





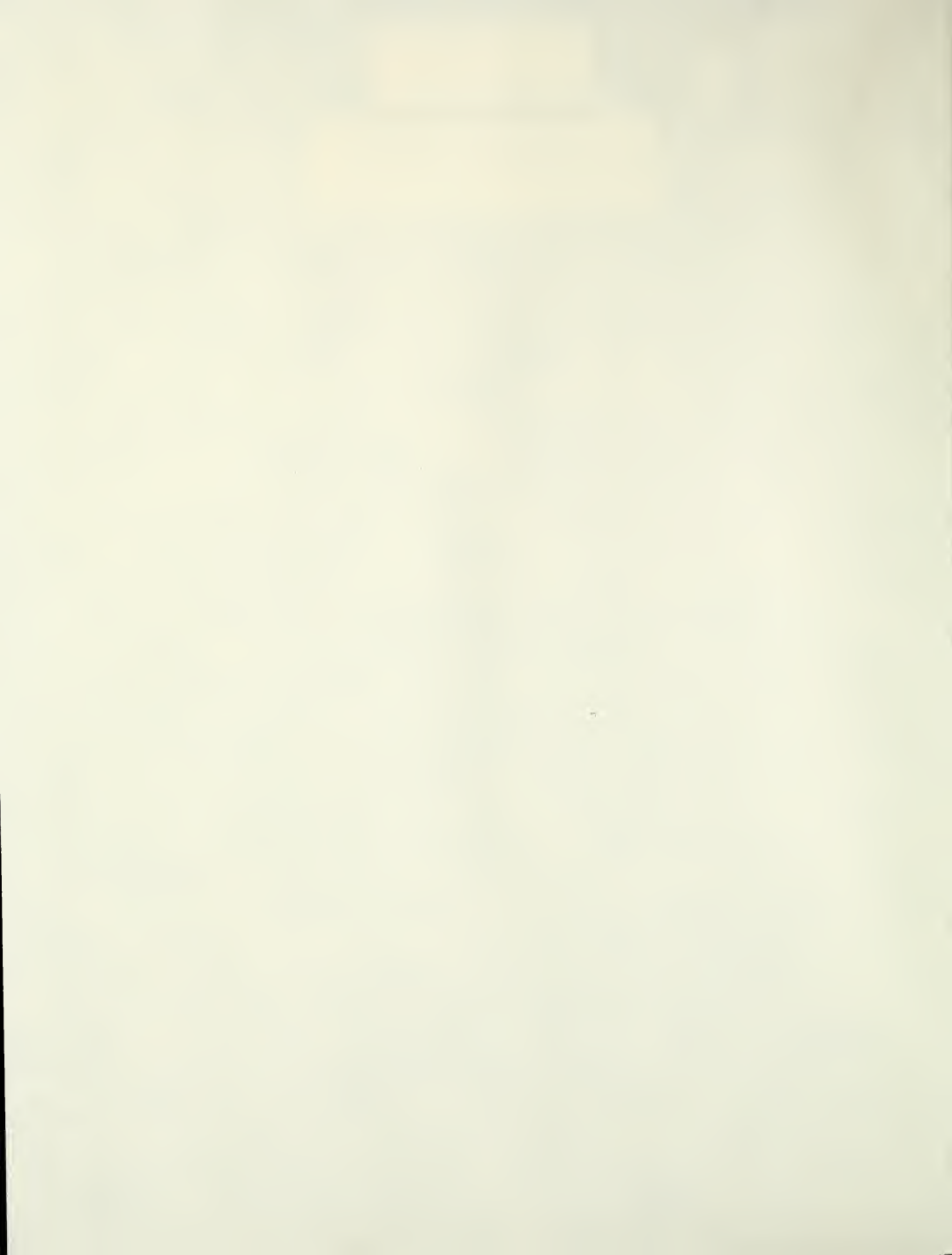
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the Republic ...



11282

RITUAL

OF THE

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,

ADOPTED BY

THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

AT

CINCINNATI, OHIO, MAY 13, 1869.

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OFFICIAL.

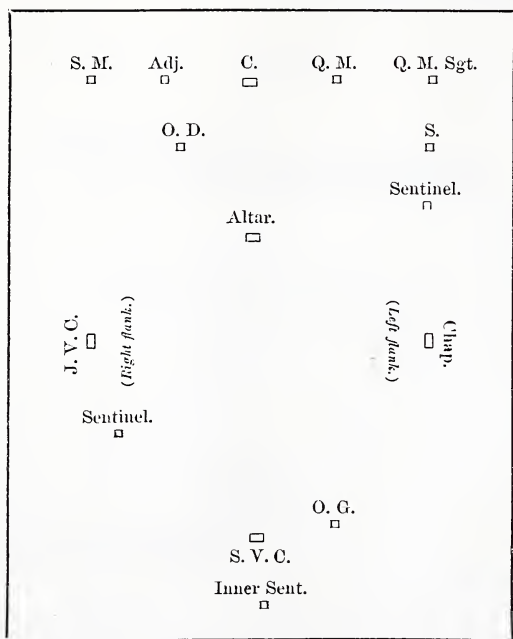
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WASHINGTON:  
HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.  
1869.



# PLAN OF ENCAMPMENT.



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## TO POST COMMANDERS.

The Rituals allowed to each Post will be under the charge of the Post Commander only, and they shall be held responsible for the safe-keeping of the same.

When the Post has been called to order, the Officer of the Day will be called to deliver the Rituals to the proper officers; and before the Post has been duly declared closed, he will collect the Rituals and deliver the same to the Commander, who will see that every one has been returned. Should any officer or comrade who has been entrusted with the Ritual allow the same to go out of his possession into the hands of any person not duly authorized to receive the same, it shall be sufficient cause for dishonorable discharge.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN,  
*Commander-in-Chief.*

Official:

WM. T. COLLINS,  
*Adjutant General.*

20 April 1932. *McCrane's Family. 9.*

ACC.

## ABBREVIATIONS.

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*C.*—Commander.  
*S. V. C.*—Senior Vice Commander.  
*J. V. C.*—Junior Vice Commander.  
*Adj.*—Adjutant.  
*Q. M.*—Quartermaster.  
*O. D.*—Officer of the Day.  
*O. G.*—Officer of the Guard.  
*1st Sen.*—First Sentinel.  
*2d Sen.*—Second Sentinel.



## RULES.

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I. All comrades entering Post after opening ceremonies will advance to near the altar, and salute the Commander before being seated; and all Post Commanders and other high officers, or past officers, visiting the Post will be invited to seats on the right of the Commander, one pace to the rear.

