,

JACOB TRIEBER,

CHARLES E. ROSENBAUM,

C. C. HAMBY,

Committee.

RESPONSES.

To the foregoing Resolutions the following responses were received:

CHICAGO ILLINOIS.

HON. JACOB TRIEBER,

Chairman of Committee on Laureation,
Little Rock, Ark.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

I am duly in receipt of the Resolutions of your Committee relative to the Laureation of Right Worshipful Brother Fay Hempstead, forwarded by you and greatly appreciate the kind expressions therein relative to myself in connection with that proceeding. I beg to return to your Committee and through you to the Grand Lodge of Arkansas my very sincere thanks for their most gratifying action in this particular, and beg to assure the Grand Lodge and yourselves that it gave me great pleasure and pride to have taken part in so notable a circumstance as the Laureation referred to.

Fraternally and truly yours,

ROSWELL T. SPENCER,

*Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas
near the Grand Lodge of Illinois.*

HALL OF RAVENSWOOD LODGE, No. 777

A. F. & A. M.

RAVENSWOOD, CHICAGO, ILL.

HON. JACOB TRIEBER,

Chairman of Committee on Laureation,
Little Rock, Ark.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

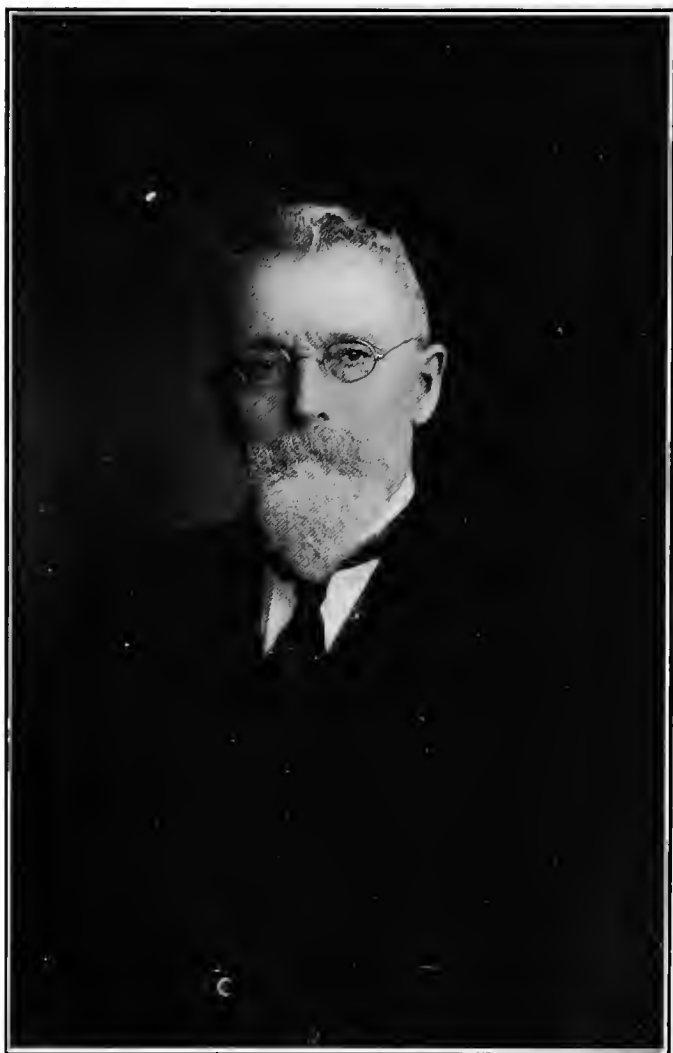
I beg to acknowledge receipt of the Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas in relation to the Services of R.'.W.'.Bro. Roswell T. Spencer and that of Ravenswood Lodge No. 777 in the Coronation of R.'.W.'.Brother Fay Hempstead of your Grand Lodge kindly forwarded by you.

This Lodge desires me to advise you, and through you the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, that we appreciate the honor and spirit of the Resolutions, as we did the honor of being selected to do our part in the services of the Coronation. We were only too glad of the opportunity to be of some service in so worthy a cause, and we shall always hold the occasion in grateful remembrance assuring you that fraternal friendships thus formed will always be a source of happiness to all of us.

Yours fraternally,

GEO. N. ACKLEY,
Secretary.





Roswell T. Spencer.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ARKANSAS, NEAR THE
GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS, WHO PLACED BROTHER HEMP-
STEAD'S NAME IN NOMINATION FOR POET LAUREATE
OF FREEMASONRY.

History of the Laureation of

R.: W.: BRO. FAY HEMPSTEAD.

NOMINATION.

The Masonic Voice-Review, of Chicago, for May, contained the following editorial, from the pen of Brother Roswell T. Spencer, Editor:

THE POET LAUREATE.

At the recent session of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, Grand Secretary Fay Hempstead read a poem entitled "Sextennial," which pleased the brethren so much that it was ordered published in the Proceedings. Believing that our readers would enjoy perusing it, it is inserted in this number of our magazine. In regard to it, Brother James W. Reese, A. M., Ph. D., of Western Maryland College, Westminster, Maryland, says:

"I can not deny myself the pleasure of telling you how greatly I admire and enjoy Brother Hempstead's poem, 'Sextennial.' Both in sentiment and expression it appeals to me, and as I am, and have been for thirty-six years, Professor of Classical Literature in Western Maryland College, I therefore ought to know a good thing when I see it."

Right Worshipful Brother Hempstead for many years has been writing poetry, mostly of a Masonic character, and has the reputation of being an excellent poet. Would it not be a graceful act for the fraternity of this country to choose him Poet Laureate of Freemasonry to fill the vacancy caused by the death of our lamented Brother Rob Morris, who so acceptably filled the position for many years? The Masonic Voice-Review takes great pleasure in nominating Brother Hempstead, and hopes that his election will be unanimous.

APPROVAL.

Upon the appearance of this notice a number of letters were received by the Masonic Voice-Review from prominent Masons in many parts of the United States approving the suggestion, which are collated in the issues of that magazine for June, July and August, as follows:

From Right Worshipful Brother Edward M. L. Ehlers, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York, in which he says:

Permit me to be among the first to second the nomination made in the May number of the Voice-Review, of R. W. Fay Hempstead, to be the Poet Laureate of Free Masonry.

It has been my good fortune to read many productions from the graceful pen of Brother Hempstead. He is a man of poetic fire, pure sentiment and graphic expression, worthy in every particular to receive the honor for which you have placed him in nomination.

From Right Worshipful Brother John R. Parson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, as follows:

I am much pleased to read your suggestion that Brother Fay Hempstead be chosen Poet Laureate of Freemasonry. Having known Brother Hempstead for a number of years, and recognizing his ability I cordially approve his selection.

From Right Worshipful Brother Francis E. White, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, as follows:

I note in your issue for May, 1908, a suggestion that Brother Fay Hempstead, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, be selected as poet laureate of the Masonic Fraternity, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of our lamented Brother Rob Morris. I cheerfully second the recommendation, and know of no one more worthy to fill the station than Brother Hempstead. I have read some of his poetical writings, and believe them to be of high merit, and hope that his selection for the position named above may be unanimous.

