

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE

OF NORTH-CAROLINA,

AT A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

HELD IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH,

ON THE 30th DAY OF APRIL, 1821, A. L. 5821.

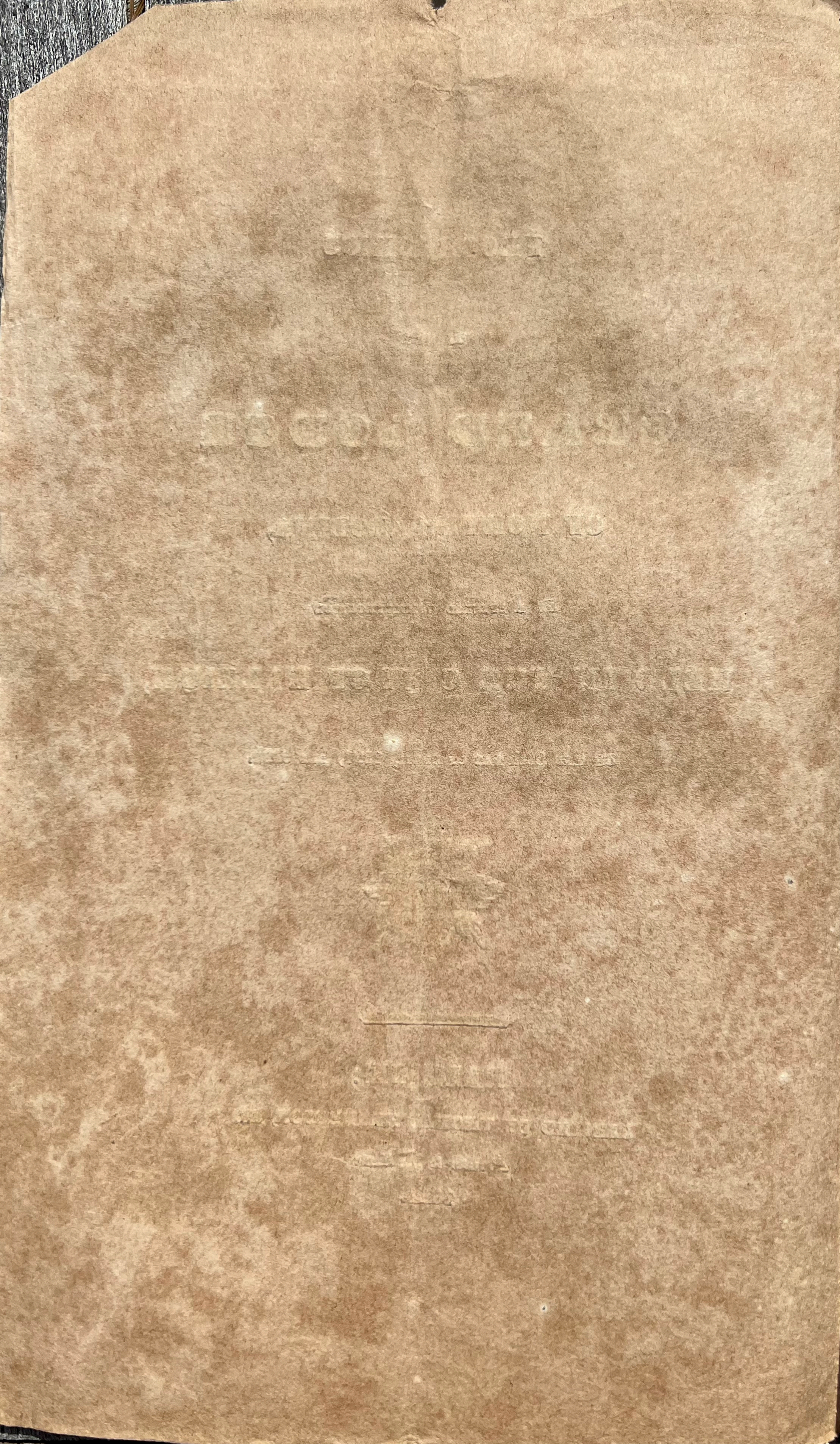


RALEIGH:

PRINTED BY THOMAS HENDERSON, JR.

Printer to the State.

1821.



PROCEEDINGS.