II. Visiting comrades will be announced by the Officer of the Guard, standing with them near the altar.

III. Comrades, when addressed or addressing, and when retiring, will first salute the Commander, as upon entering, and will not retire during the ceremonies, or while the Commander is engaged in speaking or putting a question.

IV. The Junior Vice Commander will see that the above rules are complied with.

V. All comrades will be required to make proper responses, and to observe suitable solemnity during the ceremonies. Music, vocal or instrumental, may be introduced as a part of the ceremonies, according to the will of the comrades.

VI. Officers of Posts will provide themselves with swords, belts, sashes, and gloves.

VII. One rap of the gavel calls to order and seats the comrades; three raps calls up the Post.

VIII. The Officer of the Day will see that officers are in their proper places, and if any are absent will provide substitutes before opening.

IX. The Officer of the Guard will detail guards under direction of the Officer of the Day, and guards for outposts may be permanently detailed under direction of the Commander.

X. Posts will always be opened on second grade, and, with such variations as follow, may be closed either in the first, second, or third grade.

## RITUAL.

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### OPENING—SECOND GRADE.

*[At the time appointed for opening the Post, the Commander assumes his proper position and gives one rap.]*

*C.* This is a regular assembly of —— Post, No. ——, Department of ——, Grand Army of the Republic. Officer of the Day, [*O. D. rises, faces the C., and salutes,*] is this Post duly organized by officers in their proper places?

*O. D.* Commander, the Post is so organized.

*C.* You will inquire of the Officer of the Guard if the approaches to the Post are properly guarded.

*O. D.* Officer of the Guard, [*O. G. rises and salutes O. D.,*] are the approaches to this Post properly guarded?

*O. G.* The approaches are properly guarded by two comrades of this Post, properly armed, who are instructed to observe all who approach, and allow none to enter without the countersign, and to permit none to pass or repass during the ceremonies of opening, closing, or muster-in.

*O. D.* Commander, the approaches are properly guarded.

*C.* Are all present members of the Grand Army of the Republic? [*The Officer of the Day, with the Officer of the Guard, will make the grand rounds, and will carefully observe all present; and if he is in doubt in regard to any person, he will apply the proper test, and after he is satisfied of the qualification of all present, he will turn to the Commander and say:*]

*O. D.* Commander, all present are members of the Grand Army of the Republic. [*Members of the first grade will be allowed to be present except when proposals, election, or advancement to the second grade are to be considered, when they will be required to retire.*]

*C.* Comrades, once more we have convened for the transaction of such business as may properly come before this Post. We meet upon the basis of fraternal equality, and here may brotherly love ever abide; here may charity ever be acknowledged as the chief corner-stone of our institution, and all our hearts unite as one in sustaining the great objects of our association. The Chaplain will now invoke the Divine blessing.

PARADE, REST!

## PRAYER AT OPENING.

[Any other form may be substituted.]

*Chap.* Almighty Father! we, Thy children, most humbly bow before Thee in recognition of Thy character as our Preserver, Guide and Protector. We thank Thee that in all the dangers upon land and sea through which we have passed, Thou didst mercifully preserve us; in all our marching by day and by night, Thou didst guide us; and by Thine own right arm Thou didst protect us; and Thou didst protect our national integrity and unity. We thank Thee that when we were suffering from wounds or sickness, Thou didst put around us the healing arm, and that we were permitted to return to our homes, and can now participate in the government of a nation we have helped to save as instruments in Thy hands. Bless our country; bless and protect the President of the United States, and all in authority under him. Wilt Thou bless our institution; be graciously near to all our comrades, and to all those who are designated as officers of this Post, and those who hold official positions in the Department and national branches of our association. Be graciously near to all widows and orphans of our fallen comrades. In all distresses, comfort them. In all poverty, supply their wants, and give us willing hearts to assist them as their circumstances require.

We remember how nobly our comrades suffered death, that their blood might seal the unity of our country. May we forever cherish their memories in our hearts, and never forget the dear ones they have left to our care and protection. Bless us in our present assemblage; forgive all that we do contrary to Thy teachings; keep our names on the roll of Thy servants; admit us at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord, into the Heavenly Rest; and thy name shall receive all the praise forever.

[*Response by all:*] AMEN.

*C.* I declare — Post No. — opened in due form.

[*One rap.*]

## CLOSING—SECOND GRADE.

*C.* Adjutant, [*Adj. rises and salutes,*] is there any further business upon your table?

*Adj.* There is nothing, Commander.

*C.* Quartermaster, [*Q. M. rises and salutes,*] is there any further business upon your table?

*Q. M.* There is nothing, Commander.

*C.* There being no further business to come before this Post, we will proceed to close. Officer of the Day, you will direct the Officer of the Guard to notify the guards at the outpost that \_\_\_\_\_ Post No. — is now to close.

*O. D.* Officer of the Guard, you will immediately execute the orders of the Commander given in your hearing. [*O. G. goes to the door and communicates the order to the inside and outside sentinels.*]

*O. G.* Officer of the Day, the orders of the Commander are communicated to the guards at the outpost.

*O. D.* Commander, the outposts are notified that \_\_\_\_\_ Post No. — is now to close.

[*Three raps.*]

*C.* Junior Vice Commander, what is the first great virtue of our Grand Army which unites our hearts as one, and which every comrade should cherish?

*J. V. C.* The virtue of Fraternity.

\**C.* Senior Vice Commander, what is the second great virtue of our Grand Army which all comrades are solemnly bound to promote?

\**S. V. C.* The Christian virtue of Charity.

*C.* Comrades, may we always keep in mind these high and sacred objects of the Grand Army of the Republic; may Fraternity of feeling ever bind us together in one common brotherhood, and may we practice the noble virtue of Charity, especially towards those whom our dead comrades have left to our care and protection.

*Right and left face! Break ranks! MARCH!*

#### MUSTER-IN—FIRST GRADE.

[In the proper order of business, as by rule.]

[*The officers are at their posts and entire silence prevails. One rap at the door. The sentinel opens the door sufficiently to ascertain the cause, and closes the door.*]

*I. S.* Officer of the Guard, strangers at the outpost!

*O. G.* Officer of the Day, the guard reports strangers at the outpost.

*O. D.* Commander, the Officer of the Guard reports strangers at the outpost.

*C.* Officer of the Day, direct the Officer of the Guard to ascertain their object.

\*Omit if recruits are present.

†If recruits are present, omit the words from "brotherhood" to end of paragraph.

*O. D.* Officer of the Guard, the Commander directs that you visit the outpost and investigate.

