AFFILIATION SERVICE

A FLORAL TRIBUTE arranged by Mrs. Hattie C. Derthick, Past Grand Matron

W.P. In Mason's Hall, with earnest eyes,
    Upon the chart before me,
I view the symbol'd mysteries
That Masons keep and Masons prize;
I see the arm my brothers wield,
Uplifted with its burnished shield
Let fall its shadows o'er me.

My Sisters true, in years agone,
    Across the waste of waters.
I see them stand and beck me on—
Sweet Ruth, the gleaner of the dawn,
Electa dear, and Martha wait,
Queen Esther in her robe of State,
    And Jeptha's peerless daughter.

Cond.: In joy and peace our triumphs may blend,
    For love will fail us never;
And, like these flowers, we may send
A fragrance sweet that ne'er shall end,
Through gentle word and kindly deed,
To help some sister in her need
    Forever and forever.

Assoc. And in these flowers rich and rare
Cond. We read love's message ever;
The fragrant rose, and lily fair
Bespeak a Father's tender care.
Then may His truth and righteousness
Our lives and our dear Order bless
    Forever and forever.

Adah My father's vow, so fervent made,
    I would not have it broken.
And though my pallid neck be laid
All bare, beneath the colder blade,
I'll give him still a steadfast eye,
And joy in hearing as I die,
"Alas, my daughter," spoken,
"In heaven's sight, my faith I plight,
    And I will break it never;
I'll stand by this -- and this -- and this --
    Forever and forever. " (Gives sign.)
Ruth

The Master in the harvest days,
   Shall find me gleaning early;
The sun shall gild me with his rays
As I go down the reaper's ways;
And though he ask, "Whose damsel's this?"
I know his great heart cannot miss
   These little hands of barley.

"In heaven's sight," etc.

Esther

I fearless go before the crown,
   To move the thorns that fester.
And though the king himself may frown,
And long to cut God's people down,
I still have faith in such a day,
That he will smile and freely say.
   "What wilt thou, proud Queen Esther?"

"In heaven's sight," etc.

Martha

My faith in Christ no earthly hand
   Can ever move or sever.
Go spread His tidings through the land,
With trumpets loud and cymbals grand.
For He shall say, "Believ'st thou this?"
And dead shall rise, His feet to kiss,
   Forever and forever.

"In heaven's sight," etc.

Electa

Though rack and torture come to me,
   To husband, children, mother,
Through Jesus' blood I yet shall see
Some glimpse of the eternity.
For far beyond the cross, the grave,
There's still a hand to bless and save,
   For "loving one another."

"In heaven's sight," etc.

Assoc.

I come with flowers rich and rare
From fields that blossom ever,
And though no earthly crown I wear,
Of fretted gold, or jewels rare,
The crown of love and truth is mine,
Whose radiant rays will live and shine
   Forever and forever.

Matron

In virtue's paths my way shall be,
   Where flowers bloom the rarest;
And all I know and all I see.
Shall mark a Sister's truth in me.
By yon bright star that shines above
My path, I'll keep and try to prove,
"Among ten thousand, fairest."

EXPLANATION

After signing By-Laws, candidates are conducted out through preparation-room door, re-enter through same door. Chapter is called up, all join in singing "Bringing in the Sheaves," while candidates are conducted around the room to Adah's station, pass between Adah and Ruth, taking position back of the Altar, facing the East.

1. The Worthy Patron, in his station, gives first verse, after which he advances to the Altar. While giving the second verse he hands each candidate a flower, then returns to his station.

2. Conductress advances around Adah's chair in front of candidates, gives flower while saying verse; at conclusion steps back at right of candidates.

3. Associate Conductress advances around Electa's chair in front of candidates presenting flowers while saying verse; at conclusion steps back at left of candidates.

4. Adah advances to front of candidates, presenting flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "In Heaven's sight," etc. steps back at right of Conductress.

5. Ruth advances around Adah's chair to front of candidates, presenting flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "In Heaven's sight," etc., steps back at right of Adah.

6. Esther advances around Adah's chair to front of candidates, presenting flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "In Heaven's sight," etc., steps back at right of Ruth.

7. Martha advances around Electa's chair, in front of candidates, presenting flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "In Heaven's sight," etc., steps back at left of Associate Conductress.

8. Electa advances to front of candidates, gives flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "In Heaven's sight," etc., steps back at left of Martha.

9. Associate Matron advances around Electa's chair in front of candidates, gives flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "Forever and forever," steps back at left of Electa.

10. Worthy Matron advances to Altar in front of candidates, gives flowers while saying verse; at conclusion of "Among ten thousand fairest," steps back to right of Esther.

Worthy Patron gives final charge, then steps down to complete the circle.