From Right Worshipful Brother Richard Lambert, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, as follows:

In your May number I find a very pleasing allusion to our talented mutual friend, Fay Hempstead, the Grand Secretary of Masons of the State of Arkansas, and asking in view of his many contributions to Masonic literature, if it would not be a graceful act on the part of the Fraternity to choose him as the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of our lamented brother Rob Morris. I am in full accord with you. I wish to be put on record as favoring the selection, feeling that no better could be made.

From Right Excellent Companion Robert F. Stephenson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri, as follows:

Noting your editorial in the May number of your magazine nominating Companion Fay Hempstead of Little Rock, Arkansas, as the Poet Laureate, in succession to Rob Morris, I desire to second the nomination, and record my vote in favor of the proposition. Poets are born, and not made, and Nature has been a little shy on multiplicity. There are plenty who flirt with the Muses, but the inspiration fails in making an impress. It is not so with our friend Hempstead, as I have run across many things from his pen that impressed me to not only a second reading, but an assimilation for absorption. He is entitled to encouragement of a laudable ambition, and I bid you "Godspeed."

From Most Excellent Companion A. B. Andrews, Past Grand High Priest of North Carolina, as follows:

Please permit me to add my endorsement of what you say in the May number as to designating Companion Fay Hempstead of Arkansas, as Poet Laureate of Free Masonry, to fill the position vacant since the death of Brother Robert Morris.

His works bespeak more practicable endorsement for this position than any words of commendation that a brother may offer for him.

From Right Worshipful Brother Frank J. Thompson, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, as follows:

I have noted your editorial in the May number of the Masonic Voice-Review regarding Brother Fay Hempstead, Grand Secretary of Arkansas, and the suggestion that the Fraternity choose him Poet Laureate of Freemasonry. I do not know of any one who possesses better qualifications for this honor than Brother Hempstead. I was much pleased with his poem, "Sextennial," which appeared in the May number of your magazine. It expresses a thought that all feel when entering the first twilight shadows of age. Your suggestion is timely, and I believe that the Masonic Fraternity is *sui generis* enough to possess a laureate who may express our sentiments in lyrics.

From Right Worshipful Brother Christopher Diehl, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Utah, as follows:

I hasten to second the nomination of Right Worshipful Brother Fay Hempstead, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of

Arkansas as Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, proposed in the May number of your valuable Masonic magazine. Besides his "Sex-ten-nial," which is indeed a poetical production that appeals to the heart, his poems published in 1898 have many times refreshed my mind and soul when tired and worn out. A large number of poems in that book express in perfect words and form the most perfect and highest thought.

From Right Worshipful Brother James C. Munds, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery of North Carolina, as follows:

I have read the poem "Sextennial" and your article "The Poet Laureate" in your May number and heartily agree with you that it would be a graceful act to choose Brother Hempstead Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I second your nomination, hoping that he will be unanimously elected.

From Right Worshipful Brother Joseph S. Murrow, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory, as follows:

Most heartily do I vote for the election of Brother Fay Hempstead, of Little Rock, Arkansas, to become the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry of the United States, and in doing so I am sure that I voice the sentiments of the 7,000 Masons of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory.

FROM MASONIC PERIODICALS.

From the Tyler-Keystone of Ann Arbor, Michigan:

Since the death of Robert Morris, who was by common consent awarded the honorable post of Poet Laureate of the Craft, there seem to have been no ambitious aspirants for the vacancy. And yet American Masonry is not without its sweet singers. Lawrence N. Greenleaf, of Colorado, has long delighted the Brethren with his verses, and Grand Secretary Fay Hempstead, of Arkansas, displays a poetic ability worthy of recognition. The Masonic Voice-Review of Chicago nominates Brother Hempstead for the Laureateship, and we ourselves confess to having been greatly impressed with his genius as exhibited in a handsome volume of his poetic works, now in its third edition. The collection comprises a hundred or more poems, the work of a truly gifted pen; in many instances, indeed, Brother Hempstead rises

to splendid heights, and displays a quality of the "divine fire" which makes him worthy of any wreath of laurel which the Craft might see fit to bestow upon him.

From the Corner Stone, New York City, New York.

We have been asked to give our approval to the nomination of Right Worshipful Brother Fay Hempstead, of Arkansas, as the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry. Here it is for his fine poem "Sextennial," which we here present.

From The Trowel, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Trowel, as the official organ of the Grand Lodge of which Brother Hempstead is Grand Secretary, desires to second the nomination and urge the election of Brother Hempstead. He is worthy in mind and heart of the honor proposed.

OTHER NOMINATIONS.

The names of the following Brethren were also placed in nomination in letters received by the Voice-Review:

Brother Lawrence N. Greenleaf, of Colorado.

Brother Nelson Williams, of Ohio.

Brother Frederick Speed, of Mississippi.

Brother Alfred J. Hough, of Vermont.

CIRCULAR ISSUED.

The Masonic Voice-Review issued the following circular and sent it to every Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery in the United States and Canada; to the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council, and Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and to the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of both the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions—one hundred and eighty-three Grand Bodies in all, and to Past Grand Officers:

CHICAGO, July 1, 1908.

DEAR BROTHER:

In the May number of The Masonic Voice-Review we called attention to the fact that the post of Poet Laureate of Freemasonry has been vacant since the death of Brother Rob Morris,

and suggested that it would be a graceful act for the Fraternity to bestow the honor upon Right Worshipful Brother Fay Hempstead, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, whom we nominated for the position. This we did because we believed from what we had seen of Brother Hempstead's writings that he was entirely worthy of the honor.

Our suggestion was taken up in many directions, and such a large number of letters have been received from Brethren prominent in Masonic circles from all parts of the country as to indicate a very general approval of our suggestion, and a widespread desire that Brother Hempstead be selected to fill the vacancy. A number of these letters have been printed in subsequent issues of *The Masonic Voice-Review*, and speak highly of Brother Hempstead's poetic works, endorsing him for the position.

Therefore, for the purpose of bringing the matter to a practical test and ascertaining, if possible, whether it is the general desire that the honor should be bestowed as suggested, we are sending you this circular, and request that you will be kind enough to indicate what your views on the subject are by inscribing your answers to the inquiries contained on the next page, and mailing the same to us at your convenience, for which enclosed find addressed envelope. We would also be pleased to receive similar answers from any past or present officers of your Grand Body. Kindly send in your reply so that the vote may be canvassed August 1st, or as soon thereafter as practicable, and greatly oblige,

Yours fraternally and truly,

MASONIC VOICE-REVIEW.

1. Do you favor filling the vacancy in the office of Poet Laureate of Freemasonry by the selection of some Brother whose poetical writings exhibit sufficient merit?

2. Would you approve the selection of Right Worshipful Brother Fay Hempstead, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, for that position? If not, will you please indicate to what Brother you would prefer the position should be given?

3. Are you willing that a Committee of Chicago brethren, consisting of Most Worshipful Brothers John Corson Smith, Leroy A. Goddard, Edward Cook and George M. Moulton, Past Grand Masters of Illinois, and Abram D. Gash, Past Grand Master of Utah, shall canvass the votes submitted and take in hand the arrangements for bestowing the honor upon the Brother who receives a majority of the votes cast, if sufficient replies are received favoring the filling of the vacancy to constitute a majority of the Masonic Grand Bodies of the United States?