[*O. G. retires and soon returns.*]

*O. G.* Officer of the Day, I find at the outpost (A B, C D, and E F,) who desire to enlist in the Grand Army of the Republic.

*O. D.* Commander, the Officer of the Guard reports that the strangers desire to enlist in the Grand Army of the Republic.

*C.* Adjutant, have these persons offered themselves in writing as Recruits?

*Adj.* Commander, they have.

*C.* Were they recommended by any comrades of this Post?

*Adj.* Commander, Comrades (G H and I J) have recommended them as suitable for Recruits.

*C.* Officer of the Day, you will take these papers, repair to the outpost, make the necessary examination, and, if they are found qualified, prepare them for muster-in.

[*O. D. and O. G., at the altar, salute and retire, both sentinels on post and one at the door presenting arms as they retire.*]

#### AT OUTPOST.

[*The Recruits are blinded and stand in line. O. D. puts to each separately the following questions, carefully comparing answers with vouchers in hand:*]

*O. D.* 1. A. B., [*calling full name*] were you regularly mustered into and honorably discharged from the service of the United States during the war of the rebellion? [*or if the voucher shows the fact of present service, he may add:*] And are you now in the service of the United States?

2. In what regiment, or on what ship or staff, did you serve?

3. What was the length of your service?

4. When discharged?

5. Cause of discharge?

6. Where do you now reside?

7. What is your present age?

[*Slight variations, as to dates, between answers and vouchers need not be noted, but variations of a serious character will be reported to the Post Commander, and his direction, or the action of the Post, taken.*]

*O. D.* (*to recruits being examined:*) A B, C D, [*repeating each name,*] your application to be received as Recruits into — Post No. —, Department of —, Grand Army of the Republic, has been duly considered, your record properly

examined, and no objection having been made, you will be received as Recruits, and we are prepared to muster you into the Grand Army of the Republic. That you may understand the step you are taking, we declare to you that the great object of the grade upon which you are about to enter is the fraternity of those who have served in the war of the rebellion. Should you as a Recruit prove true and faithful, you will find further advancement, new responsibilities and obligations. We shall ask you now, previous to your full muster-in, to assume a solemn obligation, the performance of which will not interfere with your duty to your God, to your country, to your neighbor, or yourself. With this assurance, are you ready to proceed to be mustered in? [*Each Recruit answers:*] Yes.

*O. D.* You severally, understanding the objects of the Grand Army of the Republic, and announcing your readiness to proceed to be mustered in, will wait here, under charge of the Officer of the Guard, until report is made to the Commander and his orders are received.

[*O. D. returns to the Post, and O. G. places Recruits at the inner door, in order of entrance, and will obtain detail of comrades sufficient in number to assign one to conducting each Recruit.*]

*O. D.*, [at altar.] Commander, I have performed the duty as you directed, and I find at the outpost (A B, C D, and E F,) whom, upon proper examination with the vouchers, I find to be duly qualified for muster-in.

*C.* Does the [or each] Recruit understand the nature of the obligation he will be required to assume, and is he willing to take it solemnly upon himself?

*O. D.* The nature of the obligation has been explained and he has declared his readiness to assume it.

*C.* The Recruits at the outposts may be admitted and will be received upon the common bond of fraternity.

Let the assembly be sounded [*or, in absence of drum or bugle, three raps.*]

[*O. D. proceeds to inner door and gives one rap, answered by one rap from O. G. The door is then opened by the inside sentinel.*]

*O. D.* Officer of the Guard, it is the order of the Commander of this Post that the Recruits now desiring to enlist into the Grand Army of the Republic be received upon the common bond of fraternity.

[*If music is provided, some suitable selection may now be sung. After which, the procession, headed by the Officer of the Day, with the*



*Officer of the Guard at right or left of, and conducting the first Recruit, enters the Post and moves to the centre of the right flank, and is there challenged by the sentinel.]*

*Sen.* Halt! Who comes there? [*One rap.*]

*O. D.* Friends with the countersign.

*Sen.* Advance one, with the countersign. [*Sentinel receives countersign at "arms port," and answers:*]

*Sen.* Pass, friends. [*Sentinel immediately facing outcard at "carry arms."*]

*O. D.* Forward!

[*The second sentinel challenges in the same manner as the Officer of the Day reaches the front of the Commander, in passing to left flank. As the Officer of the Day approaches the Senior Vice Commander, that officer says:*]

*S. V. C.* Halt! Officer of the Day, whom have you there?

*O. D.* Good men and true, who, having served faithfully in the army [or navy] of the Republic during the dark days of the rebellion, now seek to perpetuate the glorious memories of that struggle by uniting with us, their late comrades in arms, as Recruits in the Grand Army of the Republic, upon that common bond of fraternity which binds us together as comrades and brothers.

*S. V. C.* Their object is a worthy one. The Grand Army of the Republic seeks to unite all good and true soldiers of the Republic who, having stood together through the bloody period of war, are now willing to unite upon a basis of perfect equality to secure for all Recruits of the Grand Army that full fraternity of feeling and interest which none can better feel than those who have together fought upon many a bloody field. Officer of the Day, have these Recruits been properly examined and found worthy?

*O. D.* They have been properly examined and found worthy.

*S. V. C.* You will conduct them to the Commander of this Post, to be disposed of as he shall direct.

[*Column moves to near headquarters of Commander.*]

*C.* Halt! Officer of the Day, whom have you there?

*O. D.* Commander, these are Recruits found waiting enlistment at the outpost.

*C.* Have they been properly examined and are they deemed worthy to be received as Recruits in the Grand Army of the Republic?

*O. D.* They have been examined and have given satisfactory

evidence that they are worthy to be enrolled as Recruits in our Grand Army.

*C.*, (to each in succession.) In what corps have you served? [*Answer.*]

*C.*, (to each in succession.) In what campaigns? [*Answer.*]

*C.* Have they properly passed the line of sentinels and been approved by the Senior Vice Commander?

*O. D.* They have passed the sentinels on duty, and are conducted to your headquarters by order of that officer.

*C.* Recruits of the Grand Army of the Republic, we welcome you to the threshold of our institution; but it will be necessary for you to take upon yourselves a solemn obligation, which, as you have been informed at the outposts, will not interfere with your duty to your God, to your country, to your neighbor or yourself. With this reassurance, are you still willing to proceed?

[*Each Recruit answers: I AM. The Recruits are placed at the altar, kneeling upon both knees, left hand of each resting on Bible and crossed swords, the right hand grasping that of a comrade. Being in this position, O. D. passes to rear of the altar and salutes the Commander.*]

*O. D.* The Recruits are in proper position at the altar.

