

Benjamin Brown French

(4 Sep 1800 - 12 Aug 1870)

The Evening Star, Friday, August 12, 1870

The Late Major B.B. French

His Death This Morning

Sketch of His Life

Arrangements for the Funeral

Our entire community were shocked today by the unexpected announcement that Major B.B. French, who has for several years past held many important positions of honor and trust in our midst, expired at 1 o'clock this morning at his residence, No. 137 East Capitol street. He has been in ill health for a few weeks past, but it was not feared that he was afflicted with a mortal disease. The immediate cause of death was disease of the heart. He leaves a wife and two sons, one of whom is resident of Boston, and was with him at the time of his death.

He had been sick for about two weeks, but rallied so much that yesterday morning he arose, dressed, and was so apparently well that he played three games of cribbage with his eldest son, Frank, who had been telegraphed for from Boston. About eleven o'clock a.m. he was taken with a pain in the region of the heart, which never left him. It was severe at times that he could be heard far outside the premises moaning with pain. Doctors C.M. Ford and William P. Johnston tried all in their power to even relieve his excessive suffering without avail. He was such a strong, hearty man that nature made a fearful struggle to hold its own, only to the most excruciating agony of the deceased. The last time he was seen in public was on the occasion of the press excursion to Glymont, a few weeks since, when he seemed as well as ever, but complained of excessive fatigue in walking home from the boat.

Mr. French's career in the Masonic fraternity is well known. At the time of his decease he was Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third degree, besides having been Grand Master of the District of Columbia, and Grand Master of the Knights Templar. Indeed so allied had his name become with Masonry that one of the most flourishing lodges in this city bears his name.

Sketch of His Life

Benjamin B. French was born in Chester, Rockingham county, New Hampshire, on the 4th day of September, 1800. He was the son of Daniel and Mercy French. His mother's maiden name was Brown. She was the daughter of Benjamin Brown, of Chester, and sister of Francis Brown, an eminent divine, who at the time of his death, in 1821, was president of Dartmouth college. Mr. French was the only child of his mother, who died when he was eighteen months old. His father was a lawyer of high standing, and was for several years attorney general of the State of New Hampshire. He received a good common school and academic education, and it was the earnest desire of his father and friends that he should enter college, which he declined to do. In 1819, he went to Boston with a view of going to sea. Disappointed in obtaining a berth on board a ship, he enlisted as a soldier in the army of the United States and was stationed at Fort Warren, on Governor's Island, in the harbor of Boston, with a detachment of the eighth regiment of infantry. He was, soon after enlisting, appointed a sergeant and performed his duty faithfully for about four months, when, at the earnest solicitation of his friends, who provided a substitute, he left the army on the 12th day of September, 1819.

He then returned to his father's, and although contrary to his own inclinations, commenced the study of law, which he pursued with diligence, for five years, that being the time fixed by the bar rules of New Hampshire. At the February term of the court of common pleas for the county of Rockingham, held at Portsmouth, in 1825, Mr. French was admitted an attorney at law; and in the month of March

following, commenced the practice at Hookwot, in the county of Merrimack, from whence, in September, he removed to Sutton, and married Elizabeth S. Richardson, daughter of the Hon. William M. Richardson, chief justice of the supreme court of New Hampshire. Mr. French entered immediately into full practice, and with his industry and natural business tact, would probably have taken a very respectable place at the bar had he continued his profession. He was elected assistant clerk of the senate of New Hampshire, in June, 1826, to which office he was twice reelected. In 1832 he was elected a representative from the town of Newport, in his native State, to which he had removed, and was reelected, for the two succeeding years. For three years of the time Mr. French resided at Newport, he was editor of the New Hampshire Spectator, a democratic paper; and its subscription list more than doubled while it was under his control. It was afterwards united with the New Hampshire Argus, and edited by Hon. Edmund Burke, and is still published at Newport.

He was appointed an assistant clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1833, and at once resigned his position in New Hampshire and removed his family to this city. He held the situation of chief clerk under Mr. Garland and Col. McNulty, and when the latter left the office of Clerk of the House, on the 18th of January, 1845, the deceased was elected to that office. He was also unanimously re-elected by the next and several succeeding Congresses.

