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THE GATE THAT LOOKETH WEST

by

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The Gate That Looketh West.  
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Characters-

Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Chaplain,  
Guard of Honor, 6 Candle Bearers, 4 Book Bearers, Warder,  
Sentinel, Soloist and Organist.

Time-

Twenty minutes.

Scene-

Chapter Room- Star Point chairs in position- all Officers  
at stations- Bible closed.

Properties-

6 Candles and Candlesticks; 6 baskets of flowers;  
suitable book with stiff cover, between the pages of which are  
slips bearing the names of deceased members; square of white  
cloth to which 4 white ribbon streamers are attached for  
carrying the book.

The Gate That Looketh West

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(Low lights)

Worthy Patron-

Life sometimes makes demands upon us for strength of faith, strength of hope, and strength of purpose. Such are moments when we must stand and silently watch a loved one pass from our lives- out through the gate that looketh West- out upon the broad pilgrim road- the road we all must travel.

Such moments, such experiences make a swift overturning for our easy-going almost arrogant expectation that the powers of the life we live are too good-natured to put our strength and temper to the test, but the gust falls swiftly and the straws are scattered and in our secret hearts we know that it is well for us that it is so. For were there to be no changes we should have no fear and our search for the place where the sun is always shining would ultimately lead us out to the parched stretches of the desert of unbelief.

Fresh adventures are not to cease on the other side of the stroke of death. The Great Beyond is an adventure in and with the companionship of those we love. There are opportunities of construction there as well as rest. It is not an end of influence it is a going on of glad endeavor, of power, of joy in new experiences and in the companionships which we have always known here. Will it seem strange to us to be there? At worst it can be no stranger than landing on the wharf of some far city in the companionship of those we love and with at least one friend who speaks the unfamiliar tongue of the land to greet us.

Thus do we picture the welcome and provision that await the pilgrim soul that steps in quietness of faith from the one world to the other. How evident it is then, that the real continuity of our experience here and there will be the continuity of the friendship we keep. They who meet us will not only help to find us our sure footing in the new experience, but also introduce us to our new activities. We shall feel most at home Beyond if we have kept in this experience of earth the heavenly companionships and done the heavenly works of faith and hope and loving kindness.

Worthy Matron-

Guard of Honor, you will assemble our Book Bearers, retire with them and return with the Book of Memory and place it upon the Altar of Remembrance.

(Guard of Honor starts from her station, marches diagonally northwest on west of the altar, bows to the four Book Bearers who are seated in the northwest- escorts them in single file across west to position in front of the Associate Matron, facing West.)

(All bow to the Associate Matron- Associate Matron rises and returns the bows- All face south, march across west to the south, to the ante-room door.)

(Warder gives two slow knocks)

(Sentinel returns knocks)

(Warder opens door- permitting Guard of Honor and Book Bearers to pass out)

(Lights out- spot on)

(Full pause of a minute)  
(Sentinel knocks twice on door)

(Warder returns knocks and opens door)

(Slow music for all action)

(Guard of Honor enters followed by the other Characters in the following line-up)

Guard of Honor	
Candle Bearer No. 1	Candle Bearer No. 4
Candle Bearer No. 2	Candle Bearer No. 5
Candle Bearer No. 3	Candle Bearer No. 6
Book Bearer "A"	Book Bearer "B"
Book Bearer "C"	Book Bearer "D"

