

Mason's Tribute

To George A. Luce

The following In Memoriam to the late George A. Luce has been issued by Grand Master Hager, to be read in all lodges of this grand jurisdiction:

"Our Past Grand Treasurer, George A. Luce, is no more. From even before the dawn which ushered in our Grand Lodge, Brother Luce was a faithful craftsman in the quarries hewing the stones that helped to build the structure of our grand body. In the Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory, we find him as a member, and from the birth of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota in 1899 to its last communication in June 1906, he was a constant helper to Masonry, and all its higher interests.

Death came slowly to him. He saw its shadows creeping closer day by day. For those he loved, his wife, his children, and his friends, a dread filled his heart; but for himself he extended the manly hand of fortitude, and said: "Thy will not mine be done."

To his faithful friend, M. W. Bro. Louis A. Jacobson, Past Grand Master, who was with him when the ice crept into his blood, he bade good-bye as he felt the chill, and told him to give the parting word to all his friends; and to his old friend, the grand secretary, he sent a kind farewell. To those of kith and kin, he gave a parting hand-clasp as though his journey was to be in physical scenes. No coward's heart can face the end with looks as calm, or words as kind as those which marked the falling of the curtain between the here and the there on the last act of Brother Luce's life. And what Mason does not ask, with the Psalmist, when he stands on the brink of the unknown:

"For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. But man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?"

HISTORY.

Born at Wheeling, Illinois, August 18, 1842.

Deid at his home in Hope, North Dakota, March 29, 1907.

Raised in Occidental Lodge No. 56, Michigan. Was a member of Occidental Lodge No. 27, Hope, North Dakota, at the time of his death. He was a charter member of this lodge, and give it the name of his mother lodge. He was its Master under dispensation, and for the next succeeding three years.

Elected Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of North Dakota, 1893, and held the office for one year.

He settled at Hope when the virgin prairie was unbroken by the white man's plow, and over its surface was scattered the bleaching bones of the buffalo. Until his death, he was closely identified with the mercantile and farming industries of his town and vicinity. In his demise, Masonry has lost a useful craftsman; his friends, a good fellow; and the community, a useful citizen.

Fraternally,

Grant S. Hager,

Grand Master.

Frank J. Thompson,

Grand Secretary.