He was appointed commissioner of public buildings under President Pierce, and again under President Lincoln's administration, continuing in that office until it was abolished under President Johnson's administration in 1868, since which time, until the first of July, he was employed in the Treasury Department until a few weeks since, when he resigned.

Major F. evinced considerable talent as a poet. General Schenck, of Ohio, it will be remembered, had the office of Commissioner of Public Building (which Major F. held) abolished in an appropriation bill under President Johnson's administration, styling the deceased "The Poet Laureate of the Administration," he having a short while before published some verses laudatory of the President under the title "Andrew Jackson and Andrew Johnson."

During his long residence in this city, besides the National offices of honor and trust he held, Major French was for many years President of the Boards of Alderman and Common Council respectively. He was also member of the Levy Court, and the Oldest Inhabitant's Association. He was known throughout the country for his high standing in the Masonic fraternity. He was Grand Master of the District and Past Most Eminent Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of the United States. His title of Major, by which he has always been known, came from the fact of his having held a major's commission in the New Hampshire militia.

Arrangements for the Funeral

The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the interment to be made in the Congressional Cemetery. Anthony Buchly, the undertaker, has prepared for the remains a walnut coffin, covered with black cloth, on the lid of which is a silver plate inscribed: "Benjamin Brown French. Born September 4th, 1800; died August 12th, 1870." The entire Masonic fraternity will participate.

The Evening Star, August 13, 1870

The Funeral of Major B.B. French

The sudden death of Major B.B. French, an account of which was published in yesterday's Star, has cast a gloom of sorrow over this community, and especially among the Masonic fraternity, by whom he was personally known to almost every member, and universally beloved. The call for meetings of the several Masonic bodies, with which the deceased was associated, last night, brought together a large assemblage of Masons at the Temple, when regrets were expressed at so great a loss and measures taken to show a proper respect to his memory by attending the funeral in a body. It was determined

that all the Masonic bodies meet at 3 o'clock p.m. tomorrow (Sunday) and attend the funeral. The full Marine Band has been engaged, and the procession will be formed and march to the late residence of deceased, on East Capitol street, and from thence to the Congressional Cemetery, the place of interment. The following is the order in which the procession will be formed: Washington and Columbia Commanderies, Knights Templar; Masons of the A.A. Scottish Rite residing in the District of Columbia, under the direction of Albert Pike, 33d degree, Sovereign Grand Commander of the southern jurisdiction of the United States, and Joseph T. Brown, 33d degree, Special Deputy for the District of Columbia; Grand Consistory of the State of Maryland, which has been invited to be present; King Solomon's Lodge, No. 2, Select and Most Excellent Master Architects; Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, with the seven subordinate Chapters; Blue Lodges, eighteen in number; B.B. French Lodge, No. 15, and followed by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. The Masonic services at the grave will be conducted by Grand Master R.B. Donaldson, and the Templar service by the E.C. of Washington Commandery, No. 1, aided by the Masonic Choir. This Commandery last night, at their conclave, appointed a guard of honor, consisting of eight Knights, which was dispatched to the late residence of deceased, with a relief guard of the same number to be in constant attendance up to the hour of burial. Should the day be pleasant tomorrow, it is expected there will be a large concourse of Masons present to attend the funeral, as many delegates from other cities are expected here.

The Masonic Temple in this city has been draped in mourning, in respect to the memory of the deceased.

The body of the deceased is placed in a black walnut coffin, furnished by Mr. A. Buchly, undertaker, covered with black cloth, the inside being padded throughout and lined with fine white merino. On the sides of the coffin are placed eight heavy silver handles and Masonic emblems. A silver plate, on which is inscribed the name, date of birth and death of deceased, is placed on the lid of the coffin. Rev. Dr. Chester, of the Presbyterian Church, is to officiate at the residence and preach the funeral sermon.

