

ARE YOU A MASON?

HERE IS RATHER AN INTERESTING STORY.

Masonic Sign Saved an Officer of the United States Army From Being Roasted Alive.

Mayor E. H. Cooper, attached to military headquarters at Chicago, recently related an experience through which he passed while on the western frontier that possesses more than a passing interest, says the Chicago Chronicle. "During nearly forty years of travel and exploration in all parts of the continent from the southern part of South America to Alaska I have had many thrilling experiences and many narrow escapes from death," said Major Cooper.

"The memories of one instance are particularly vivid. It was in the early 70's, and I was carrying on my investigations among the ruins left by the cliff builders. It was just across the Colorado border, in Utah, and I was alone and miles from any white man, when suddenly I was surrounded by a tribe of Pinta Indians and taken captive.

I was well acquainted with the savage characteristics of this renegade tribe and knew what was in store for me. It was their custom to bind their captive, stand him on a pile of fagots against a resinous scrub pine tree, and amuse themselves by shooting arrows at him, coming as close to the victim as possible without hitting him. When the Indians had tired of inflicting torture the flames were lighted, and that was the beginning of a horrible death.

"I have never been afraid of death, but I did not fancy the methods, so I began to think faster than I had ever done before. I could see no possible way of escape, but I was not intending to give up without an effort. The old quotation about the power of music to soothe the savage breast came to my mind, and I started to sing as loudly as I could. Naraguantop, the chief, stood by and laughed at me, and I knew that the music trick was no good. Meanwhile the bloodthirsty savages were using their tomahawks industriously and the pile of firewood was growing. My feet were bound, but when they approached me to pinion my arms to my side I used the last resort, vain though I supposed it to be. I gave the grand hailing sign and the sign of distress of the Master Mason, an appeal to which any Mason is bound to respond when there is a even chance that his life will not be sacrificed.

"Hardly had I given the sign when the old chief threw up his arms, gave a command to his men and took me to his own tent. That night he stole with me from the camp and told me to escape. I walked some distance up one canyon and then retraced my steps, walking backward. I repeated this trick in a second canyon, and then I walked backward up a third canyon, where I found my horse. This was not the only

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time that the Masonic sign has been of great service to me, and wherever I have travelled I have always found some one who recognized and responded to it."

On the day after publication of the incident in a Milwaukee paper, a reporter called upon W. W. Perry, grand secretary of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Wisconsin and asked him what he knew of the existence of freemasonry among the savage tribes of the country.

"They have no lodges that I know of," said he, "and I don't know where they got their masonry, but some of the Indians are good masons. I remember having heard similar stories of narrow escapes from death and disaster by white men making themselves known as masons. Major Cooper's was a good story, he had

a narrow escape.

"The story goes to show that Masonry is a worldwide institution," said Dr. W. M. Wilson. "Many years ago they brought a shipload of slaves to New Orleans, and when one of them was put up on the block to be auctioned off he made the Masonic hailing sign. He was taken down from the block, examined, and found to be a Mason. He was not sold into slavery, but a purse was raised by New Orleans Masons to purchase his freedom and he was sent back to Africa."

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The Dilettante Society.

An interesting old organization which formerly existed in London—the Dilettante society—originated with certain gentlemen who, having traveled in Italy, tried to encourage at home what they had enjoyed abroad. This society of lovers of the fine arts lasted 130 years. Walpole does not seem to have looked upon it with a very favorable eye, for he says, "The nominal qualification was to have been to Italy; the real one was being drunk."

Animals and Seasickness.

A French authority on seasickness makes the statement that cattle and giraffes are almost immune. Monkeys suffer considerably, but are cured by eating a raw onion. Horses suffer much, and some of them die from its effects. Tigers and elephants are also easily affected, whereas ice bears, accustomed to the movement of ice floes, are never so happy as when on ship-board.

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