[*Three raps. Chaplain, escorted by J. V. C., kneels at the altar. J. V. C. takes position standing at right of altar, facing it. S. V. C. takes position opposite O. G., at right of guard, fronting the Commander.*]

#### PRAYER.

[Any other prayer may be offered at option.]

*Chap.* O God, Thou art our God! Thou art good, and Thy mercy is over all. We humbly thank Thee that Thy mercy and goodness have been extended over Thy servants kneeling at this altar; that in the day of battle Thou didst preserve them; that Thou didst shield them from the fatal bullet; that Thou didst preserve them from fatal sickness. Still keep them under Thy care and protection. May they enter upon their duties here with sincere desire and intention to be true and faithful to their obligation, and may they walk in the spirit of true fraternal love to all comrades here; and, finally, may they so live that, when the duties of life are over, they shall find ready entrance into that encampment above where Thou, O God! art the Supreme Commander. We pray Thee to accept this petition

for these comrades kneeling at this altar, and for all associated with us in this great fraternity of comrades. And unto Thy great name, through our Lord Jesus Christ, be ascribed all the praise forever.

[*All respond: AMEN. Chaplain rises and is escorted to his place by J. V. C. After the obligation, Commander steps to the front of the altar.*]

C. You will severally pronounce your names and repeat after me the obligation :

I, (A. B.), in the presence of Almighty God and these comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, do solemnly promise that I will at all times keep sacred the secrets of the Grand Army of the Republic; and that I will never make known to any person, not a Recruit in good standing, any pass-word, sign, or grip established and used by the Grand Army of the Republic. I also promise that I will yield obedience to the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army, of the Department, and of this Post, so far as they shall be made known to me. I also promise that I will regard every member of the Grand Army of the Republic as a brother, and will answer all signs and words by which he shall make himself known to me as such, on the basis of that fraternity which is the foundation of this grade of the Grand Army of the Republic, to which I am now solemnly pledged. And I voluntarily assume this obligation as a Recruit, without any equivocation or mental reservation whatever; and am willing, should I knowingly violate the same, to be posted as a perjurer, and treated as a traitor to this my solemn obligation to my comrades. [*During recital of last sentence of obligation, guards are moved forward and take position of "ready" as firing party.*] So help me, God, and keep me true to this my obligation.

[*During recital of last sentence, guard take position of "aim," and, upon completion of sentence, the C. steps quickly aside and to his station; bandages are quickly removed.*]

[*Response by all: BEHOLD THE PROPER DOOM OF THE PERJURED TRAITOR!*]

[*One rap. Guard shoulder arms; officers resume their stations; guard is marched out, and Recruits arise and stand in rear of altar.*]

C. Comrades, these forms have a meaning. Upon the recommendation of a friend, and upon the record of your service in the cause of your country, you sought admission as a Recruit to

this command. Upon that recommendation and record you were admitted within our outpost. That you were blinded, was significant of the fact that you were yet ignorant of the secrets of this Grand Army. Let it remind you also of the dark nights when you groped your way in front of the enemy's lines; and, still more, of those dark days in the history of the war, when, though many faltered, the soldiers of our country stood bravely waiting for the light which was to come. At the door of the Post you were taught to give one rap, intending to signify to you that this is only the first step of your entrance into the Grand Army, and also reminding you that, as a Recruit, you are received here upon the single principle of fraternity, upon which the edifice of the Grand Army of the Republic is erected. Upon fraternity of feeling and interest, begun in the past and still strong, rests our comradeship. He who neglects to cultivate the feeling of fraternity, he who proves by his conduct as a Recruit that he has no fellowship in common with those whose association he seeks, will thereby satisfy the comrades here that he is unworthy of that further advancement which would open to him the other great principles upon which our organization rests. In approaching the headquarters of the Post, you met the challenge of sentinels and officers. They remind you of the scenes through which you passed during your service in the war, and that as you were then protected on all hands by faithful sentinels, so we protect ourselves by these faithful guardians upon our flanks and outposts.

When you were placed at the altar a comrade grasped you by the hand and held it firmly while you took the obligation. It was symbolic of that fraternity which is the first principle of the Grand Army of the Republic, and to which you in common with all your comrades are solemnly pledged.

A prayer was offered in your behalf at the altar, reminding you that, as we relied on the blessings of Almighty God to give us victory over our enemies, we should in all the duties of life seek the blessing of our Heavenly Commander. It is also designed to teach you a reliance upon Almighty God in your first step as a Recruit that you may be true and faithful to your obligation and duties as such, and thus deserve the promotion which may in the future be awarded you.

After taking upon yourself the obligation required you beheld before you the representation of a firing party, teaching you that should you prove false to the obligation you have volun-

tarily assumed you would justly deserve the penalty that you had invoked upon yourself of being treated as a perjured traitor.

Comrades, it gives me pleasure to welcome you as Recruits in this Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. We extend to you the hand of fraternal love and welcome. Our fraternity here, irrespective of former rank, is due to our conviction that every soldier who did his duty in the position assigned him deserved well of his country.

The countersign and grip of Recruits will now be communicated to you by our Officer of the Day, [*assisted, if necessary, by the Officer of the Guard,*] and after signing your names to the list of Recruits, at the desk of the Adjutant, you will take your seats in the Post.

*[The ceremony will be performed with solemnity, and great care will be taken to administer the obligation in a slow and solemn manner, the Post preserving strict silence. No one will be allowed to enter or to leave the Post during this or any other ceremony.]*

*[Closing follows, unless business is to be transacted regarding proposals, &c., to second grade; if so, see "Closing—Second Grade."]*

#### ADVANCEMENT OF RECRUITS—SECOND GRADE.

*[Opening as in Ritual.]*

*[All business except that pertaining to advancement being transacted in the second grade, it will be necessary, when proceedings in the proposal or election to the second grade are to be had, for the following to be said:]*

*C.* Comrades, this Post of the Grand Army of the Republic will now open in the second grade. Officer of the Day, are all present Soldiers of the Grand Army?

*O. D.* All present are not Soldiers.

*C.* All Recruits are requested to retire.

*O. D., (after re-examination.)* Commander, all now present are Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic.

*[Business pertaining to proposals and election to the second grade will then be proceeded with. If Recruits are to be advanced, the Officer of the Day will say:]*

*O. D.* Commander, among the comrades who have retired are [*three*] Recruits who have asked to be advanced to this grade, and who await your orders.

*C.* You will instruct the Officer of the Guard to retire, ascertain their names, and report.

*O. D.* The Officer of the Guard will execute the orders of the Commander.