The New York Times, August 14, 1870, p. 1

The Late Major French -- Sketch of His Life

The Washington papers of yesterday contain length obituary notices of the late Major B.B. French, whose death occurred on the 12th inst. The Chronicle says: "Benjamin B. French was born in Chester, Rockingham County, N.H., on the 4th day of September, 1800. He was the son of Daniel and Mercy French. His mother's maiden name was Brown. She was the daughter of Benjamin Brown, of Chester, and sister of Francis Brown, an eminent divine, who, at the time of his death, in 1821, was President of Dartmouth College. Mr. French was the only child of his mother, who died when he was eighteen months old. His father was a lawyer of high standing, and was for several years Attorney-General of the State of New Hampshire. He received a good common school and academical education, and it was the earnest desire of his father and friends that he should enter college, which he declined to do. In 1819 he went to Boston with a view of going to sea. Disappointed in obtaining a berth on board a ship, he enlisted as a soldier in the army of the United States, and was stationed at Fort Warren, on Governor's Island, in the harbor of Boston, with a detachment of the Eighth Regiment of infantry. He was, soon after enlisting, appointed a Sergeant, and performed his duty faithfully for about four months, when, at the earnest solicitation of his friends, who provided a substitute, he left the army on the 12th day of September, 1819. He then returned to his father's, and, although contrary to his own inclinations, commenced the study of law, which he pursued with diligence for five years, that being the time fixed by the bar rules of New Hampshire. At the February term of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Rockingham, held at Portsmouth, in 1825, Mr. French was admitted an attorney at law, and in the month of March following, commenced the practice at Hookset, in the County of Merrimack, whence, in September, he removed to Sutton, and married Elizabeth S. Richardson, daughter of Hon. William M.

Richardson, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire. Mr. French entered immediately into full practice, and with his industry and natural business tact, would probably have taken a very respectable place at the Bar had he continued his profession. He was elected Assistant Clerk of the Senate of New Hampshire in June, 1826, to which office he was twice re-elected. He was the first Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and the Superior Court of Judicature for Sullivan County, New Hampshire.

He was appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings under President Pierce, and again under President Lincoln's Administration, continuing in that office until it was abolished under President Johnson's Administration in 1868, since which time, until the 1st of July, he was employed in the Treasury Department until a few weeks since, when he resigned.

Besides the national offices of honor and trust he held, Major French was for many years President of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council respectively. He was also a member of the Levy Court and the Oldest Inhabitants' Association. He was known throughout the country for his high standing in the Masonic fraternity."

Major French will be buried today, Sunday, at 4 o'clock P.M. in the Congressional Cemetery.

The National Intelligencer, Monday, August 15, 1870

Funeral of the Late Major B.B. French

The obsequies of the late Major B.B. French took place yesterday afternoon, and were largely attended by our citizens and the Masonic fraternity. The friends of the deceased commenced to assemble at 3 o'clock at the residence of the family and at the church on 4 1/2 street. The residence was crowded at an early hour, many being desirous to take a last look at their departed friend. The coffin was placed in the parlor, and in charge of a guard of honor, consisting of eight Knights Templar of Washington Commandery, No. 1. The coffin was ornamented with Masonic emblems, and the eight handles were wrought in Masonic insignia. On the lid was a silver plate, on which was engraved the name, date of birth and death of decease; and on the coffin was placed the regalia which he wore when living. Flowers were also tastefully placed around the coffin. The members of the family were seated in the parlor, with the personal friends, and the Rev. Florides Steele, of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, read the service, according to the ritual of that church, at the conclusion of which he delivered an earnest prayer. The coffin was then borne to the hearse. In front of the house the guard of honor stood with drawn swords, under which the remains passed to the hearse. The family of deceased and the friends were then provided with carriages, and the procession moved to Four-and-a-half street Presbyterian Church, where the Masonic bodies were in waiting. All of these bodies met at the Temple, corner of 9th and F streets, at 3 o'clock when the procession was formed by the Grand Marshal, and marched to the church, headed by the Marine band, in time to meet the funeral cortege from the residence. On arriving at the church the band performed a dirge while the remains were borne in through a detachment of the guard of honor up through the main aisle to a space in front of the pulpit. The Masonic fraternity, and all who could gain ingress to the church, were provided with seats. The Masonic choir, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Bradley, occupied the gallery and while the large assemblage was being seated a dirge was played on the organ by Prof. Scheel. The Masonic choir then sang a funeral dirge composed for the occasion. During the services, at intervals, they sang "Behold, I show you a mystery," and the funeral hymn by Istria, from the tenth Psalm. The officers of Washington Commandery then took position round the coffin, and the funeral services of the Knights Templar were conducted by J.F. Wollard, Eminent Commander, assisted by Prelate J.T. Hoover. At the conclusion of the services the lid of the coffin was raised, and the members all filed past to take a last look at the face of the deceased. When all had passed, the lid was replaced, and the funeral procession formed down 4 1/2 street, in the following order:--Marine Band; Washington, Columbia, and Potomac Commanderies Knights Templar, and visiting Sir Knights; Members of the Supreme Council of the thirty-third degree; Grand Consistory of