Western Sun,	72,	Wake,	<i>Willie Brasfield,</i>
Eagle,	71,	Hillsborough,	<i>John Scott,</i>
Golden Fleece,	74,	Milton,	<i>J. H. Perkins,</i>
Sharon, (<i>by dispensation,</i>)		Greensville,	<i>Elisha B. Harrel,</i>
Greensborough,	do.	Guilford,	<i>Justin Field.</i>

VISITORS.

J. J. Ruffin, J. C. Stedman, Benj. Ellis, Joseph H. Harvey, Dirk Lindenman, G. W. Dennis, Lewis Yancey, Joseph Ramsey and James Towns.

The Grand Lodge was opened in due and solemn form with prayer, by the M. W. Grand Master.

The M. W. Grand Master informed the Grand Lodge that he called them together agreeably to the understanding at the last annual communication, to receive the report of the committee who were appointed at that time to enquire into the difference between Hall Lodge, No. 53, and Brother Robinson; but none of the members of that committee being present, and no communication from them being received, he then called the attention of the Grand Lodge to the subject of David Vinton; which, after some discussion, was referred to a committee, consisting of Brothers John Scott, J. W. Young, Esek Arnold, Benj. B. Hunter and G. J. M'Ree, who were directed to report at this meeting.

Brother Justin Field surrendered the dispensation and presented proceedings of Greensborough Lodge, at Guilford, with a petition that a Charter might be granted that Lodge; which was referred to a committee, consisting of Brothers Bezaleel Gillet, Thomas Henderson and C. B. Jones.

On motion of Brother Boylan, a committee was appointed, consisting of Brothers Esek Arnold, C. B. Jones and Thomas Henderson, to take into consideration what alteration was necessary to be made in the painted floor-cloaths, and likewise what compensation should be allowed Brother Marling for the same: and to report at this meeting.

On motion of Brother Justin Field, a committee, consisting of Brothers Boylan, Field and Kelly, were appointed to take into consideration and report what course is necessary to be pursued with regard to the engraving for Diplomas now in New York.

PROCEEDINGS.

5

The Grand Lodge now adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

May 1st, A. L. 5821.

The Grand Lodge met this morning according to adjournment—when were present the Officers and Representatives as yesterday, with the addition of Brother James Child, as Representative from Eagle Lodge, No. 71.

Grand Lodge of North-Carolina, May 1st, 1821.

The committee to whom was referred the proceedings of Greensborough Lodge by dispensation, beg leave to *Report*, That after diligently examining the proceedings of the same, they recommend that a Charter be granted as prayed for. The committee, however, cannot refrain from expressing their disapprobation of that part of the proceedings which appears to have been common, of conferring a degree or degrees on the night the petition is presented. Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES B. JONES, *Chairman.*

This report was read and concurred in.

Grand Lodge of North-Carolina, May 1st, 1821.

The committee appointed to examine the Master's Carpets, painted for the Grand Lodge, have given them a cursory examination, and find nothing very objectionable in the execution or design. They, however, discover several Masonic emblems omitted—viz: *Right Angle, Horizontal and Perpendicular, the Shoe, Apron and Towline*; also the flight of *Winding Stairs*. The committee would recommend the obliteration of the letters on the two pillars, and an addition of one other pillar on the Carpet, at the back of the Senior Warden's chair, and to obliterate the *Chissel and Mallet*. These alterations may not be very essential, but still the committee think they would be proper.

The committee are of opinion that when the above alterations are made, and the paintings framed, that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be allowed Brother Marling for the same. Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES B. JONES, *Chairman.*

This report was read and concurred in.

PROCEEDINGS.

Grand Lodge of N. Carolina, May 1, 1821.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the engraving for diplomas or certificates of membership, having that subject under consideration, beg leave to *Report,*

