

RITUAL OF THE THIRD DEGREE.

Third-degree Council.

Marshal.—Worthy President: These brothers having been duly elected to the third degree of this order, I present them before you for obligation.

President.—Brothers, you will place yourselves in a circle around me, each one crossing your arms upon your breast, and grasping firmly each other's hands, holding the right hand of the brother on the right, and the left hand of the brother on the left, so as to form a circle, symbolical of the links of an unbroken chain, and of a ring which has no end.

NOTE.—This degree is to be conferred with the national flag elevated in the centre of the circle, by the side of the President or instructor, and not on less than five at any one time—in order to give it solemnly, and also for the formation of the circle—except in the first instance of conferring it on the officers of the State and subordinate councils, that they may be empowered to progress with the work.

[The obligation and charge in this degree may be given by the President or instructor, as the President may prefer.]

OBLIGATION.

You, and each of you, of your own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, with your hands joined in token of that fraternal affection which should ever bind together the States of this Union—forming a ring, in token of your determination that, so far as your efforts can avail, this Union shall have no end—do solemnly and sincerely swear, or affirm, that you will not, under any circumstances, disclose in any manner, nor suffer it to be done by others if in your power to prevent it, the name, signs, pass-words, or other secrets of this degree, except to those whom you may prove on trial to be brothers of the same degree, or in open council for the purpose of instruction; that you do hereby solemnly declare your devotion to the Union of these States; that in the discharge of your duties as American citizens, you will uphold, maintain and defend it; that you will discourage and discountenance any and every attempt, coming from any and every quarter, which you believe to be designed or calculated to destroy or subvert it, or to weaken its bonds; and that you will use your influence, so far as in your power, in endeavoring to procure an amicable and equitable adjustment of all political discontent or differences which may threaten its injury or overthrow. You do further promise and swear, or affirm, that you will not vote for any one to fill any office of honor, profit, or trust, of a political character, whom you know or believe to be in favor of a dissolution of the Union of these States, or who is endeavoring to produce that result; that you will vote for and support for all political offices, third, or Union degree members of this order, in preference to all others; that, if it may be done consistently with the constitution and laws of the land, you will, when elected or appointed to any official station which may confer on you the power to do so, remove from office or place all persons whom you know or believe to be