

by, without any hesitation or mental reservation whatever, so help you God, and keep you steadfast."

Next comes the obligations or oath for the third degree members :

" 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 weaken its bonds: and that you will use your influence, as far as in your power, in endeavoring to procure an amicable and equitable adjustment of all political discontents, 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, which 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 OFFICERS, 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 in favor of a dissolution of the American Union, or who are endeavoring to produce that result: and that you will in no case appoint such persons to any political office or place whatever. All this you promise and swear, or affirm, upon your honor, as American citizens and friends of the Union, to sustain and abide by, without any hesitation or mental reservation whatever. You also promise and swear, or affirm, that this and all other obligations which you have previously taken in