

# THE DEMOCRAT.

PLATT MCDONALD, Editors.

Thursday, September 1, 1870.

## Laying the Corner-Stone of the New Court-House.

### IMMENSE THROGS OF PEOPLE.

#### Splendid Procession.

#### Ceremonies, Music, Dinner, &c., &c., &c.

The 25th of August, A. D. 1870, was a day long to be remembered by the people of Marshall county, and hundreds of visitors from cities and country, far and near, who left their homes and their occupations, to come and celebrate with us the foundation of a public enterprise, which shall redound to the glory and material advantage of the citizens of this county.

About the middle of last June, the building committee—J. C. Cushman, A. C. Capron and Johnson Brownlee—invited the Masonic order, through Lodge No. 149, of Plymouth, to superintend the laying of the corner-stone of the new court house, now in course of construction in Plymouth. The invitation was probably extended to that order for the reason that within its folds are represented all nationalities, religions and creeds, and that by reason of the strength and energy of the order in this place, the arrangement for the ceremony would be more effectually carried out than if entrusted to any other body of men. The invitation was accepted by the Lodge, and the following general committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the ceremony: J. C. Cushman, W. W. Hill, H. G. Thayer, O. H. P. Bailey, M. H. Rice, H. G. Thayer was subsequently elected secretary of the committee, and W. W. Hill, treasurer. The labors of this committee were onerous and almost unceasing. To say that they discharged their duties faithfully, promptly and efficiently, is but a feeble expression of the truth.

Invitations were sent to nearly twenty different organizations to participate in the ceremonies of the day, a majority of which were accepted. Those not accepting sent regrets of their inability to attend.

It was the intention from the first that all invited guests from a distance should be entertained during their stay here, free of charge; and to accomplish this, a considerable amount of money would be needed, as well as liberal contributions of provisions. The necessary means were promptly subscribed by Masons and other liberal citizens; and contributions of provisions were liberal beyond all anticipations.

The occasion itself is an era in the history of the municipal organization known as MARSHALL COUNTY; and well may the people who inhabit our four hundred and forty square miles of territory feel proud of the day and the immediate antecedents and surroundings leading to and forming part of the proceedings the day brings us.

We have met to lay the corner-stone of this structure, which will be the temple of justice, and within which must be kept the records of her whole history, past and future, and where must be transacted all the business relating to her people and their property. Her representative business men must sit here to hold intercourse with other municipalities like herself, with the state, and with all individuals having public business within her borders; and from the impressions made by them must go abroad the opinions of men to the capacity of her people to govern themselves. The extensive interests involved in her administration, and the important duties demanded by mankind so far as they affect her people, center here; and from her must emanate—wisdom or folly—that kind of administration of public affairs which will make her people prosperous and wise, or bring upon them blemishes and ignorance, and offer great inducements or none at all for capital and intelligence to make their home with her. The management of schools and the funds to maintain them; the valuation of property; the levy of taxes; the collection of public money; the care of the poor; the directions for public improvements; the provisions for the safe keeping of persons charged with crimes; the preservation of the records of the titles to property; the administration of justice at the hands of the ministers of the law—all will have their center here, and from here will go out the reputation that shall make her famous—good or bad. It is fitting, then, that the chief corner-stone of this temple shall be laid with ceremonies, amid scenes and in presence of witnesses that shall constitute the act an *Era* in the county's history; and it is an occasion when *eloquence* could give utterance to thoughts which we shall have impressions on the memory not to be forgotten.

As the time drew nigh, for which so many were anxiously waiting, the fear of a failure was felt, on account of the weather, which, up to the evening of the 24th, had been very dry and dusty; but on the night previous, a bountiful shower hid the dust and cooled the atmosphere to a most delightful temperature. If Providence sent the rain, the people were thankful; and if it was not Providence that sent it, they were thankful anyhow.

On the morning of the 25th, every thing was life and activity on our streets. The Odd-Fellows, Masons and Firemen were actively putting on their holiday attire, that they might properly receive their visitors.

At 9:20, the first arrival of guests was from LaPorte, South Bend, &c., and in a few minutes the train from Chicago, via the Pittsburgh road, brought two car-loads more, accompanied by Nevons & Dean's city band. At 10:30, the special train from Ft. Wayne arrived, bringing six full car-loads, with the Warsaw band, and Jones' Ft. Wayne band; and at 11:15 the special train of seven cars from Peru arrived.

The Junior Grand Warden, what is the jewel of your office? *Senior Grand Warden.* The level. *G. M.* What is its masonic use? *N. G. W.* Morally, it reminds us of equality, and its use is to lay horizontal.