[*O. G. retires and returns.*]

*O. G.* Officer of the Day, I find waiting (A B, C D, and E F,) who claim to have faithfully served the appointed time as Recruits, and ask to be advanced.

*C.* Adjutant, have these Recruits been reported to you as meritorious?

*Adj.* Commander, they have been specially recommended by two comrades of this grade.

*C.* Quartermaster, are these Recruits free from all charges?

*Q. M.* Commander, they are.

*C.* The Officer of the Day will retire, taking with him the proper vouchers and record of original muster-in, and satisfy himself by examination that these Recruits are entitled to the privilege they claim.

[*The O. G. accompanies the O. D. to the outpost.*]

*O. D.*, (*returning, salutes at altar.*) Commander, I have obeyed your orders and find (A B, C D, and E F) to be entitled to promotion to the grade of Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic.

*C.* The Officer of the Day will admit the Recruits.

[*During the return of the O. D. to the Post, the O. G. will arrange the Recruits in single file at the inner door, placing himself on the right of the first Recruit, prepared to enter. The O. D. gives two raps at the door, and is answered by two from the O. G., when the door is opened by the inside sentinel; the Recruits enter and are immediately halted by the O. D., who says:*]

*O. D.* Officer of the Guard, who are these that seek admission among the Soldiers of the Grand Army?

*O. D.* These are Recruits of the Grand Army who, having served according to the term of their muster-in, are now ordered to be admitted for promotion.

*Chaplain.* "Every man's work shall be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is. If any man's work abide, which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." [*To be read slowly and distinctly.*]

*O. D.* Recruits of the Grand Army, we reward only those whose work is made manifest, and who abide well and faithfully in the service which they voluntarily enter. Soldiers of the Republic have been tried by fire and passed through the fur-



nance of war, and in this noble association, having first united ourselves by the strongest bonds of fraternity, now seek to manifest our work by such acts as will relieve the suffering of our comrades, their widows and orphans. Listen now to words of wisdom:

*Chaplain.* "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor; and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up; doth not behave itself unseemly; seeketh not her own; is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things; believeth all things; hopeth all things; endureth all things. Charity never faileth. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity." [*Chaplain resumes his seat.*]

*O. D.* We will now proceed to the headquarters of the Commander. [*Moves slowly, and when arriving near the J. V. C., that officer says:*]

*J. V. C.* Halt! Who are these passing towards the quarters of the Commander?

*O. D.* These are Recruits who, after proper instruction and discipline, are on their way to the quarters of the Commander for advancement as Soldiers in the Grand Army of the Republic.

*J. V. C.* Have they been faithful to their obligation of fraternity heretofore assumed?

*O. D.* They have been faithful to their trust and obedient to orders.

*J. V. C.* Advance, take position of a soldier, and give the pass-word of a Recruit. [*Recruits advance and give pass-word.*] It is right.

*J. V. C.* As recruits in the Grand Army, you have been found true and faithful to your solemn obligation. You have thus far only learned in part the duties devolving upon those who are connected with the Grand Army. It is not simply that we greet one another as comrades, but that we also endeavor to

do works of charity, recognizing our duty towards those whose wounds have rendered them unable, in whole or in part, to assist themselves, and aiding the widows and orphans of our comrades. Are you ready to assume the additional obligation which we have all taken? [*Each Recruit answers:*] I AM. You will then be placed in proper position at the altar, but before assuming this solemn obligation, let me exhort you: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all things be done with charity.

[*The Recruits are placed at the altar, left hand on the Bible and sword, right hand pointing upward. S. V. C. and J. V. C. take position as before, O. D. in rear of altar and C. near altar, between it and Commander's desk; O. G. in line with and in rear of C.*]

C. You will severally pronounce your names and repeat after me the obligation:

I, (A B), in the presence of Almighty God and these Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, do solemnly promise that I will not, in any manner whatever, make known the secrets of the grade of a Soldier to a Recruit of the Grand Army, and that I will not, in any manner or way whatever, communicate to any person, not a Soldier or Recruit, the secrets of either grade. I also promise that I will not communicate to any person or persons whatever, except to the sentinel, or officer on duty, when properly challenged by them, any pass-word, sign, or grip, established and used in this grade of the Grand Army.

I also promise that I will faithfully observe the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army, particularly the rules and regulations of the second grade of Soldier, and that I will not communicate the proceedings had in that grade to any Recruit, or to any other person not a soldier; and I further promise that I will not make known the name of any person who may speak or vote against the promotion of a Recruit; I further promise that I will help, aid and assist any poor or distressed soldier, and the widows and orphans of my late comrades, so far as I can without injury to myself or family.

I further promise that I will in all matters of employment prefer comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic to any other person, other things being equal, such matter of employment being in whole or in part at my disposal.

And I do promise, in all things connected with the Grand Army, to exercise a spirit of fraternity and charity towards all

my comrades, calling upon myself the scorn and contempt of all honorable men, should I knowingly or willingly prove false and faithless to this my second obligation. So help me God and keep me true to my obligation.

*[Recruits arise, and officers resume their proper stations.]*

C. Comrades, having taken upon you the solemn obligation of this grade, it gives me pleasure to greet you as Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The door of this Post has been opened to you upon giving two raps; which are designed to represent the two points upon which you now stand—the points of Fraternity and Charity.

As you entered the Post, you heard words which set forth in beautiful language the great virtue of charity. Comrades, may that lesson never be lost upon your hearts; but may the practice of charity, especially to those associated with you here, be exemplified in your life and conduct at all future times.

In taking the obligation, your right hand pointed towards the skies. It was significant of the heaven-born virtue which this grade inculcates, of the Divine sanction which you invoked, and of the blessings with which God answers charity. You have not failed to see maimed soldiers now dependent on others; brave men, who dared death for our country, now left to want. Be it your privilege, with us, to relieve their wants. The widows and orphans of the dead, once enjoying plenty, now need the liberal hand. Be it your privilege to feed the hungry.

But for a kind Providence you might also have been shattered in limb or made helpless by incurable disease. You might have been laid under the sod beside your dead comrades, and those dear to you be left to the charities of the world. Let the memory of past dangers make you ready to stand by those who stood by you, to help those who have no earthly helper.

Who like soldiers can sympathize with disabled comrades or the widows and orphans of those whose ties with you have been welded in the fire of battle?

Here, also, let charity reign. If we have ambitions and rivalries, let it be ambition only to excel each other in the practice of every virtue, and to rival one another in acts of charity.

We pledge ourselves to stand by you and yours in time of need. Because we believe you worthy of this assurance, and ready to meet it in a true soldierly spirit, we have received you to this fellowship.