THE VOTE GIVEN.

Of the one hundred and eighty-three Grand Bodies to which the above circular was sent, one hundred and thirty-four responded, being a majority of the Grand Bodies. Each Grand Body was given two votes, if they saw fit to cast them, but in many instances only one was cast. The one hundred and thirty-four Grand Bodies cast one hundred and sixty-nine votes. Necessary to a choice eighty-five. Of these one hundred and sixty-one were given for Brother Hempstead, and eight votes were given for other Brethren. In order to make the vote as near an official vote as possible, the votes of Past and minor Grand Officers and of Masonic journals, of which fully nineteen-twentieths were for Brother Hempstead, were not taken into consideration.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

After the votes were all received the canvassing board met and canvassed the same and signed the following report:

The foregoing circular was sent to the presiding officer and secretary of each of the Masonic Grand Bodies of the United States, one hundred and eighty-three in number, and one hundred and thirty-four replied to same, signifying their approval of the plan of electing a Poet Laureate of Masonry and of the Committee named in the circular acting as a canvassing board.

We, the Committee, have canvassed the votes cast, and find that R. W. Bro. Fay Hempstead, of Arkansas, received 161 votes, and that 8 votes were distributed among four other brethren.

The above named brother has therefore been selected by a large majority of those voting as the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

In addition to the above Brother Hempstead also received a number of votes from foreign jurisdictions.

The Committee disclaims any intention of deciding as to the merits of the various candidates voted for, and acted as a canvassing board only.

Ravenswood Lodge No. 777, of Chicago, having generously volunteered to defray the expenses connected with holding the

meeting at which to perform the ceremonies of coronation, the method and details of the same are left to the judgment of said lodge.

JOHN CORSON SMITH, P. G. M.,

LEROY A. GODDARD, P. G. M.,

EDWARD COOK, P. G. M.,

GEO. M. MOULTON, P. G. M.,

A. D. GASH, P. G. M.,

Committee.

Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 24, 1908.

Brother Hempstead was informed of his election by the Committee and invited to come to Chicago to be coronated. Ravenswood Lodge No. 777 began arranging for the ceremony and issued invitations for the same, the first page of which is here reproduced in facsimile. Three thousand of these were printed and distributed throughout the United States and Canada.



*You are cordially invited to attend
the Coronation of
R. W. Bro. Fay Hempstead
of Arkansas, as
Poet Laureate of Freemasonry
October the fifth, eight o'clock
Nineteen hundred and eight
at Medinah Temple
Chicago*

Instrumental and Vocal Music

Historical

In the year 1787 in Canongate Kilwinning Lodge No 2, at Edinburgh, Scotland, W. Bro. Robert Burns was coronated first Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

In the year 1884 in the Grand Lodge of New York, at New York City, M. W. Bro. Rob Morris was coronated second Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

In the year 1908 in Ravenswood Lodge No. 777, held in Medinah Temple at Chicago, Illinois, R. W. Bro. Fay Hempstead will be coronated third Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

M. W. Bro. John Corson Smith M. W. Bro. Edward Cook
M. W. Bro. Leroy A. Goddard M. W. Bro. George M. Moulton
M. W. Bro. Abram D. Gash

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

R. W. Bro. H. W. Harvey R. W. Bro. David D. King
R. W. Bro. R. R. Jampolis R. W. Bro. W. H. Robson
R. W. Bro. Albert Roulier R. W. Bro. E. W. Peterson
R. W. Bro. Lewis Pickett

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

R. W. Bro. Roswell T. Spencer, *Chairman*

W. Bro. George N. Ackley, *Sec'y*

and the past masters and present officers of Ravenswood Lodge

Committee on Invitations

Committee on Music

W. Bro. C. F. Newkirk, *Chairman* W. Bro. E. F. Brown, *Chairman*

W. Bro. R. C. G. Schultz

W. Bro. F. A. Munson

W. Bro. J. M. Northmore

W. Bro. P. J. Ford

COMMITTEE ON FLOOR ARRANGEMENTS

R. W. Bro. F. H. Morehouse, *Chairman*

W. Bro. Charles Truax

W. Bro. W. H. Bryan

W. Bro. Charles W. Bassett

W. Bro. Gordon Bailey

W. Bro. R. P. Hagan

W. Bro. Charles J. Dale

W. Bro. Geo. W. Cope

W. Bro. J. Roy Andrews

W. Bro. R. F. Church

and the present officers of Ravenswood Lodge.

OFFICERS OF RAVENSWOOD LODGE No. 777

Walter Sutton Syrett, *Worshipful Master*

Emil John Merki, *Senior Warden*

John Bradley Irwin, *Junior Warden*

Robert Frank Clark, *Treasurer*

George Newton Ackley, *Secretary*

John Henry Graham, *Marshal*

Clarence Carl Gilberg, *Chaplain*

Charles Rufus Casler, *Senior Deacon*

James Herbert Thorne, *Junior Deacon*

Howard Eugene Black, *Senior Steward*

Robert William Rowen, *Junior Steward*

Frederick John Theodore Wendt, *Tyler*

Murrey Chapman Chase, *Assistant Tyler*

Edward Kingscote Howard, *Organist*

William Henry Winkenwerder, *Illustrator*

*Ravenswood Lodge serves as host because:—*R. W. Bro. Spencer is the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas near the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Bro. Spencer proposed the nomination of Bro. Hempstead of Arkansas for Poet Laureate, and Bro. Spencer is a member of Ravenswood Lodge. Hence Bro. Hempstead becomes our guest.

A beautiful and most artistic souvenir program was prepared of which two thousand were printed and distributed on the occasion, to those in attendance and friends, the first page of which is reproduced in fac simile.

"Three poets in three distant ages born."—*Dryden*



*"They best can judge a poet's worth,
Who oft themselves have known
The pangs of a poetic birth
By labors of their own."*

—Cowper

Souvenir Program

Third
Coronation
Exercises

Chicago, October the Fifth

1908

Medinah Temple

COMPLIMENTS OF RAVENSWOOD LODGE NO. 777.

THE CORONATION CEREMONIES.

At Medinah Temple, corner of Walton Place and Dearborn Avenue, Chicago, on the evening of October 5, 1908, there were gathered fully fifteen hundred Brethren to witness the ceremony of the Coronation. Medinah Temple was formerly Robert Collier's church, with a seating capacity estimated at two thousand, and there were but few unoccupied seats on this evening. The meeting was called to order by Brother Walter S. Syrett, Worshipful Master of Ravenswood Lodge No. 777, who in brief preliminary remarks introduced Most Worshipful Brother John Corson Smith, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, as the presiding officer for performing the Coronation. Brother Smith explained the purpose of the meeting to be the conferring of the post of Poet Laureate of Freemasonry upon Brother Fay Hempstead, of Arkansas, who had been selected therefor by the voice of the Fraternity throughout the United States, who was now to be presented. Brother Hempstead, who had been escorted to Medinah Temple by a Committee composed of Brother R. F. Church and others, was now escorted into the Hall by the Chairman of the Reception Committee and conducted to the platform, where he was warmly greeted by Brother Smith and other Brethren, and was seated on Brother Smith's right. The ceremonies began with an Invocation by the Reverend Brother William White Wilson. This was followed by an interlude composed by Brother Hempstead, played by Brother William Mahan Kirk, an organist of renown, upon a magnificent organ, one of the glories of Medinah Temple. The composition is a stately and majestic one, and as the organ tones, under the skillful touch of Brother Kirk, filled the large Hall with the melody, the audience showed their appreciation in hearty and long-continued applause.