*G. M.* Apply the implement of your office to the several edges of the foundation-stone, and make report.

[This was complied with.] *G. M.* Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be level. The craftsmen have performed their duty.

*G. M.* Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

*Junior Grand Warden.* The plumb. *G. M.* What is its masonic use?

*G. M.* Most Worshipful, it teaches rectitude of conduct, and we use it to try perpendiculars.

*G. M.* Apply the implement of your office to the several edges of the foundation-stone, and make report.

[This was complied with.] *G. M.* Most Worshipful, I find the stone is plumb. The craftsmen have performed their duty.

*G. M.* This cornerstone has been tested by the proper implements of Masonry. I find that the craftsmen have faithfully and faithfully performed their duty, and I do declare the stone to be well formed, true and trusty, and correctly laid, according to the rules of our ancient craft.

Let the elements of consecration now be present.

[The Deputy Grand Master came forward with the vessel of corn, and scattering it on the stone, said:]

I scatter this corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessings of bounteous Heaven be showered upon us and upon all like patriotic and benevolent undertakings, and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom and gratitude.

*Response.* So mote it be.

The Senior Grand Warden then came forward with the vessel of wine, and poured it upon the stone, saying:]

I pour this wine as an emblem of peace. May its blessing abide with us continually, and may the Grand Master of heaven and earth shelter and protect them from trials and vicissitudes of the world, and so bestow his mercy upon the bereaved, the afflicted and the sorrowing, that they may know sorrowing and trouble no more.

*Response.* So mote it be.

[The Grand Master, standing in front of all, and extending his hands, made the following:]

**INVOCATION:** May the all bounteous Author of nature bless the inhabitants of this place with an abundance of the necessities, conveniences and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this building; protect the workmen against every accident; long preserve the structure from decay; and grant to us all a supply of the corns of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy. Amen.

*Response.* So mote it be.

The Grand Master, then delivered over to the architect the implements of architecture, saying:]

Worthy Sir, having thus, as Grand Master of Masons, laid the foundation stone of this structure, I now deliver these implements of your profession into your hands, intrusting you with the superintendence and direction of the work, having full confidence in your skill and capacity to conduct the same.

5th. Song—“We Meet upon the Level,”—sung by A. C. Thompson, as

At the court-house the ceremonies were under the supervision of Grand Master Martin H. Rice, assisted by the officers of Plymouth Lodge No. 149, F. & A. M., and were conducted as follows:

1st. Music by Jones cornet band, of Ft. Wayne.

2d. Invocation, by Rev. G. H. Thayer.

3d. Song—“Oh! hail us, ye Free”—by the Glee Club.

4th. Music by Jones cornet band, of Ft. Wayne.

5th. Invocation, by Rev. G. H. Thayer.

6th. Song—“Oh! hail us, ye Free”—by the Glee Club.

7th. Music by Jones cornet band, of Ft. Wayne.

8th. Invocation, by Rev. G. H. Thayer.

9th. Song—“Oh! hail us, ye Free”—by the Glee Club.

10th. Music by Jones cornet band, of Ft. Wayne.

11th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

12th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

13th. Benediction, by the Rev. L. C. Buckles, pastor of the M. E. Church, of Plymouth.

14th. Music by the Bremen Band.

15th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

16th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

17th. Music by the Bremen Band.

18th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

19th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

20th. Music by the Bremen Band.

21st. Music by the Warsaw Band.

22nd. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

23rd. Music by the Bremen Band.

24th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

25th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

26th. Music by the Bremen Band.

27th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

28th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

29th. Music by the Bremen Band.

30th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

31st. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

32nd. Music by the Bremen Band.

33rd. Music by the Warsaw Band.

34th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

35th. Music by the Bremen Band.

36th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

37th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

38th. Music by the Bremen Band.

39th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

40th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

41st. Music by the Bremen Band.

42nd. Music by the Warsaw Band.

43rd. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

44th. Music by the Bremen Band.

45th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

46th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

47th. Music by the Bremen Band.

48th. Music by the Warsaw Band.

49th. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

50th. Music by the Bremen Band.

51st. Music by the Warsaw Band.

52nd. Doxology, by the Chicago Band, and entire audience:

With the highest and the lowest, and the most lonely are equal; we are here to bring you to it.

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past; again, behold the contrast! These men whose names we have preserved beneath that stone, in their day would have been weak, by rude conveyance and camping out, in making such a round.

53rd. Music by the Bremen Band.

54th. Music by the Warsaw Band.