Maryland, with band; Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, District of Columbia; B.B. French Lodge, No. 15; Washington Brass Band; Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia; Hearse; Pallbearers--On the part of the Grand Lodge, C.F. Stansbury, P.G.M.; J.E.F. Holmead, P.G.M.; G.A. Hall, P.D.G.M.; J.E. Rawlings, P.J.G.W.; On the part of the Grand Chapter, James G. Smith, P.G.H.P.; Wilson Middleton, P.G.S.; Andrew Glass, P.G.K.; H.A. Whalton, G.K.; On the part of Washington Commandery, Sir Knights P.H. Hope and G. Bruff; Family and friends of deceased; Other associations of which deceased was a member; Citizens. The procession then passed down 4 1/2 street by way of Pennsylvania avenue to the Congressional Cemetery, where a large number of people had collected. Indeed the whole route of the funeral was livid with spectators, who vied with the Masonic fraternity in doing honor to the memory of the deceased. While the procession passed the Capitol the bell of the Columbia Fire Company was tolled, deceased being an honorary member of the old volunteer organization. Arriving at the cemetery the coffin was placed over the grave prepared for it in the family lot and immediately beside that of his first wife. The scene was impressive in the extreme, as twilight had well set in, and the candles carried by the Masons being necessarily lighted threw a mellow light over the grave and its surroundings. The ceremonies here were conducted by J.H. Russell, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, which were followed with a chant by the Masonic choir, and benediction by the Rev. Fluorides Steele. The remains were then lowered in the grave, and the mourning friends sadly departed.

Harper, Kenton N., History of the Grand Lodge, 1911, p. 349-353

Grand Master, 1847-53, 1868

This distinguished Brother may properly be called the Father of Latter-Day Masonry in the District of Columbia, and it involves no invidious comparison to say that in the century now closed no man has more permanently left the impress of his individuality and genius upon our local institution, nor was more widely or favorably known throughout the Masonic world.

In the words of one of his contemporary biographers: "The history of our departed Brother is the story of a good man's path through the world; a life of labor and love; a stream of usefulness welling up from the fountain of his infancy, and increasing, broadening, and deepening until the close of his well-spent existence; a bright, cheerful river gladdening the hearts of thousands on its either side, and distributing with a generous hand countless blessings all along its course."

Bro. French was born at Chester, N.H., on the 4th day of September, 1800. He was the son of Hon. Daniel French, an eminent lawyer of that State and for many years its Attorney-General, and his ancestors on both sides of the family were among the oldest and most respected of the early settlers of New England.

He received a good common-school and academic education, which was completed at North Yarmouth Academy, Me., when he was about seventeen years of age. His family were anxious that he should enjoy the advantages of a collegiate course to fit him for a professional career, but his inclinations did not run in this direction and in 1819 he went to Boston with the intention of going to sea. Disappointed, however, in obtaining such a position as he desired in the merchant service he enlisted as a private in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, with a detachment of the 8th regiment of infantry. He was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant and served for four months, when at the earnest solicitation of friends, who furnished a substitute, he was discharged September 12, 1819.

Returning to his native town he took up the study of law, and after five years was admitted to practice as a member of the Rockingham bar.

In March, 1825, he removed to Hookset, N.H., and entered at once upon a promising practice. Immediately after actively engaging in his profession he was married to Miss Elizabeth Smith Richardson, daughter of Hon. W.W. Richardson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire,

and this union proved to be a most happy one, Mrs. French continuing until her death, in 1861, to be a true and loving helpmate of her distinguished husband. In September, 1862, Bro. French was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ellen Brady, of Washington, a lady of estimable qualities.