The next feature of the Program was given as an Address of Welcome by Right Worshipful Brother Elmer E. unavoidable absence of Brother Beach, Brother Joseph Rob-Beach, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. In the bins, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and

the Dean of the Correspondents of the United States took his place and delivered an Address replete with fraternal sentiments. Brother Robbins said that it gave him pleasure to be the one to extend a welcome to Brother Hempstead, both because he had formed an agreeable acquaintance with him during the progress of the Masonic Congress which had been held in Chicago in 1893, to which Brother Hempstead had been a delegate, and while they had never met since that time, yet the acquaintance had been deepened through correspondence and Correspondence Reports, as he had for a number of years been engaged in reviewing Brother Hempstead's work. But more especially was this so because of a service which Brother Hempstead had rendered to a member of the Grand Lodge of Illinois at Brother Robbins' request, the details of which he related and the remembrance of this added to his pleasure in extending to him a welcome at a gathering intending to bestow upon him the great honor of the Laureacy.

RESPONSE BY BROTHER HEMPSTEAD.

To the Address of welcome Brother Hempstead responded as follows:

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN:

I am indeed profoundly touched by the hearty welcome which has been so eloquently expressed by our distinguished Brother.

To feel that such a welcome exists in the hearts of the noble Brethren in whose name it is extended, is indeed a source of deep gratification to me, the extent of which I am entirely unable to set forth.

I beg to assure you that my most grateful appreciation goes out to you for it, not only for the welcome itself, but for the kindly terms in which it has been expressed, and that I will deeply cherish the significance of it, while life lasts unto me; that it shall be

Mine forevermore to keep
A grateful mem'ry on my part,
And hear, until that final sleep,
Its echoes ringing in my heart.

I most profoundly thank you.

Under the direction of Brother William Boepler, Musical

Director, the Germania Male Club, then rendered in excellent style a selection by Kreutzer entitled, "It is the Lord's own day." This Club, of which Brother Walter Seidel is President, is an aggregation of twenty-five splendid voices, and which blended in the utmost harmony in the rendition of all the selections which they gave during the evening.

This was followed by an Address by Brother Elmer E. Rogers, on the subject, "The Laurel Crown, and what it stands for."

Brother Rogers said, in part, that the Masonic Fraternity had at all times had within its ranks men of letters and of culture, and that this occasion of the bestowing of the Laurel Crown would be of interest to all persons of literary tastes throughout the entire world, as it was a moment which might well be graced by Apollo himself; but it would more especially interest the near two million of those who had a more or less direct connection with the event, inasmuch as the bestowal was to be upon one selected from their Order and through Bodies to which their allegiance belonged. The bestowing of a laurel was an incident of contests in earlier ages of the world, wherein he who prevailed as victor was thus recognized; and by analogy its bestowal in an instance like the present was an indication of appreciation for achievements accomplished in literary fields. Its significance consists in being both a reward for what has been, and an encouragement for what may yet be. It stands for intellectual effort in the high planes of verse, for lofty aspirations, for high ideals, of both time past and time to be.

The Address of Brother Rogers, which was received with enthusiastic applause, was followed by a selection by the Chorus: "All through the night;" by Rhys Herbert.

Brother Roswell T. Spencer, who had taken the initiative in the proceedings which resulted in the selection of Brother Hempstead as Laureate then delivered an Address on the subject of "The Election of the Poet Laureate."

Brother Spencer said, that the subject of selecting a Poet Laureate of Freemasonry had many times been suggested since the death of Brother Rob Morris, some ten years ago. Brother John Corson Smith had mentioned the subject a number of times in his Reports on Correspondence, and the inquiry had been, Shall we not fill the vacancy? and who shall be the successor? Finally, upon seeing the poem entitled "Sextennial" by Brother Fay Hempstead, he at once recognized it as true and excellent poetry, and

that anyone who could write such poetry as that was worthy to be chosen the successor. It was not the first of Brother Hempstead's poetry that he had read, but none other had impressed him so much. He investigated more of Brother Hempstead's writings, and came to the conclusion that here was the one for the selection. Accordingly he nominated Brother Hempstead for the position of Poet Laureate of Freemasonry in the May number of the Masonic Voice-Review, of which he is editor. The suggestion was at once taken up by a number of Brethren prominent in Masonic affairs, Grand Masters, Grand Recorders and others, in different parts of the United States, to such an extent as to indicate a thorough and widespread desire that the selection should be so bestowed. Accordingly to obtain the views of the Craft at large a system of referendum was instituted by means of a circular which was sent to the presiding officer and the Recorder or Secretary of every Grand Body in the United States and Canada, asking whether they favored the filling of the vacancy in the post of Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, for which he had nominated Brother Hempstead, and if so, by whom; and suggesting the names of five brethren living in Chicago, Past Grand Masters all, to serve as a canvassing board to tabulate and count the votes, provided there were votes received from a majority of the Grand Bodies addressed. These circulars were sent to one hundred and eighty-three Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Councils, Grand Commanderies; the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, and to the Supreme Councils of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Northern and Southern Jurisdiction. Of these one hundred and eighty-three, ninety-two would constitute the necessary majority. Replies were received from one hundred and thirty-four Grand Bodies, being forty-two more than the number necessary for making a selection.

When all the votes were in, the committee which acted as a canvassing board met and counted the votes. Each Grand Body was given two votes, but in many instances only one from such Grand Body was cast. On counting the votes it was found that one hundred and sixty-nine votes had been cast by the one hundred and thirty-four Grand Bodies voting; necessary for a choice eighty-five; of which Brother Hempstead received one hundred and sixty-one votes, there being eight votes given for other brethren. There were a number of votes given by Past Grand Officers and minor Grand Officers, which with very few exceptions were given for Brother Hempstead, but as counting them would not have changed the result, would have intensified it in fact, and in order to make the vote as near an official vote as possible, the committee decided not to take these votes into consideration, and proclaimed the result only on the official figures which they gave in their official report.

Brother Spencer then read the official report of the Committee, giving the figures as stated by him.

Ravenswood Lodge No. 777, having volunteered to take charge of the ceremonies of the Coronation, he said, was the reason why they were acting as hosts on the occasion.

Continuing, Brother Spencer said:

The custom of crowning a poet had a very early origin. The Greeks and Romans crowned with laurel those who were adjudged best in musical contests. In the Twelfth Century the Emperor of Germany, following the custom, instituted the title of Poet Laureate, and the position was definitely established through the crowning of Petrarch, the first of poets to create for himself a name as a lyric poet, who by invitation of the Roman Senate was crowned in the Capitol by the Roman Senator Orso, Count of Aguilara, April 8th, 1341, King Robert of Sicily being his patron therein.