Your committee learn, that some ten or twelve years past, the treasurer of this Lodge procured, through Mr. Samuel Campbell of New-York, such an engraved plate as would answer to print thereon, a certificate of membership in Latin, English and French; and for which, was paid out of the funds of this Lodge, two hundred and eighteen dollars. As the perquisites of filling up and issuing a certificate to a member of this Lodge, or to any member of a subordinate Lodge, were to be given to the Secretary of this Lodge; that officer, brother Robert Williams, requested Mr. Campbell to procure several hundred copies struck upon the engraved plate, part on vellum, and a part on parchment and paper. These copies, your committee learn were accordingly printed: But Mr. Campbell charged such a price, as brother Williams, and after him, his successor as Secretary, brother the late Alexander Lucas, thought so extravagant and so much larger than what other copper-plate printers charged for similar work, that the printed copies have ever since remained with Mr. Campbell, who refuses to deliver to the Treasurer of this Lodge, the engraved plate; alledging, as a reason for this detention, that the Secretaries, brother Williams and Lucas had refused to pay him what he had expended in procuring the certificates printed. Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Lodge endeavor to ascertain from Mr. Samuel Campbell of New-York, the lowest sum that will satisfy him for the expense he has incurred in procuring to be printed certain copies of a diploma or certificate of membership, and for the delivery of the engraved plate, and that the secretary lay before this Lodge, at its next meeting, the result of his enquiries.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN FIELD, *Chairman.*

This report was read and concurred in.

Grand Lodge of N. Carolina, May 1, 1821.

The committee appointed by the Grand Lodge, to enquire into, and report upon, the Masonic conduct of Da-

PROCEEDINGS,

vid Vinton, late of Providence in the State of Rhode Island, *Report,*

That in pursuance of their duty, they have received and impartially weighed, a mass of information from various sources, and of unquestionable authority, with the details of which, it is deemed unnecessary to trouble this Most Worshipful Lodge, all tending, beyond the possibility of a doubt, to stamp the character of said Vinton as a base and unprincipled man, undeserving the countenance of the Masonic Fraternity; and imperiously requiring of this Grand Lodge, as a duty not less due to itself, than to the interests and honor of the society of Masons in general, to exert its influence to arrest this man in his improper career; and to expose to merited ignominy and contempt, the *wretch* who would attempt to build up his fortunes, by the prostration of our sacred order; that the Fraternity may be duly on their guard in relation to the designs of this base innovator, who, in the pursuit of lawless gain, is determined to accomplish his object, though he should mar the lustre of our order and violate its most sacred obligations: Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, it appears from various unquestionable authority, that *one* David Vinton, late of the town of Providence, in the State of Rhode-Island, has been guilty of conduct, stamping him a base and unprincipled character, undeserving the countenance and support of the Masonic Fraternity; therefore,

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge hereby interdict and prohibit, all Lodges under their jurisdiction, from holding any intercourse with, or extending their patronage to the said David Vinton.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary, forward circulars to the Lodges in subordination to this Grand Lodge, and to the Grand Lodges throughout the United States, embracing the foregoing pramble and resolution.

Resolved furthermore, That the Grand Secretary cause the foregoing resolutions and preamble thereto, to be published in the Star and Register.

All which is respectfully submitted,

ESSEK ARNOLD, *Chairman.*

This report was read and concurred in.

On motion of brother G. J. McRee, it was

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge view with disapprobation, the use of written lectures by Lodges and individuals belonging to the Masonic Fraternity, and do hereby require of all Masters of Lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge, that they forthwith, cause all such lectures within their possession, or that may come within their knowledge, to be committed to the flames.

PROCEEDINGS.

On motion of brother Benjamin B. Hunter, the following resolution was adopted :

WHEREAS, information has been given to this Grand Lodge, that there are various manuscript copies of Masonic Lectures in existence in some Lodges in this State, or in the possession of individual Masons ; therefore

Resolved, That brother Benjamin B. Hunter, J. M. Yancy, G. J. McRee, Esek Arnold, and Robert Fenner, be a committee to enquire into the existence of such manuscripts, in all the lodges of this state subordinate to this Grand Lodge, and report to the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge.

On motion of brother Young, an appropriation of thirty dollars was made from the funds of this Grand Lodge, to the use of Mrs. Parsley, widow of brother R. Parsley, late Grand Steward of this Lodge.

It was ordered that the power of the committee, appointed at the last annual communication, to enquire into the difference between Hall Lodge, No. 53, and brother Robinson, should still continue ; and that they discharge the duties assigned them, and report the result of their proceedings at the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed brother Alexander Ross Grand Steward of this Lodge.

No further business coming before this Grand Lodge, it was closed in due and solemn form, and adjourned until the next annual communication, unless specially convened, of which due notice will be given.

BEZALEEL GILLET, *Grand Secretary*.