



6th ANNUAL ADDRESS OF  
**HONORABLE J.E. HAWKINS**  
**M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

Brethren of the Grand Lodge--Greeting:

A little over six years ago the Grand Lodge of Washington and Oregon was erected at Seattle, and many of those whom I now see before me participated in the ceremony of launching upon the Masonic sea the youngest, and at that time, the frailest bark commanded by Negro Masons in these United States. And time in its onward course has brought us to attend, this, our Sixth Annual Communication. The fifth year of our Masonic existence is now a matter of history. We are surrounded by the most gratifying evidences of prosperity, and are enjoying the fruits which come from pure precept and faithful example. And we return thanks to the Divine Architect of the Universe that we are again permitted to grasp the hand of true and faithful brothers and to bow in humble adoration around our sacred altar.

And we can say with pardonable pride that the relations which have heretofore and do now exist among the brethren of this Jurisdiction, make it a double pleasure, after a year of separation, to again meet face to face those who are endeared to us by the strongest yet tenderest of fraternal ties. We are wonderfully blessed in that our lots have been cast in pleasant places, and we are not unmindful of the progress made by our Grand Lodge along the lines of morality, temperance and economy. And not only among our membership, but among our people generally. Nor do we forget, that striving for recognition as Masons, it was the efforts of the members of this Grand Lodge to gain that recognition vouchsafed to all regular Masons, that primarily caused the honored and lamented W. H. Upton to place before the Masonic world the history and rightful status of Negro Masons.

**CONDITION**

God, in His infinite mere, has blessed our Lodges during the past year, as to increase in membership and finance, and the reports received from the Lodges are encouraging. The condition of the Craft in this state is fairly prosperous. And while the realty holdings of the Lodges are not great, yet efforts along the lines of accumulating property are under way in several lodges, and the prospects for the future are bright in this Jurisdiction.

**NECROLOGY**

We have been singularly blessed in that the Grim Reaper has paid to this entire Jurisdiction but one visit during the past year when he summoned from our midst Bro. H.B. Jones, Past Master of Trinity Lodge No. 7.

## FRATERNAL RELATIONS

We enjoy the most friendly and cordial relations with all of our sister Grand Lodges, and to our Chairman on Foreign Correspondence is due much credit in bringing our Grand Lodge to the respectful attention of the Masons of the world, and through the efforts of that committee, reference of the highest order has been made as to our work.

We have had but few fraternal visits, but we have had much fraternal correspondence and exchange of greetings which have been pleasant as well as profitable to us.

And we are convinced from the reports received that at this time more, intimate relations and a greater degree of interest obtains among the Regular Colored Grand Lodges than ever before, and the tie that binds us is growing stronger each year. This condition is brought about largely by the careful manner in which the reports of the various Grand Lodges are reviewed, and the able and interesting manner in which the comments upon these reports are presented to us by the brilliant writers who are on the committees for Foreign Correspondence, who are bringing us closer together, and among whom is our own Parker. And it is a matter of great satisfaction to us that our Grand Lodge is on the friendliest relations with every one of our sister jurisdictions.

## VISITATIONS

It is a matter of sincere regret to us that we have been unable to visit all of the Lodges during the year. On April 18th I started on my annual tour of visiting the Lodges east of the mountains, visiting Inland Empire Lodge No. 3, of Spokane, on the 20th day of April. I found that lodge working in peace and harmony and altogether prosperous.

On April 22nd I arrived at North Yakima, where I attended Guiding Star Lodge No. 6. The brothers held their first Communication in their new hall during my visit. I found the members of Guiding Star Lodge earnest in their efforts to advance the interests of the Craft in their vicinity, peace and harmony prevailing and the lodge in a prosperous condition.

On April 24th I visited Cascade Lodge No. 8, of Roslyn, the home lodge of Bro. J.E. Shepperson, D.G.M., and found that lodge to be in an exceptionally prosperous condition and the members working in the greatest harmony.

On May 21st I visited Evergreen Lodge, U.D. at Everett. This lodge is made up almost entirely of the former members of Compass Lodge No. 4 of Everett, which lodge surrendered its warrant to the Grand Lodge in 1908.

I visited Trinity Lodge No. 7 on February 16th officially and have visited that lodge several times since the official visit. That lodge has made a wonderful progress in the past year; has increased its membership and treasury balance, and among its members peace and harmony reign supreme.

I have attended Washington Lodge No. 2 regularly, it being the lodge in which I hold membership, and while there have been some discouraging incidents which have arisen therein, at this time everything which had a tendency to mar the amiable relations between the brethren, seems to have been settled.

## CORNER STONE LAYING

On November 10th I received a request from, Bro. E.H. Holmes, Worshipful Master of Inland Empire Lodge No. 3, in which he requested permission to assemble his craft the latter part of that month, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Saint Paul's Baptist church. Bro. Holmes asked that Right Worshipful Bro. Frank A. Stokes, our Grand Lecturer, be commissioned to do this work. I granted this request, issued a commission to Bro. Stokes to officiate upon that solemn occasion.

Bro. Stokes assembled the craft as Grand Master and with the assistance of his officers laid the stone in a manner comporting to the dignity of the occasion, and in accord with the ancient ceremony of the institution. Thereafter the craft returned to their hail and was closed in due form.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As the standard of intelligence rises among our membership the greater degree of respect commanded, the greater our usefulness in our several communities, and the greater the influence of the Masonic Fraternity for the betterment of our people.