The custom was introduced into England in 1367, when King Edward III., emulating the crowning of Petrarch, granted the office to the Poet Chaucer, as an official gift. It was held in succession by Spenser, Ben Johnson and others. From the time of Johnson, in 1619, it became an office dispensable by the crown, carrying with it an annuity and certain perquisites; and since that time there has been a regular succession of Laureates of England down to our own time, embracing such familiar names as Dryden, Southey, Colley Cibber, Wordsworth and Alfred Tennyson, the greatest of the series; the present Laureate of England being Alfred Austin.

No doubt the maintenance of the position as one of official bestowal in England suggested to the Brethren of Scotland the propriety of instituting a similar position within their own circles, and accordingly, by the general consent of the Fraternity, Robert Burns, the idol of the Scottish Craft, as he has been of the world at large, was given the honor as the First Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, by his being crowned in Canongate Kilwinning Lodge at Edinburgh in 1787. After Burns' death no one arose to receive the general selection of the Craft as the representative of Freemasonry at large, until 1884, when Rob Morris, of Kentucky, the first in America to receive the honor and the second through general selection, was by the common consent of the Craft, crowned as Laureate in the Grand Lodge Hall in New York City. Morris died in 1898, since which time the post has remained vacant, and now after this interval of ten years we are to crown the Third

Laureate selected by the general consent of the Craft, in the person of the Brother on whom the honor is to be bestowed in this hall to-night.

The Address of Brother Spencer which was listened to with close attention and was received with hearty applause, was followed by a Vocal Solo by Miss Edna Sands Dunham, a gifted vocalist, possessing a voice of great richness and power. The selection was entitled "Great is the Holy one of Israel," and was most admirably rendered, eliciting hearty applause to which the singer graciously responded with an encore, as in fact she was compelled to do many times during the evening, as often indeed as she sang.

The next feature of the program was "A Biographical Sketch of R. W. Bro. Fay Hempstead," by Brother Jason R. Lewis, Editor of the *Masonic Chronicler* of Chicago.

Brother Lewis said:

I am assigned in these exercises the duty of presenting to you a biographical sketch of Brother Fay Hempstead, who is to-night to be crowned Poet Laureate. Happily the material for the making of such a sketch is readily at hand, in part at least, through a postscript which Brother Hempstead has inserted in the third edition of his poems, newly edited and issued during the summer just past. This postscript, supplemented by information obtained through inquiries concerning points that it does not touch upon, enables me to give the following outline at least.

We learn from this postscript that Brother Hempstead was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on the 24th day of November, 1847, at what is now 610 East Markham Street, where his parents resided until 1853. One-half of the house is still standing, flanked by grand magnolia trees, which were planted by his father. It is small wonder to us that Brother Hempstead should be a poet, for he tells us that both of his parents were literary; his mother having artistic accomplishments in music, painting and the composition of verse, and his father possessing oratorical gifts and a splendid faculty for composition. As a draftsman and letter-writer of clearness and force his father was excellent; and he held a high position at the bar, having for two terms been Solicitor General of Arkansas. Brother Hempstead received schooling under private tutors, somewhat of the "old field" variety, I surmise, as would most likely be the case in those early days. Afterwards he was at St. John's College at Little Rock, finishing at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

Brother Hempstead remembers to have occasionally written verses in his boyhood, but nothing, he says, worthy of consideration until, during his college days, when seeing the soldiers' graves in the university cemetery strewn with flowers, he was moved to write a poem on the subject, which was published in the university magazine and elicited favorable comment. It is contained in the latest edition of his works under the title "Memorial Day" with added verses. And this is the early plant which has grown steadily on, until now, forty years later, it has blossomed out into the ceremonies of this night. The publication of this poem brought requests for others, and it was followed up by fugitive pieces now and then, but Brother Hempstead says he did not seriously begin to write poetry until in the early seventies, and that a volume of Tennyson's poems, given him by his wife at Christmas in 1875, was the turning point in his poetical career. As he read and re-read those noble poems, with which he had not previously been thoroughly familiar, a new inspiration was opened to him, and he wrote readily and frequently thereafter. In 1878 his first volume of poems was published, and which was fairly good and successful. But the poet had other and better powers in growth, and in his second volume, issued in 1898, twenty years later, is to be found greatly improved work; the recent third edition containing his best. It is development onward from good to better.

After only occasional effusions, occupied as his time and attention were with the exacting demands of business and official duties, a visit to California to attend the Twenty-ninth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, which was held in San Francisco in 1894, was the means of awakening farther inspiration, which resulted in some of his best pieces, one of which in particular, "A Tribute to California," for the boundless hospitality shown by her people on that occasion, was published in very many papers, both of California and in the East, and was incorporated in the official History of that Triennial. But Brother Hempstead's best known and most widely commended production was his poem "Sextennial," written on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, and read before his Grand Lodge at its November session, 1907, which poem has really been the means of bringing to him the high honor of the Laureacy, as its high quality demonstrated his worthiness for that position.

And also during the twenty-seven years that Brother Hempstead has been Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, and in the years in which he has been Grand Recorder of other Grand Bodies in Arkansas, the Proceedings which he has issued from year to year have abounded in poetic and artistic touches, in which we recognize the work of the true poet.

Besides his poetic works, Brother Hempstead has been most prolific and abounding in his prose works; in addresses, essays,

letters, lectures, articles, reports and histories. In these latter are two of his greatest achievements. In 1889 he prepared and published in one year's research, a History of the State of Arkansas, the first history of that State ever written, a library volume of 1,240 pages; and in that time he halted the work while in a period of sixty days he wrote a History of Arkansas for the use of schools; an admirable treatise of 236 pages, which has been extensively used in the public and private schools of Arkansas.

In his Masonic career Brother Hempstead has been most active. He was made a Mason in Western Star Lodge No. 2 of Little Rock in 1869, and received degrees in Union Chapter, Occidental Council and Hugh de Payens Commandery in succession. And in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry he has attained the 33rd Degree honorary. Since 1881, a period of twenty-seven years, he has been, and is now, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, and since 1899 has been such in the Grand Council, High Priesthood and Grand Commandery of Arkansas. He is locally Secretary of his Lodge, in which capacity he has served for more than twenty-five years; is Secretary of his Chapter, Council and Commandery; is active in all manner of committee work, and having an active part in whatever goes on; and along with this he was for several years custodian and manager of the Masonic Temple at Little Rock. At the last session of the General Grand Council held at Boston he was made General Grand Steward. And still, with all of this to attend to, he finds time to write poetry when the notion strikes him, and good poetry it is.

Brother Hempstead is an ardent churchman, having been for over fifty years a member of Christ Church, Episcopal, of Little Rock, and for more than twenty-five years was a Sunday School superintendent, and at other times a teacher in Sunday schools. Becoming imbued with the missionary spirit, he took up the cause of a small and struggling mission church in his town, and so built it up by his indefatigable efforts that it bears locally the name of "Hempstead's Church." In this work he organized, and for three years drilled to a high state of efficiency, as choir director, a splendid choir, to render the musical services of this church; and anyone who has had any experience in church choir duties knows how much labor and pains this involves. While engaged in this way as often as special hymns were needed for particular occasions, it was Brother Hempstead who supplied them both in words and music. And then, to fill up his time, he officiates as lay reader in the mission church, conducting services when there is no preacher around.

