

but it is intended to avoid and provide for a more remote but no less terrible danger from domestic enemies to our free institutions.

Our object is briefly this: to perfect an organization, modeled after that of the constitution of the United States, and co-extensive with the confederacy. Its object and principles, in all matters of national concern, to be uniform and identical, while in all local matters the component parts shall remain independent and sovereign within their respective limits.

The great result to be attained—the only one which can secure a perfect guarantee as to our future—is UNION—permanent, enduring, fraternal UNION! Allow me, then, to impress upon your minds and memories the touching sentiments of the Father of his country in his Farewell Address: “The unity of government which constitutes you one people,” says WASHINGTON, “is justly dear to you; for it is the main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, of your peace abroad, of your safety, your property, even that liberty you so justly prize.

“It is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness. You should cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now bind together the various parts.”

Let these words of paternal advice and warning from the greatest man that ever lived sink deep into your hearts. Cherish them, and teach your children to cherish and reverence them as you cherish and reverence the memory of Washington himself. The Union of those States is the great conservator of that liberty so dear to the American heart. Without it our greatness as a nation would disappear and our boasted self-government prove a signal failure. The very name of liberty and the hopes of struggling freedom throughout the world must perish in the wreck of the Union. Devote yourselves then to its maintenance, as our fathers did to the cause of independence,—consecrating to its support, as you have sworn to do, your lives, your fortunes and your sacred honors.

Brothers, recalling to your minds the solemn obligations which you have severally taken in this and the preceding degrees, I now pronounce you entitled to all the privileges of membership in this organization; and take pleasure in informing you that you are now members of the order of ———.

EXPLANATIONS.

Ritual of the first Degree.

Page 12.—At the outer door you will give “a distinct rap,” when the wicket, &c., “what?” The outside sentinel, &c., “You know.” You will then give the term pass-word, which is “Lancaster;” at the