

SECRET SOCIETIES.

The Grand Orient of Egypt---The Colored Masons.

MASONIC.

"THE REGENERATED EGYPTIAN CRAFT."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

CHICAGO, June 23.—In answer to the inquiry of your correspondent, Shemenoth, I have to say that there is no connection between what the circular to which he refers calls "The Regenerated Egyptian Craft" and "the Rite of Memphis, which was introduced here, and into which so many of our brightest Masons were initiated some years ago." The Grand Orient of Egypt has abandoned her charters under the Memphis Rite, and has organized under charters of the first three degrees of the Scottish Rite, and is working in harmony with the three degrees of the York Rite, and in accordance with the jurisdictional laws of the English and American Grand Lodges. That is why the expression "The Regenerated Egyptian Craft" is now used. The Memphis Rite has been repudiated everywhere, and the general understanding is that it is not to be revived. * * *

MASONIC LIBRARY.

The correspondent of the Boston *Journal* at Cincinnati gives the following notes in which are very plainly to be seen a strong opinion on the "colored Masons question":

Among other curious and valuable private collections belonging to the wealthy citizens of Cincinnati is the Masonic Library of Ill. Brother Enoch T. Carson, 33d. In manuscripts, engravings, and publications in every modern language it far surpasses any similar collection in the world, and it is to be hoped that it can ultimately be secured for the benefit of the craftsmen.

Ill. Brother Carson is one of the Ohio Freemasons who have taken a deep interest of late in securing the recognition of the colored Grand Lodge of Ohio and the subordinate lodges, with an aggregate of over 800 members. His library contains the old English Masonic Kalenders, in which "African Lodge of Boston," of which Prince Hall was the first Master, is recorded among the other lodges, from its warrant in 1784 until it, with other lodges in the United States, was omitted in 1813. As the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was not fairly recognized and established until 1792, African Lodge can hardly be branded as "clandestine," and the numerous Masonic bodies which have sprung from it are not "illegal," according to the ancient landmarks. Moreover, it has been officially reported to the Grand Lodge of Ohio that these colored Freemasons practice the same rites and have substantially the same esoteric or secret modes of recognition as are practiced by the white Freemasons the world over. Ill. Brother John D. Caldwell, who has for the past twenty-five years been Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Ohio, is, with others here, earnestly engaged in removing this barrier—the only one remaining—from before the colored Freemasons.

I have been shown here the original warrant given in 1776 to "American Union Lodge," in the camp of the Continental Army at Roxbury, Mass. Gen. S. H. Parsons, afterward Judge of the Northwest Territory, was made Worshipful Master, and Paul Revere engraved the seal. The Lodge thus formed was kept up in the Connecticut line of the Continental army, and its celebration of St. John's Day in 1779, near Newburg, was graced by Brother George Washington. Col. John Brooks, afterward Governor of Massachusetts, was orator on St. John's Day in 1782. After the war the Lodge was located at Marietta, O., where it will celebrate its Centennial, and its warrant and army records will be restored to its keeping.

CIRCULAR FROM THE GRAND ORIENT OF EGYPT.

The following circular has been sent to many of the Masons in this country:

A . G . D . G . A . D . U .

SECRETARIATO GENERALI DEL GR. OR. D'EGITTO
E DIPENDENZE