His profession was not a congenial one to him and was destined not to be his life work. Shortly after his marriage he removed to Sutton and, in 1827, to Newport, N.H. About this time he was elected assistant clerk of the New Hampshire Senate. He was also, while a resident of Newport, one of the editors and proprietors of the New Hampshire Spectator, and represented the town in the State Legislature in the years 1831-33.

In December 1833, he received the appointment of assistant clerk of the House of Representatives and removed to Washington, where he remained the balance of his life.

For some years he held the position of chief clerk of the House, which office he held until 1847, when he was defeated by one vote.

During his term as assistant clerk of the House he was instrumental in having the bill passed which marked the inauguration of the first magnetic company of which he subsequently became president, and devoted himself to its interests, and to his energy, enterprise and business tact, the telegraph of today, then looked upon as chimerical nonsense, became a commercial possibility.

When his intimate friend, Gen. Pierce, was elected President of the United States, he was appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds, but resigned this position in 1855, and returned to the practice of his profession.

Again appointed to the same position in 1861 he faithfully and acceptably discharged the duties of the office until 1867, when it was abolished by Congress.

During this latter term the bronze "Goddess of Freedom" was placed upon the dome of the Capitol building in this city, and, besides the name of Abraham Lincoln, has graven upon the head, "B.B. French, Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds."

He was chief marshal of the inaugural procession for President Lincoln in 1861, and one of the marshals at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863, besides being the author of the hymn sung as part of the ceremonies immediately after the oration of Edward Everett and just before resident Lincoln delivered his famous address. In connection with this historical event the author of this work deems it, under the circumstances, perhaps worthy of note that while in Gettysburg on that occasion and at other times Bro. French was the guest of his father, the Hon. Robert Goodloe Harper, and a great chum, so the author has been told of himself, and the interest in this fact lies in the fantastic destiny that should bring that toddler at his knee in the far-off years to write his biography.

During his entire life in this city, he took an active interest in municipal affairs and served for many years as President of the local Boards of Alderman and Common Council, and in every position in which he stood forth as the servant of the people his duties were discharged conscientiously, energetically, intelligently, and acceptably.

In religion Bro. French was Unitarian, but, in the language of one writer "what he called the 'religion of Masonry' was his guiding star."

As a scholar he was noted for his ripe culture and high attainments, and was probably excelled by few in a thorough knowledge of the classics of his own tongue.

He was an easy and extensive writer, his style being marked by a terse, plain, and vigorous use of the Saxon, and had the happy faculty of saying just what he wanted to say at the right time and in the right manner.

As a poet his style was graceful, flowing, and simple, addressing itself to the better feelings of our nature and marked by the true fire of genius.

Such, briefly, was the man and citizen, but, quoting again from an early biographer, "there was another phase of his life concealed by the veils of our sanctuaries from the vulgar gaze of the profane; an inner history of usefulness, energy, and honor; a course in which he deserved and received the highest laurels, the priceless tributes of the regard and esteem of his brethren--more to be valued than the withering crowns of the political arena, which fade away with a breath; ever enduring memorials to true merit, and the rewards of a lifetime well spent in the service of that which is just, noble, and true; the recognition by the Fraternity of initiates of a burning zeal in the cause of universal brotherhood and common humanity."

Bro. French, in a short autobiographic resume of his life, prepared a few years before his death, informs us that his first impression of the benefits and true grandeur of Freemasonry was occasioned by his attendance upon a Masonic funeral at the early age of fifteen years, and the determination was there made to knock at its portals for admission as soon as he should have reached the constitutional age.

There being no lodge in his native town he was unable to carry out his intention until after his removal to Sutton, when, in 1825, he made application to King Solomon's Lodge, No. 14, located at New London, about four miles from Bro. French's residence, and during the following winter he received the several symbolic degrees in that lodge.

Applying himself with his habitual energy and enthusiasm to the work and lectures he soon acquired a thorough knowledge of their sublime principles and tenets.

In 1827 he removed to Newport and there affiliated with Corinthian Lodge, No. 28, in which lodge he served as Senior Warden and Master, filling the latter station in 1830-33.