That you will be faithful to your obligations we have no doubt, and when time and zeal shall have made you proficient in this grade, you will be advanced to other duties and other privileges.

The grips, signs, and pass-word of this grade will now be made known to you by the Officer of the Day, after which you will sign the roll of Soldiers, and then take your seats in this Post.

#### OPENING—THIRD GRADE.

*C.* Officer of the Day, are all present Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic?

*O. D.* All present are not Veterans.

*C.* Those comrades who have not been promoted to the Veteran grade will please retire.

*C.* Officer of the Day, are the approaches to this Post securely guarded by sentinels of the third grade.

*O. D.* I will cause investigation to be made and direct the approaches to be properly guarded. [*Turning to O. G.*] Officer of the Guard, you will make examination at the outpost and camp guard, and observe that all sentinels on duty are Veterans of the third grade.

[*O. G. retires and instructs the guards; returns to his post and salutes O. D.*]

*O. G.* I have made examination at the outpost and camp guard, and find the sentinels on duty are Veterans of the third grade.

*O. D.* Commander, the Officer of the Guard reports that, having made examination at the outpost and camp guard, he finds the Post securely guarded.

*C.* How securely guarded?

*O. D.* By Veteran sentinels of the third grade.

*C.* What are their instructions from the Officer of the Guard?

*O. D.* To allow none to approach the Post who are not members of the third grade, and to carefully examine all who claim to be Veterans before admitting them.

*C.* Let all our sentinels be faithful, remembering that by eternal vigilance is national liberty maintained.

[*Three raps.*]

*C.* Senior Vice Commander, upon what rest the hopes of our Republic?

*S. V. C.* One country, one flag!

*C.* Junior Vice Commander, how may one country be kept undivided and one flag be maintained unsoiled?

*J. V. C.* By eternal vigilance, which is the price of liberty.

*C.* Officer of the Day, what should be the doom of all traitors?

*[O. D., standing in front of C., smartly draws his sword, followed by all the officers, taking position of "guard," at same time O. D. says:]*

*O. D.* The penalty of treason is death!

*[Response by all:]* THE PENALTY OF TREASON IS DEATH!

*C.* And may death be the portion of all traitors, and may loyalty to our country and its flag distinguish us, that we may transmit one country and one flag as a priceless heritage to our children.

*[Officers return swords.]*

*C.* PARADE, REST!

*[Chaplain kneels at altar.]*

PRAYER.

*[Any other prayer may be substituted.]*

Great Commander of the Universe, draw near with the influences of Thy spirit as we, Thy servants, in a spirit of true devotion, and with that loyalty to country which Thou hast blest in the past, now draw near to Thee. Be pleased most graciously to imbue us plentifully with Thy grace and with that wisdom which shall make us intelligent defenders of our country and its emblematic flag.

We thank Thee that Thou didst give to our fathers the wisdom and strength required in establishing this republican government with its free Constitution, that for so many years Thou didst preserve the nation in peace and in war, and that in the day when treason sought to divide and humiliate us, when traitors held up their heads and rejoiced, Thou didst smite them as with a rod of iron, and that Thou didst give to us, Thy servants, the disposition and the strength to aid, each in his appointed line of duty, in the great work of saving our common country.

In our present assemblage, O Lord, be with us!

In our present duties, O Lord, bless us!

In all the future, O Lord, protect and preserve us!

In Thy eternal kingdom, O Lord, save us!

And unto Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, shall be ascribed glory, honor, and power forever. Amen.

*[Response by all:]* AMEN.

[*One rap.*]

C. I now declare this Post of Veterans open in due form.  
[*Business pertaining to Veteran grade may be transacted.*]

ADVANCEMENT.—THIRD GRADE.

C. Adjutant, have you any business upon your table demanding attention?

Adj. Commander, I have the applications of (A B, C D, and E F,) Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, who request advancement to the grade of Veterans.

C. Adjutant, are you satisfied that they have been advanced to the grade of Soldiers?

Adj. Commander, they have been borne upon the roll of Soldiers since, [*date,*] and have faithfully discharged their duties.

C. Have they received the approval of the comrades of this grade?

Adj. Commander, they have.

C. Quartermaster, are they free from all dues to the Post?

Q. M. Commander, they are.

C. Officer of the Day, ascertain if these Soldiers are in waiting.

[*O. D. salutes and retires, and soon returns.*]

O. D. Commander, I find (A B, C D, and E F,) Soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, waiting to learn the result of their request.

C. Officer of the Day, you will escort the Senior Vice Commander to our outpost, and he will examine these Soldiers, ascertaining if they are worthy and well qualified to be promoted as Veterans.

[*S. V. C. and O. D. take position in rear of altar, salute, and retire. The regular encampment guard is now placed on post by the O. G.*]

AT OUTPOST.

[*O. D. places Soldiers in line facing S. V. C.*]

S. V. C. Comrades (A B, C D, and E F,) having been mustered in as Recruits and advanced as Soldiers in the Grand Army of the Republic, the Veterans of this Post have listened to your request for promotion, and, after careful examination, having formed a favorable opinion of you, do now propose to promote you, with proper ceremonies, to the grade of Veteran. It may seem superfluous to question for a moment the loyalty of one who has already breasted the storm of treason that for four



years desolated our common country; but in all ages of the world, from the days of Judas to those of Arnold, and from Arnold to Davis, men have proved false to their obligations and their most sacred honor; hence we learn that only by a constant recurrence to the great principles of loyalty can we remain steadfast and true. For these reasons we require an obligation of loyalty, which shall be as strong and binding as words can make an obligation, and which shall be sincerely taken, without mental reservation or intention to evade. He who assumes it will in no way be hampered by it, so long as he loves to keep in the path of true loyalty, detesting treason and all that leads to it. With this explanation, are you ready to assume the obligation?

[*Each answers :*] I AM.

S. V. C. You will wait under charge of the Officer of the Day until I report to the Commander.

[S. V. C. returns to the Post and near the altar salutes and retires.]

S. V. C. Commander, I have attended to the duty assigned me, and find the Soldiers at the outpost worthy and well qualified to be promoted as Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic.

C. The Senior Vice Commander having assured himself that the Soldiers at the outpost are worthy and well qualified for promotion, the Officer of the Guard will inform the Officer of the Day that he may enter with his charge.

[O. G. at door gives three raps, which is answered by O. D. with three raps, when the door is opened by inside sentinel, the Soldiers being drawn up in single line, with one guard at rear.]

