



THE WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

Brother --- On behalf of the Worshipful Master and brethren of --- Lodge, I take great pleasure in presenting to the lambskin or white leather apron, it is ~~the~~ an emblem of innocence and the distinguished badge of a Mason, It is the emblem which King Solomon wore when arrayed in all his glory, Which invested with additional dignity other Kings Princes and rulers,

The citizen toiling in humble poverty, and the Prince commanding the resources of Empires, have alike worn it in the consciousness that it has lightened the labors of the one and added dignity to the power of the other,

It has been eagerly sought and worthily worn by the best men of your own generation, It may be that in coming years upon your head will rest the Laurel wreaths of victory, pendant from your breast may hang jewels fit to grace the diadem of an eastern Potentate, nay, more than these, with light added to the coming light, your ambitious feet may tread round after round of the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle, And even the purple of the fraternity may rest upon your honored shoulders, but never again from mortal hands, never again until your enfranchised spirit shall have passed upward and inward through the pearly gates, shall any honor distinguished so emblematical of purity and all perfection be conferred upon you as this which I now bestow, It is yours, yours to wear as a mason throughout an honorable life, and when at last, whether in manhood or old age, your spirit having winged its flight to that House not made with hands, when amid the tears and sorrows of surviving relatives and friends and by the hands of ~~sympathising~~ sympathising brother Masons, your body shall be lowered to the confines of that narrow house appointed for all living, it will still be yours, yours to be placed with the evergreen upon the casket that shall enclose your lifeless remains, and with them laid beneath the silent clods of the valley, let its pure and spotless surface to to you an everpresent reminder of a "purity of life and rectitude of conduct," a neverending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements, and when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of life's toilsome journey, and from your nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life, may the record of your life and ~~conduct~~ actions be as pure and spotless as this fair emblem, which I place in your hands tonight, and when your trembling soul shall stand naked and alone before the great white throne, there to receive Judgment for the deeds done while here in the body, may it be your portion to here from him who sitteth as Judge Supreme the welcome words: Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; Enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord,

I now present you with a Lambskin or white leathern apron, which is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star and Garter, &C &C,

JOSEPH L. MILLER, M. D.
THOMAS, W. VA.

To The Worshipful Master,
Wardens and Brethren,
Thomas Lodge No. 123, A.F. & A.M.

Dear Sirs & Brothers:

I am writing this to be read to you in the event that I should be prevented from being at Lodge the next meeting night as there is a matter that I think should be presented to the Lodge for the good of the Order, as in my opinion a mistake has been made and it should be corrected.

Before going into the matter, however, I wish to state that in bringing it and in saying what I have to say about it I do not mean anything personal or to cast any reflections upon the loyalty to the lodge of any officer or member who took part in the action of the lodge, other than to say that I think a mistake was made unintentionally, just as I have made mistakes and other members and officers before. I do believe that if the matter had been freely discussed with the members of the lodge, particularly the older ones that the matter would have been settled differently.

The action to which I refer, is the granting of permission to a brother mason, not a member of this lodge, the right to use the Masonic kitchen and dining room for his own private purposes, because for personal reasons he does not care to live in his own home. I here enter my protest against it, and would have done likewise had he been a member of this lodge. I have also the permission of two past masters of this lodge to enter protest in their names as well. They are Brother Harry Head and Brother Sam Gross, both of whom are not able to be here on account of being out of town. Brother Gross says it is distinctly against Masonic Law. On looking it up in the Digest I find that no local lodge is permitted to have their lodge rooms on the same floor with other rooms used for family use unless there is a non-communicative wall between them.

I feel sure that all that will be necessary is to call the attention of the trustees and members of this lodge who took such action, that it is against the wishes of a number of the older members of the lodge, and that it is contrary to the usual custom and laws of our Order, and they will concur with us in rescinding that action, and notifying Dr. Roth to deliver the key to the outer door of our lodge and cease to use our kitchen and dining room for his own use.

Brother Hinebaugh also informs me that on behalf of the bank he will enter a protest against this private use of the dining room and kitchen as it means additional expense to the bank for gas, water and lights, which are included in the rental of the rooms to the lodge.

Trusting that the lodge will take such action as is necessary to correct this mistake, I remain,

Fraternally,