In the same year he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, and in 1832, its Grand Marshal, both of which positions, as well as the East of Corinthian Lodge, he held at the time of his removal to Washington in 1833.

Bro. French, arriving in this city in the midst of the period of persecution, found Masonry nearly dormant, and although he frequented the meetings of our lodges and Grand Lodge he did not affiliate until the organization of the National Lodge, No. 12, in 1846.

On November 3 of the same year he was elected Grand Master of Masons for the District of Columbia and served as such with fidelity and marked ability until 1853, when he declined re-election. Subsequently, however, in the year 1867, he was again called to the Grand East and served during the Masonic year of 1868.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia Chapter, No. 15 (now No. 1), of the City of Washington, in November, 1846, and in 1847 was elected its "Most" Excellent High Priest. During the same year he was elected Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and after serving as Deputy was elected Grand High Priest in 1850, and was re-elected thereto annually until 1855, when he positively declined the honor.

April 8, 1847, Bro. French received the Order of the Temple at the hands of DeWitt Clinton Encampment, Brooklyn, N.Y. There being at that time no encampment of Knights Templar in this vicinity, he visited the above-mentioned city for the express purpose of receiving the Commandery degrees with a view of resuscitating the Order of the Temple in Washington.

On the 25th of the same month he succeeded in reviving the organization of Washington Commandery, No. 1, of this city, dormant for some years, and was elected its Eminent Commander, in which position he continued with the exception of a single term, for twelve years. His Commandery always continued a favorite organization with him and was remembered by him in the distribution of his Masonic effects.

In 1850 he was elected Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and, also General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, both of which offices he held until 1859, when he was elected Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United

States and positively declined re-election as Secretary of the General Grand Chapter. As Grand Master of Knights Templar he served six consecutive years.

During his administration as Grand Master of Masons of the District, he laid the cornerstone of the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington Monument, the Capitol Extension, and many other public buildings and churches in this city.

In the year 1851 Bro. French received at the hands of illustrious Bro. Giles Ford Yates the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite up to the thirty-second degree, and in 1859 was elected to the thirty-third and last degree, and became an active member of the Supreme Council for the District of Columbia. He was subsequently elected Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council, and in May, 1870, a few months before his death, became Lieut. Grand Commander.

He departed this life August 12, 1870, after an illness of several days, of heart disease, in the seventieth year of his age.

Funeral services were held at his residence on East Capitol Street, and the Templar service at the Presbyterian Church on Four-and-a-half Street (John Marshall Place), after which the remains were conveyed to the Congressional Cemetery, where, at 8:30 p.m., August 14, 1870, by the aid of the three lesser lights, the solemn and imposing ceremonies of the Grand Lodge were performed.

Thus passed this good man and Mason.

His devotion to the Order is shown by the following extract from his will: "Eighth, To the Grand Lodge of F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia, in testimony of my undying love for the Craft and my firm belief in the truth of the declaration of the great and good Washington, that Freemasonry is a society whose liberal principles are founded on the immutable laws of truth and justice, and my deep conviction of the usefulness of the Order, all my books on the subject of Freemasonry. And I here express my regret that it is not in my power to make that body a more valuable bequest."

The Evening Star, September 13, 1870

Orphans' Court, Judge Wylie

The Will of the Late B.B. French

Today, the will of the late B.B. French was filed and proven by two witnesses. The will is dated November 1st, 1869, and bequeathes his estate principally to his wife and his sons, and directs his executors--his widow and son F.G. French to give to each of his female grandchildren, as they arrive at sixteen years of age. a gold watch and chain, and to each of his male grandchildren a similar gift when they arrive at the age of eighteen years. To the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, in testimony of his undying love for the craft, and in his firm belief in the truth of the declaration of the great and good Washington that Freemasonry is "a society whose liberal principles are founded on the immutable laws of truth and justice," and his deep conviction of the usefulness of the order; all his books on the subject of free masonry; and he expresses regret that it is not in his power to make that body a more valuable bequest. To Washington Commandery of Knights Templar he leaves the superbly engrossed resolutions of presentation of the diamond cross presented him by the Grand Encampment of the United States, and sword and baldrick presented by the same body to be suspended in their Asylum, and remain as a perpetual memorial of his regard for the commandery and for the Order.