O. G. Officer of the Day, the Commander directs me to say that you have permission to enter with your charge.

[O. G. then takes position on left of the first Soldier, and O. D. gives the order "Forward," and column moves slowly into the Post. Immediately upon entering, the Veterans sing one verse of "America"—"My Country 'tis of Thee,"—the procession halting the moment the music commences, and at its close again moves. Upon reaching first sentinel on the right, the procession is challenged.]

1st Sen. Who comes there?

O. D. Comrades of the Grand Army, who as Soldiers proved themselves true to that fraternal principle which is the foundation of our noble institution.

1st. *Sen.* Advance one Soldier and give the sign and pass-word of that grade. [*First Soldier advances and gives the sign and pass-word of that grade.*]

1st *Sen.* The pass is right; let the comrades pass on.

2d *Sen.* Who comes there! [*This challenge is given at the same point as in the first degree.*]

*O. D.* Comrades of the Grand Army, who as Soldiers proved themselves true to that great virtue of charity which suffereth long and is kind, and which constitutes the frame-work of our noble institution.

2d *Sen.* Advance one comrade and give the sign and pass-word of the Soldier's grade.

[*First comrade advances and gives the sign and pass-word of Soldier's grade.*]

2d *Sen.* The pass is right; let the comrades pass on.

[*The column moves on and when near the S. V. C. that officer challenges.*]

*S. V. C.* Who comes there?

*O. D.* Comrades of the Grand Army, who as Recruits proved themselves true to the spirit of fraternity which is the foundation of our institution, and as Soldiers proved themselves true to that great virtue of charity which constitutes the frame-work of our institution; and who now seek the headquarters of the Commander of this Post.

*S. V. C.* Comrades seeking the quarters of the Commander must be possessed of the pass-word which proves them Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic.

*O. D.* Alas! these comrades have not the Veteran pass-word, but having served faithfully in the preceding grades, they now claim that by experience and steadfastness they are worthy to be promoted to all the privileges of Veterans.

*S. V. C.* Their ambition is laudable and worthy of imitation by all comrades of the Grand Army, but before entrusting to them the pass-word of this grade, it is necessary that they should take a solemn obligation of loyalty to the country and government, such as we have all taken and which binds us to one country and one flag!

[*Response by all Veterans:*] ONE COUNTRY AND ONE FLAG!

*S. V. C.* The comrades will be conducted to the altar, where, after prayer, the solemn obligation of this grade will be administered to them.

[*The comrades are conducted to the altar and there caused to*

*kneel, the Chaplain being conducted to the altar by the J. V. C., and the officers take position about the altar as in first degree, the guard standing at "order arms."*

[*Three raps.*]

C. PARADE, REST!

PRAYER.

[Any other prayer may be substituted.]

*Chap.* Eternal Father! Great in creation, great in government, as in the hollow of Thy hand Thou dost hold all the worlds, and all the nations of the earth! And yet Thou dost condescend to notice and overrule the affairs of individuals, and not a sparrow falls to the ground without Thy notice, and the hairs of our heads are all numbered. To the Creator of worlds and the Protector of the most humble of the creatures of earth, we bow ourselves around this altar, and in all sincerity we pray that Thy Holy presence may abide with us, and that these, Thy servants, may be blessed and strengthened as they take upon themselves the solemn vows of loyalty.

We thank Thee that in the day of trial Thy arm was not shortened that it did not protect us; that in the day of battle, when with all our power we upheld the loyal cause, Thou didst give us the victory over the enemies of our country and its flag; and that now, having passed through the sea of blood, we are permitted by Thy goodness to enjoy the blessings of peace in a united country, sitting without fear under the folds of that flag emblematical of liberty, equality, and fraternity! For Thy great goodness to us as a nation, we give Thee thanks! And now, Heavenly Father, be with us in the duties of this hour. Be with, strengthen, and bless thy servants kneeling at this altar! May they be true and faithful to their obligations! May they walk in peace through all the remaining days of their lives! May they exemplify in their conduct that fraternity of feeling which tends to promote brotherly love, that charity which is not puffed up or vain, and that loyalty which knows but one country and one flag.

Accept, O, Father, these thank-offerings of our hearts, and listen graciously to our petitions; and to Thy great name, Father, Lord, and Saviour, we will ascribe everlasting praises.

[*Response by all:*] AMEN!

[*One rap. Order to guards:*] ATTENTION!

*C.* Comrades, for the third time you are kneeling at the sacred altar of the Grand Army of the Republic. You have as Recruits proved yourselves worthy to become Soldiers, and as faithful Soldiers you have won the esteem of your comrades, and are deemed worthy to be advanced to the grade of Veterans.

As you now kneel at the altar, and have listened to solemn prayer to the great Father of us all, I beg you to reflect upon the solemnity of the occasion, and to consider that this is no unmeaning ceremony, and that the obligation of Veterans is not merely an iteration of sentiment, but a pledge which one Veteran gives to another, upon his honor as a comrade, most solemnly calling upon Deity to witness the sincerity of the vow.

As you have been informed, this obligation is entirely patriotic and eminently loyal in its aims, and he who assumes it and fulfills it, will keep in the path of true loyalty against treason, and all that leads to it. With this understanding of the obligation, are you still willing to assume it solemnly upon yourselves?

[*Each Soldier answers:*] I AM WILLING.

[*Three raps.*]

[*C. steps to altar, and directs comrade to rest the right hand on the Bible, holding the sword, and holding the flag upward in the left hand. The C. stands at or kneels at the altar, placing his right hand upon the right hand of the Soldier. When more than one is advanced, the others will stand or kneel, each having his left hand upon the flagstaff.*]

*C.* You will pronounce your names, and repeat after me the obligation:

I, (A. B.,) in the presence of Almighty God and this Post of Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, do hereby, on this Bible, sword, and flag, solemnly promise that I will not in way or manner communicate or make known the secrets of the Veteran degree, or the provisions of this obligation, to any Soldier or Recruit of the Grand Army of the Republic, or to any other person or persons whatever; and that I will not, in any way or manner whatever, communicate any proceedings or action of a Post, or words spoken by any Veteran in an encampment of this grade, to any comrade of the grade of Soldier, or to any Recruit of the Grand Army of the Republic, or to any person or persons whatever, not members in good stand-

ing of a Post of this grade of the Grand Army of the Republic.

I further promise that I will aid and assist all poor and distressed Veteran comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic when I can do so without injury to myself or family; and that I will in every honorable way or manner aid Veterans of the Grand Army in securing suitable employment.

I further promise that I will yield obedience to the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army, and to the rules of this Post of the Veteran grade; and that I will not countenance or be present at the installation of any comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic to any office of any Post, Department or the National Encampment who is not a Veteran of the third grade; nor will I countenance the election of any comrade as delegate or representative in the National Encampment, not a Veteran of the third grade.