Brother Hempstead has been most happy in his domestic relations. He was married at Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1871 to Miss Gertrude Blair O'Neale of that place, whom he had met in

his student days. Seven children have blessed this union; four sons and three daughters, all of whom have lived to reach manhood and womanhood, two of the daughters being married; and all of these, with the loving wife, in their homes in Little Rock, look with pride upon the great honor which is being bestowed upon the husband and father this night in Chicago.

Brother Lewis' paper, which was greeted with prolonged applause was followed by two selections by the Germania Chorus, "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Dixie Land," sung with spirit and enthusiasm.

This was followed by an eloquent Address by Rev. Brother R. R. Lloyd, on the "Mission of Masonry." The Address, which was spoken extemporaneously, was a torrent of eloquence and beautiful diction, which could hardly be done justice to in a mere summary. It was along lines that the mission of Masonry was to upbuild and to instruct; to make better men, better husbands, better Brothers, better fathers, better sons. It antagonizes no sect, no creed, no Religion. It's doors are not opened so wide that all may enter, but it bade a welcome to every upright, honest, honorable man, who sought it's portals; be he great or be he small. It's themes are lofty, and it's ideals high. It's teachings are elevating, and improving, and it's great power in the world has been obtained by steadily adhering to these great aims throughout the ages of the world.

Brother Lloyd's periods were frequently clothed in poetic phrase and he concluded his remarks by reading two of Brother Hempstead's Poems, "A Tribute to California" and "In the Golden West." The latter a Poem relating to the destruction which befell the Cities of the West in the earthquake of 1906.

Following the Address of Brother Lloyd, which evoked most hearty applause, the Germania Club Chorus rendered with good effect two of Brother Hempstead's songs "A National Song," and "Oh the Glory of the Lilies," which were well received.

Brother Abram D. Gash, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Utah, residing in Chicago, then recited a Poem written by him and dedicated to Brother Hempstead. It was entitled:

A POETIC PRAYER

Father above, we feel thy love
Upon this world of sin;
Give us this day, we humbly pray,
A hope secure within.
Blest Power of Might, show us the right,
And lead us to the land of light.

While here below, we pray to know
Thy will most good and wise,
That when at last our days are passed
We'll gain thy paradise.
Blest Power Divine, we would be thine
To worship thee in heaven's sweet shrine.

When in the strife of this brief life
We'll praise thee o'er and o'er
That when, at last, our days are passed
Thou'lt save us evermore.
Then, Lord of Light, look from thy height,
And receive us in thy heavenly sight.

Take us, O God, with all thy love,
In perfect peace, no more to rove.
Through all the ages may we send
Thy praises, O Most Holy Friend!
Our heavenly home, we feel, will prove
A blooming field of blissful love. Amen.

THE CORONATION.

Following the recitation by Brother Gash, Brother John Corson Smith in most impressive manner performed the act of Coronation. In prefatory remarks he said:

It gives me great pleasure to be the one to perform the act of Coronation for Brother Fay Hempstead, because I have known him for a long time, and have known members of his family and kinsmen for more than fifty years, and they have been close friends of mine. And I have for many years been a reader of Brother Hempstead's poetry. Do you see this book (holding up a volume of poems)? That is a copy of the first edition of Brother Hempstead's poems which I purchased of him when it was issued ten years ago. I have read the poems many times, and to-day I took this book down from my bookshelves and read over again one of

the poems that I want to read to you, and then to tell you something farther connected with it. It is the poem entitled "The Second Burial of Payne," Payne the author of "Home, Sweet Home."

Brother Smith read the Poem, and continued:

When this poem appeared in the *Boston Transcript*, at the time it was written in 1883, the Poet Whittier addressed the following letter to Brother Hempstead:

"AMESBURY, MASS., 4 Mo. 14, 1883.

"DEAR FRIEND:—Let me thank thee for the beautiful verses in the *Boston Transcript* on the 'Second Burial of Payne'—a fitting tribute to the author of 'Sweet Home' and to the liberal-hearted gentleman who has given the poet a last 'Home' in his native land.

"JOHN G. WHITTIER."

The circumstance that I wanted to mention to you is the fact that the beginning of this movement which resulted in bringing the body of John Howard Payne to this country for burial was when our United States Consul at Tunis, Africa, Worthington, called the attention of Mr. Corcoran to the fact that the body of Payne lay buried in a graveyard at Tunis, and suggested that it ought to be removed to America, and acting upon this suggestion Mr. Corcoran caused the body to be removed and brought to this country, where it was buried in Georgetown as is stated in the poem. So that while it was Mr. Corcoran's act, the bringing the body here and its second burial, that act arose out of Mr. Worthington's suggestion.

At the conclusion of Brother Smith's remarks the coronation was performed. Brother Hempstead knelt, and Brother Smith placed upon his head a crown of laurel, and proclaimed him POET LAUREATE OF FREEMASONRY.

Meyerbeer's Coronation March was then rendered on the organ by Brother Kirk after which Brother Hempstead delivered the following Address and Poem. He was listened to throughout with the most minute attention by the large audience, and on concluding was greeted by most hearty and enthusiastic applause. His address was as follows:

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN:

I would certainly be something less than an ordinary human being, if I did not feel a thrill of exquisite pleasure at this moment, and indulge in what I conceive to be a most pardonable pride in being in this wide hall, made bright with the triumphs of decorative

Art; and standing in this magnificent presence, to receive this laurel, which comes to me

“ . . . greener from the brows,
Of him who uttered nothing base.”

But, O my Masters, in doing so, I am borne down by a sense of my entire unworthiness to receive an honor so great as that which you have conferred upon me; and reflecting on how small my merit is, compared with those illustrious Brethren who have been honored in this way before me, I can not escape the belief, that this great distinction has been conferred upon me more through the kind partiality of my Brethren at large, than for any abounding merit of my own. I have therefore hesitated under the consideration of whether it would be decorous in me to receive this trophy, seeing that I am so “small and of no reputation,” but on the other hand I have looked upon it that, in view of the very generous manner in which it has been tendered to me, it would be an act of the greatest unappreciativeness in me did I not receive it, and that most gratefully and thankfully, notwithstanding the fact that in the world of Metric Art. I seem to have accomplished so little.

For the writing of poetry has not been the constant and unintermitted occupation of my life. By the grace of God I am what I am, and I have but written from time to time, as the Spirit has moved me. And it seems to me that this is the manner in which the truest poetry must necessarily be written, in its best effects. The poem must come warm from the poet's soul; while the occasion serves; or else it does not possess that essential glow, so necessary for endowing it with warmth and life. He who proposes to himself, “I will now write a poem,” unless there be the impulse that compels him to write, working actively within him, is most likely to find his production lifeless and mechanical. It must be vitalized by a touch of that mysterious force which compels its utterance; an outcrying of that inward speech, that forbids that silence should ensue; the product of an impulse which will not be throttled nor thwarted, but struggles until it finds expression in the thoughts and the words in which it expends itself. When this is the case the poem simply writes itself. It is born of almost a single flash; like that in which Tennyson wrote his immortal lyric, “Break, break, break,” with the sorrow for his dead friend weighing upon his heart; or that in which Reginald Heber wrote his grand Missionary Hymn; with the voice of the untutored ones over seas, calling to him for enlightenment and aid.