1. Therefore, I recommend that no person be admitted to membership in any lodge in this Jurisdiction who cannot read or write the English language understandingly.
2. I recommend the repeal of the Resolution providing for certificates, as set forth on pages 34-36 of the minutes of 1908, as submitted by Inland Empire Lodge No. 3.
3. I recommend that a warrant be granted Evergreen Lodge, U.D., of Everett.
4. I recommend the adoption of a law forbidding canvass for office both in the Grand Lodge and in the Subordinate Lodges.
5. I recommend that a committee be appointed to frame some form or report as to the advisability of establishing an endowment.
6. I recommend that all members, including preachers, pay dues.
7. I recommend that the Grand Lodge per capita tax be reduced to \$1.00.
8. I recommend that no member be assessed or taxed as a Past Master until he has passed the Master's chair, And that no person not an actual Past Master be allowed a vote in the Grand Lodge except Wardens acting as delegates and representing a lodge.
9. I recommend that no proxies be allowed in the Grand Lodge.
10. I recommend that the Committee on Investigation in particular lodges be more thorough in its work.

Under date of December 1, 1908, I received an application from Cassia Lodge No. 5 for a dispensation to enter, pass and raise Masons for the period of thirty days for less than the regular fee. This application was accompanied by a personal letter from Bro. N.B. Simon, W.M., urging me to issue said dispensation.

On the 16th day of December, 1908, I issued a dispensation to Cassia Lodge No. 5 to enter, pass and raise Masons for the period of thirty days for \$15.00.

That previous to the issuance of said dispensation and under date of October 20, 1908 Cassia Lodge No. 5, through its Secretary, John B. Nelson, sent a communication to Washington Lodge No. 2, making inquiry as to the status of one Jacob Fields, who claimed to have been entered and passed in Washington Lodge No. 2.

That Washington Lodge No. 2, through the office of the M.W.G.M. notified Cassia Lodge No. 5 that the said Jacob Fields had been entered and passed in Washington Lodge No. 2, but that his conduct subsequent to that time had been such that said lodge had refused to confer further degrees upon him, and Cassia Lodge No. 5 was advised as to the record of the candidate and warned that he was unfit timber. That said communication was read in open lodge by the Secretary of Cassia Lodge No. 5.

On the 18th day of December, 1908, Bro. N. B. Simon, W. PT., of Cassia Lodge No. 5, contrary to the provisions of the dispensation issued under date of December 16, 1908, entered, passed and raised five men, on said night, one of whom was the said Jacob Fields, over the protest of the majority of the Masons assembled, and subsequent to said initiation, held the annual election, in which election the newly made brethren participated, and at which Bro. N. B. Simon was re-elected Worshipful Master.

I was immediately advised by Bro. W.D. Fry, P.S.W. of Cassia Lodge No. 5 of the acts of Bro. N.B. Simon, and I removed Bro. Simon from office until the convening of this Grand Session, placing the warrant in the hands of the S.W. On November 17, 1908 I received a report and complaint from Bro. J.E. Shepperson. D.G.M. advising me that Bro. Frank King, W.M. of Cascade Lodge No. 8 had left the city of Roslyn and resigned the keeping of the warrant of said lodge during his absence into the hands of irresponsible persons and that the lodge had great trouble in recovering possession of the warrant. I thereupon arrested the jewel of his office and placed the warrant in the keeping of W.J. Morrison, S.W. Charges and counter charges were made by members of Cascade Lodge relative to irregularities therein, and prior to taking definite action, as above stated, I sent Bro. Joseph Simms. D D.G.M., of that District, to make an investigation of the charges preferred. He reported substantially as above stated.

### **NEW LODGES**

On March 10, 1909, I received a petition from seven former members of Compass Lodge No. 4 of Everett, asking for a dispensation to set up a. new lodge, which said dispensation was granted March 16, 1909. We commissioned Bro. S.S. Scott, as a special D.D.G.M., to set up said lodge petitioned for under U.D., and the lodge was established on March 17, 1909, under the name of Evergreen Lodge, U.D.

### **DISPENSATIONS**

- December 10, 1908, to Washington Lodge No. 2, a dispensation to enter, pass and raise Masons for the period of sixty days for \$15.00.
- December 16, 1908, to Cassia Lodge No. 5, a dispensation to enter, pass and raise Masons for the period of thirty days for \$15.00.
- January 22, 1909, to Washington Lodge No. 2, a dispensation to hold a Communication on January 25, 1909, for the purpose of initiation, said night being a regular communication night.

- March 16, 1909, to Evergreen Lodge, U. D.; a dispensation to set up a new lodge.
- March 30, 1909, a dispensation to Trinity Lodge No. 7, to enter, pass and raise Masons for the period of sixty days for \$15.00.

### **CONCLUSION**

Brethren:

My tenure of office is at an end. In a few short hour, hence I will again take my place as a member upon the floor of this Grand Lodge. I scarcely think it possible that every member of this Grand Lodge will be entirely satisfied with my effort during the past year, but I can truthfully say that if I have made mistakes, and, "it is human to err," the mistakes were of the head and not of the heart.

And I congratulate myself upon being able to return to you, untarnished, the trust confided to me, and in conclusion I desire to speak for him whom you shall choose as my successor.

That you will give to him the same cordial and loyal support extended to me, and that he may be blessed with that degree of affection and brotherly love which you have so unsparingly given and it has been my privilege to enjoy during my administration.

"The primal duties shine aloft, like stars.  
The charities that soothe, and heal, and bless,  
Are scattered at the feet of man, like flowers."