

1809

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

false step interrupted for a time all activity in the Lodge; dues remained uncollected, debt was contracted and enlarged, until the spasm burned itself out. The Charter would have been again forfeited, I fear, but for the fact that W. Brother Cushing, who had been induced through his love for the Craft to return to the East, held, as Executor, a fund from which he borrowed, to pay the Grand Lodge dues. At this time everybody in Saratoga Springs was very poor. No town seemed to have been hit harder by the financial crisis than Saratoga Springs.

After three years of such disastrous conditions the team, headed by W. Brother Sturges, was again placed in the chairs. My election as Master followed, the next year, and I succeeded in bringing the Lodge out of the "Slough of Despond." After two years' service I turned the Lodge and its Treasury, both in good condition, over to my successor, who was one of the brightest of stars, locally, and who has since spread his light, so as to be known from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I am pleased to report that the funds of the Lodge have ever since been in fine condition, now having bonds and cash to the amount of at least three thousand dollars, after all the expenses of this celebration are provided

1909

RISING SUN LODGE, No. 103, F. & A. M.

for. My object in going so into detail is to show the brethren of this and all sister Lodges, the danger attending a thoughtless and careless breaking into or changing the official life of a successful *regime*. I trust you will excuse all this personal reference.

Of the Lodge Council of Officers chosen in December, 1877, to assist me, the Senior Deacon A. W. Shepherd, Junior Deacon John M. Fryer, Chaplain Rev. Dr. Joseph Carey, who has served this Lodge as such for thirty-three years, most loyally and devotedly, and my Marshal, Edgar T. Brackett, are all that remain to bless the Fraternity. All the rest have been translated from this imperfect to that all-perfect, glorious and celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides, and, at the outer door of which, the rest of us will, ere long, give the alarm.

In the old books of record we find some interesting items. It is recorded on June 21, 1824, "Resolved, that we contribute to the aid of the Greeks twenty-five dollars, to be paid out of the funds of the Lodge." This shows that the brethren had thoroughly warmed their hearts toward the noble Greeks in their efforts for freedom and independence, and at a time when little or no money could have