Some one asked Victor Hugo if it was not a very difficult thing to write first-class, good poetry. “Oh no,” he replied. “It is either very easy, or else it is perfectly impossible.” It must come as the product of the poet's rarer hours, or else it comes not at all. But

given the capacity, the inspiration and the theme, the production of the verse comes readily as a consequent, bearing the stamp of the Spirit which gave it birth.

I have said that it seems to me that I have accomplished but little in the fields of Verse; and when I look backward at the years that have flown, this fact stands bare before me, painfully evident. In earlier years, "When all was fair, and life was fresh and sweet," I wrote frequently, but later, when Time, with his velvet-shod feet, treading lightly, has stolen upon me, borne down by the tide of incessant engagements and the exacting demands of business and official life, I have written more rarely; but probably more effectively. For it forces itself upon my observation, as a circumstance which I can not fail to see, that while I have been writing verses for something like fifty years, the last poem that I have written, the very last in that series of half a century, is the one which has received the most extended notice of anything that I have produced. It is the poem entitled "Sextennial," which was read by me before the Grand Lodge of Masons of Arkansas at our November session, 1907. And if I never write anything other, Brethren, I hope to be remembered by the sentiments which that poem contains.

But I trust that it may be given me at some time to produce something that may merit your regard. For well I know that not *all* of poetry has been written. Although from the ages past the world has been thoroughly filled with the Spirit of Song, yet well I know that there still lies in the Future many an harp, as yet unstrung, and many a song as yet unsung. For certain it is that

"All the years invent
Each month is various to present,
The world with some development.
And men, through novel spheres of thought,
Still moving after Truth, long sought,
Will find new things when we are not."

And gloriously yet, in the years that are to be, the Genius of Poetry, stalking through the world, will find many a silent tongue, which it will wake to sing in a glad refrain; will, many times, and in many places, touch the sleeping forms of Measure, and bid them arise and come forward into the stronger light.

The fields of Poesy are not close-garnered; nor are its well-springs dry. Each year finds something new, where all seems old. Each Spring, new verdure and fresh flowers crown the hills, that have stood from everlasting.

And it is my earnest hope, Brethren and friends, that in what of life there lies before me, I may be so fortunate as to experience

some moment in which it may be given me to speak something that may be worthy of the great Fraternity, which has so signally honored me; that the Muse may at some time, and in some way, lay upon my lips her magic touch, that will bid me speak some thought or word winged with her message, that will find an affectionate lodgement in the hearts of the Craft. And my humble, fervent prayer is, God grant that it may be so.

To all who have so kindly and generously favored me with their approval and acclaim, I beg to tender in this public way my most sincere and grateful thanks. Their kind favor, whomsoever they be, has rendered me all the more solicitous, for fear I may fall below the measure of their expectations.

In particular do I desire to place on record in this way, the deep sense of obligation that I am under to Brother Roswell T. Spencer for his having kindly suggested my name as one suitable to fill the vacancy in the post of Laureate; flowing from which suggestion this great honor has come unto me. The eternal gratitude of myself and all of mine is with him for his kind office in this respect.

And I desire to express to the officers and members of Ravenswood Lodge my most grateful thanks and appreciation for the interest that they have taken in this matter; and for the thorough and gratifying manner in which they have arranged and carried out the exercises incident to this occasion.

And now, Brethren, as my last word to you on this great occasion, I have desired to put into verse an epitome of these thoughts with which to conclude my remarks upon receiving this trophy, and which I now beg leave to render in your hearing. It is as follows:

Strike hands with me, O Brethren mine;
And hear me each, with hand in thine,
If yet that grace reside in me,
Make promise for the time to be.

If yet the Muse, of Measure true,
Doth not in listless fashion, through
The slow decease of high desire,
Sit silent by a faded fire:
If yet there comes, in finer hour,
Some lingerings of that Spirit's power,
That creeps within the inner soul,
Her gems of beauty to unroll;
O, then, I trust, if even slight,
Some ray of that ungoverned light
Upon my waiting soul may stream,
And light it with her clearest beam:

May wake to life this feeble tongue,
To sing deep lays, as yet unsung;
Then would my Spirit joy amain,
As thirsting plants drink grateful rain.

If so, O then, I dedicate
Whatever strength that, soon or late,
May come to me, to this fair Cause,
Wrought out through scope of higher laws;
That all that beareth Beauty's name,
Be hailed with welcome and acclaim;
The Good be ever forward set;
The cause of Truth be stronger yet.

So may it be. That grace abide
In gentle measure by my side.
God grant my life, imperfect here,
Some essence from that higher sphere.

Following the Address and Poem was a Soprano Solo by Miss Edna Sands Dunham; the selection being "A Song of Thanksgiving" by Frances Allitsen. This was one of the triumphs of the evening. Miss Dunham's splendid voice most admirably interpreted the selection, and greatly delighted her hearers. She was recalled again and again, responding with delightful Scotch airs, than which there are none more musical. And possibly an added pleasure was in their suggesting the First Laureate, who through the ceremonies of the evening was being recalled.

Brother William E. Edwards then recited with excellent effect the Poem "Sextennial," the Laureate's chief Poem, and which had more particularly brought him into notice.

Brother George W. Donaghey, Governor-elect of Arkansas, Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and Royal and Select Master Mason, occupying a seat upon the platform, was then introduced by Brother John C. Smith. The applause which greeted his being presented was so pronounced and long continued that it was several moments before he was able to proceed. When it had subsided Brother Donaghey responded briefly but most appropriately, expressing the pride he felt that so great a distinction had been accorded to a citizen of his State, in which he and his associates shared.

PRESENTATION OF POEMS.

At this point Brother Hempstead rose and said :

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN :

Before we reach the close of these exercises, seeing that we are nearing the end of the programme, I ask your permission to occupy but a single moment of the time. I have been the recipient of numberless courtesies from the officers and members of Ravenswood Lodge, for which I am deeply grateful, and which I desire to recognize and acknowledge. At present the only means within my power is by presenting to that Lodge a copy of my Poems, which I now confide to you, Brother Syrett, as its Worshipful Master, for that purpose. I ask the Brethren of that Lodge to accept it as an expression of my gratitude for their many kindnesses.

Brother Syrett in response on receiving the book, said :

BROTHER HEMPSTEAD :

We receive this beautiful volume with many thanks. As we have a small library forming for the Lodge, it will be a most acceptable addition to what we have collected, and we greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness in presenting it ; and I assure you it will be highly prized among us.

The Chorus sang "A Prayer of Thanksgiving," by Kresser, and then the audience, standing, led by Brother Kirk with the great organ, the Germania chorus, and the superb voice of Miss Dunham, joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne," by Robert Burns, in special memory of him. It was rendered with a strength and fervor that no one will ever forget who heard it. Reverend Brother R. C. Hughes pronounced the Benediction, and the Coronation ceremonies, which all united in declaring to have been most successful and inspiring, were at an end.

Very many of the audience, both those who occupied the platform and a great number from the main body of the auditorium, offered their congratulations to the Laureate, both for the honor bestowed, and for the happy manner in which the exercises had passed off.

DISTINGUISHED BRETHREN PRESENT.