I further solemnly promise that I will, at all times and under all circumstances, protect and defend the Union of the United States of America, and that with my arms and all the power I possess, I will at all times, at the risk of life, when called upon, or when I see it in danger, to the best of my ability defend and protect the flag of my country, as the emblem of Union, liberty and equality.

I further promise that I will not vote for any man for any office, State or national, who is not thoroughly loyal, and identified in interest and feeling with those who, upon land and sea, defended the country's cause, and gained by arms the defeat of treason.

I further promise that in a spirit of loyalty I will conscientiously obey the laws of the land.

I further promise that I will to the best of my ability encourage honor and purity in all public affairs, and discourage corruption and dishonesty.

To all this I solemnly promise to abide, without equivocation or mental reservation, binding myself upon my honor as a man, and upon my loyal character as a Veteran, to perform and keep the same, [*slowly and solemnly*] calling God to witness to the truth and sincerity of this my solemn vow to my comrade Veterans. So help me God and preserve me true and steadfast.

[*Response by all:*] AMEN!

[*Commander returns to his post, followed by all the other officers, each to their respective positions, and guard come to "carry arms."*]

C. Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, having

taken upon yourselves the solemn obligations of the third grade, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Veteran Post, and as true and faithful Veterans to extend to you its salutations.

Veterans, salute the junior Veterans of the Post!

*[All give the soldier's salute, while the drum beats three ruffles, and the guard "present arms."]*

*[One rap.]*

*[Guard brought to "carry arms," marched off, and dismissed.]*

C. Veterans, having passed the grades of Recruits and Soldiers in the Grand Army of the Republic, you were found at our outposts seeking promotion to the third grade.

After due examination, you were found to be worthy and well qualified for promotion, and were conducted to the door of the Post, where you gave three raps. The three raps there given will remind you of the three grades of the Grand Army, resting severally upon the three great principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. The door being opened, you received permission to enter, and were challenged by a sentinel, who, to make sure of your qualifications, demanded of you, and received, the pass-word of a Recruit. For the same purpose you were again confronted by a sentinel, who demanded and received from you the pass-word of a Soldier. You then advanced until you were hailed by the Senior Vice Commander, who, upon being informed that you were comrades who had proved true to the spirit of fraternity, and to that virtue of charity which suffereth long and is kind, and were seeking the headquarters of the Commander, informed you that before being allowed to visit the quarters of the Commander, you must be possessed of the pass-word of Veterans. Being without that pass, the word could not be conferred upon you until you first took an obligation, which obligation you expressed a willingness to take solemnly upon yourselves. You were then placed at the altar, where the blessing of Almighty God was solemnly invoked, and you took upon yourselves the obligation of the Veteran grade. You held in one hand the flag, in the the other the sword. With the one you are sworn to guard the other. That you know how to do it, your service in the field testifies.

It has been my pleasure to welcome you as Veterans, and to tender you the salutation in due form of this Veteran Post, and it now only remains for me to remind you that the obligation



you have voluntarily assumed pledges you under all circumstances to a continuance of your loyal devotion to the country and its flag. Let us draw fresh inspiration of loyalty from the history of the past. Inflamed by passion, pride, and false theories of government, wicked men precipitated civil war, threatening to undermine the foundations of our republican government and destroy the Union which was established by our fathers, and cemented by the blood of our countrymen. Then it was that the patriot sons of the North, the West, the East and the South, laying aside the peaceful employments of the field, the shop, the study and the office, came to the rescue, and determined that the Union, one and indivisible, should be maintained intact. You remember the terrible struggle that ensued. You remember the fields of blood. You remember the wounded and dying comrades you left on many fields of carnage. You remember the marches and bivouacs, the defeat and retreat, the victory and pursuit; and last, you remember the final struggle and the surrender of the rebel army to the great leader of the Union armies.

That surrender was received with joy through all the loyal States, and determined that the Union should be maintained inviolate, and that the national government in all the prerogatives of power under the Constitution, is and must be supreme.

In continued acknowledgment of that sentiment, we declare our determination to sustain "one country and one flag," and in defense thereof we pledge our fortunes and our sacred honors; we pledge more than that, as we did in the war, we pledge our lives to the Union of our country and the honor of its flag. As by eternal vigilance national liberty is maintained, we exhort you to be vigilant in detecting the least approach to treason in word or deed, standing as faithful sentinels, ready to strike down our country's foes, whether foreign or domestic, under whatever garb they may appear.

Veterans, we repeat our welcome to our Post; you will now receive the pass-word and grip of a Veteran from the Officer of the Day, with such other instructions as may be necessary, after which you will record your names upon the rolls of this Veteran Post and take your seats.

*[O. D. gives grip and pass and instructs how to gain entrance at the outer and inner doors of a Veteran Post.]*

## CLOSING—VETERAN GRADE.

[*Three raps.*]

*C.* Veterans, our duty for this occasion is performed. As we go from this place let us not forget to take with us into our daily lives that Fraternity of feeling which shall bind us together as comrades, that Charity which shall prompt us to the noblest sacrifices for the needy and destitute wards of our Grand Army, and that Loyalty which shall impel us to a faithful performance of all our duties as citizens, and an undying vigilance, which is the price of liberty.

Senior Vice Commander, upon what rests the hope of our republic?

*S. V. C.* One country, one flag!

*C.* Junior Vice Commander, how may one country be kept undivided, and one flag be maintained unsullied?

*J. V. C.* By eternal vigilance, which is the price of liberty!

*C.* Officer of the Day, what should be the doom of all traitors!

[*Swords drawn as in opening.*]

*O. D.* The penalty of treason is death!

[*Response by all:*] THE PENALTY OF TREASON IS DEATH!

*C.* Such be the doom of all traitors! And may God keep you true to Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. I declare this Veteran Post closed.

[*One rap.*]

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NOTE.—Music, vocal or instrumental, may be introduced in the work of either of the degrees, at the will of the comrades; and it is warmly recommended that music be introduced if possible.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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1. Adjutant's report of last meeting.
2. Reading orders or communications from Department or national headquarters.
3. Quartermaster's report.
4. Is any comrade of this Post sick or in distress?
5. Has any comrade died since our last meeting?
6. Reports upon applications for first grade, and ballot on same.
7. Muster-in of Recruits.
8. Reading new applications.
9. New and unfinished business.
10. Receiving proposals for advancement.
11. Voting on proposals received at a previous meeting.
12. Advancement of Recruits to the second grade.
13. Closing.









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