Among the distinguished brethren present were Brothers John Corson Smith, Past Grand Master of Illinois; Joseph E. Dyas, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States; Leroy A. Goddard, Past Grand Master of Illinois; Henry W. Mordhurst, General Grand Recorder of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States; Joseph Robbins, Past Grand Master of Illinois; Abram D. Gash, Past Grand Master of Utah; Smyth Crooks, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Illinois; George W. Donaghey, Governor-elect of Arkansas; George B. Cook, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Arkansas; William S. Mitchell, President and Manager of the Democrat Printing and Lithographing Company of Little Rock; George B. Pugh, Attorney of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway of Little Rock, and many others.

Among those present representing foreign Grand Jurisdictions were the Grand Representatives of the Grand Lodges of Cuba and West Virginia near the Grand Lodge of Arkansas; the Grand Lodge of Arizona near the Grand Lodge of Indiana; the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, Colorado, District of Columbia, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New South Wales, Washington, Victoria and Tasmania near the Grand Lodge of Illinois; the Grand Commandery of Virginia near the Grand Commandery of Arkansas; the Grand Commanderies of Connecticut, Maine, Missouri and New Hampshire near the Grand Commandery of Illinois; the Grand Chapter of New York near the Grand Chapter of Indiana; the Grand Chapters of Kansas, Ohio, South Dakota, Victoria and West Virginia near the Grand Chapter of Illinois; the Grand Chapter of Missouri near the Grand Chapter of Arkansas; and the Grand Council of New Jersey near the Grand Council of Illinois.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

During the evening W. Brother Walter S. Syrett read a number of congratulatory telegrams and letters which had been received from distinguished Masons and Masonic bodies from all parts of the United States and Canada.

It would be most gratifying and desirable indeed could the whole number of these be here inserted, but they are not accessible to the compilers of this history at this time, owing to the fact that the greater number of them have been gathered into a volume and bound together for Ravenswood Lodge No. 777, along with all other matter coming to them relative to the Laureation, and deposited in their library in Chicago, and there is not opportunity in the time within which it is necessary to prepare this compilation, to secure reference to the same. Hence, the compilers are restricted to presenting only such of those used on the occasion as they have secured in the progress of their own researches. They are as follows:

LETTERS.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

Accept my congratulations on your Coronation as Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, a most distinguished position, which I have no doubt you will worthily fill.

W. S. ROCKWELL,
Grand Recorder.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

I congratulate you upon the honor that you have justly earned and trust you may live a long and prosperous life in this new realm.

NEWTON R. PARVIN,
Grand Secretary.

MANCHESTER, IOWA.

I take pleasure in saluting you as the worthy successor of Robert Burns and of our own Rob Morris.

W. H. NORRIS,
Grand Standard Bearer Grand Encampment.

REED CITY, MICHIGAN.

You have my heartfelt and sincere congratulations and best wishes that you may be with us for many, many years to enjoy the honors conferred upon you by your admiring Brethren.

LOU B. WINSOR,
Grand Secretary.

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT.

I desire to express my gratification that the mantle of Robert Burns and of Rob Morris is to fall upon your shoulders, and to assure you it would give me great pleasure to be at your Laureation and to contribute in my small way to this interesting occasion, which I trust may be most pleasureable to all who may be so fortunate as to participate, and especially to yourself.

ELI C. BIRDSEY,
Grand Recorder.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

Allow me to offer my sincere congratulations upon your receiving this high honor. May you live long to serve the Fraternity in that capacity.

WILBER P. WEBSTER,
Grand Secretary.

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.

It is with much pleasure that I learn of your election as Poet Laureate of Freemasonry, and I beg you to accept my heartfelt congratulations. It is a high honor, and one bestowed upon the right person. May God spare you to the Fraternity for many years to come.

A. F. B. ODEN,
Past Grand Master Grand Council of Arkansas.

HAZEN, ARKANSAS.

Accept my sincere congratulations upon the well deserved honor.

T. M. HORSFALL,
Past Grand Master Grand Council of Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

I congratulate you on the honor conferred on you by Masonry of the United States. It is well deserved and reflects honor upon Masonry in Arkansas.

JACOB TRIEBER,
Past Grand Master Grand Lodge of Arkansas.

MARIANNA, ARKANSAS.

I beg to present my hearty congratulations upon your being made Poet Laureate of Freemasonry. I know of no one who is more fit to receive so great a distinction and am doubly proud that the honor is to be conferred upon one of our Fraters of Arkansas.

PETER BRICKEY,
Past Grand Master Grand Council of Arkansas.

There were also a number of personal and individual letters received from Brethren in various parts of the United States.

TELEGRAMS.

PRESCOTT, ARKANSAS.

R. W. BRO. ROSWELL T. SPENCER, *Chairman*:

Arkansas Masons send fraternal greetings and beg to express their gratitude for your initiative in recognizing the zeal and talent of our beloved Bro. Hempstead. Bear to him our congratulations, and may to-day be classed as the brightest and happiest in your Masonic retrospect.

M. W. GREESON,
Grand Master of Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

Most cordial greetings to Ravenswood Lodge No. 777 and to Right Worshipful Fay Hempstead, Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

JOHN T. HICKS,
Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

For myself and for the members of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Little Rock sincere and affectionate congratulations, and a deep sense of appreciation for the distinguished honor so well deserved.

CHARLES E. ROSENBAUM,
Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Arkansas.

EL DORADO, ARKANSAS.

El Dorado Chapter No. 114, Royal Arch Masons, extends congratulations for the honor conferred upon you.

J. T. MCKENZIE, *H. P.*
ALBERT ROWELL, *Secretary.*

MENA, ARKANSAS.

Arkansas appreciates the honors you receive and reflect on her.

MARK P. OLNEY,
Grand Generalissimo K. T. of Arkansas.

LONOKE, ARKANSAS.

To BROTHER FAY HEMPSTEAD, Chicago:

Those who know you best love you most; and rejoice with you. The Brethren of Lonoke Lodge No. 51, F. & A. M., send greetings and feel deeply grateful to our Brethren who have honored one so eminently worthy. May Heaven's richest blessing ever attend you.

PAT H. WHEAT, JR., W. M.

BENTON, ARKANSAS.

Benton Lodge No. 34 tenders congratulations for the distinguished honor conferred upon Arkansas' worthy son.

JOE B. HUGHES, W. M.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

The Board of Trade of Little Rock sends congratulations upon the well-deserved honor. We feel proud of you as one of our citizens.

LITTLE ROCK BOARD OF TRADE,

GEORGE RUSS BROWN, *Secretary*.

Individual telegrams of congratulations were received from the following Brethren of Little Rock to-wit: Brothers William I. Whitwell, R. H. Kaufman, Arthur C. Jones, E. C. Himstedt, John S. Odom, E. C. Taylor, John W. Rose, Ad Hamburg, M. E. Akin, L. P. Dreyfus, F. B. T. Hollenberg, William Thompson; from ElDorado, Arkansas, a joint telegram from Brothers George McKee, J. J. Johnson, W. J. Pinson and twenty other Brethren of El Dorado Lodge No. 13.

From Mrs. M. A. P. McCrary of the Order of the Eastern Star of Hot Springs and from Mr. Horace Mitchell, Little Rock.

The Press, both Masonic and general gave extended accounts of the occasion, from which the larger portion of the foregoing account has been gathered, and all united in pronouncing it to have been eminently successful and well carried out.

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History of the laureation of R. W. Bro.



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