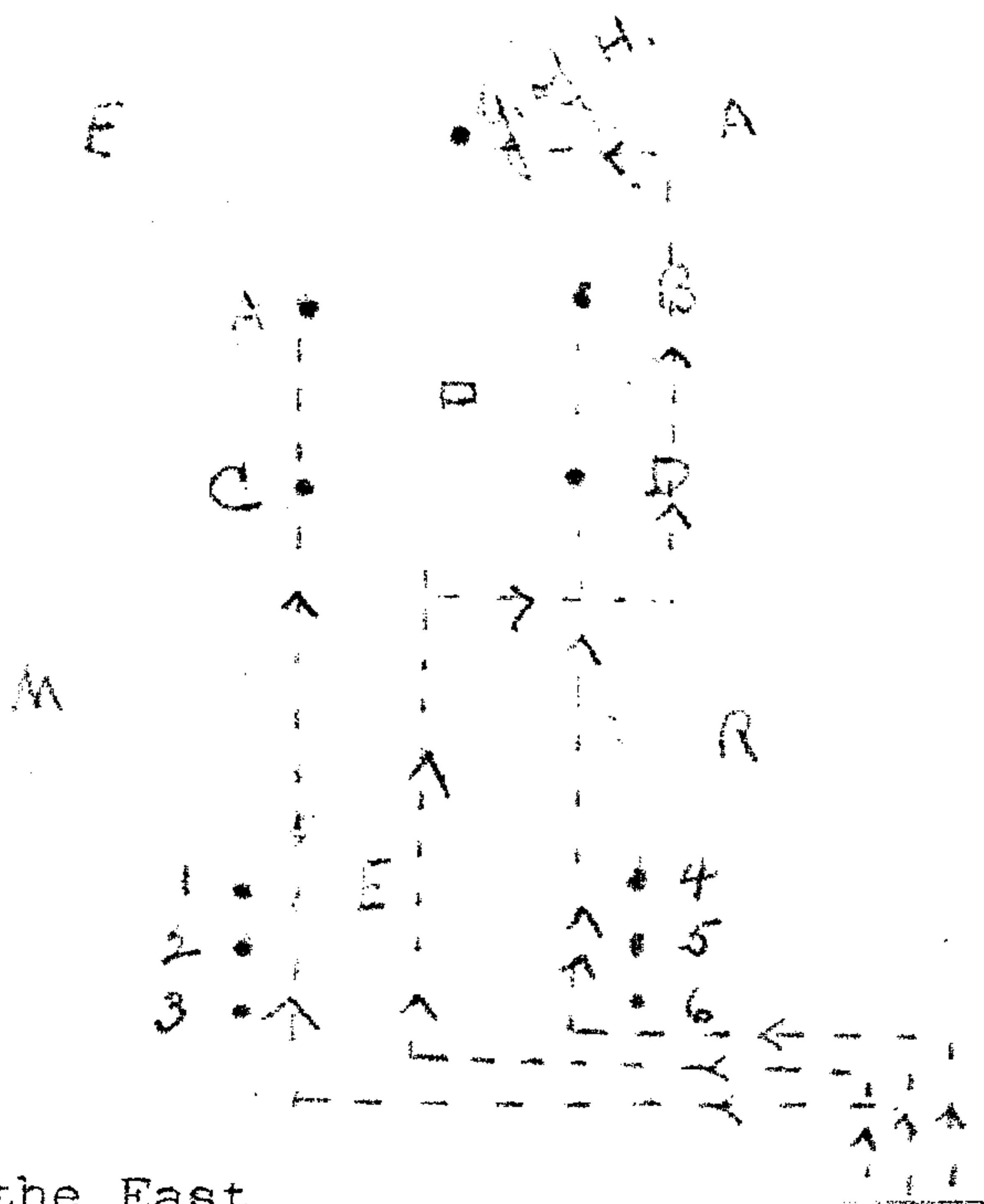
(Guard of Honor enters, followed by the six Candle Bearers bearing lighted candles and baskets of flowers, lined up in parallel lines, and the four Book Bearers bearing the Book on ribbon streamers between them.)

(Guard of Honor marches across west to south side of Esther's chair, enters Star, marches east to the altar, then out around south side of the altar to position on east of the altar, facing west.)

(The Candle Bearers numbered and lined up as follows:- Nos. 1,2,3, on the left and Nos. 4,5,6, on the right, take positions on the west of Esther's chair in parallel lines facing each other.)



(The Book Bearers march up center to the altar (known by letters) A,C, on the north side of Esther's chair and B,D, on the south side of Esther's chair, raising the streamers bearing the book sufficiently high to clear Esther's chair. Take positions on each side of the altar. Deposit Book on the altar and allow the streamers to drape over the sides of the altar and take positions at the altar as per diagram:- )



X Guard of Honor-

Light of the East.

Light of the East- Candle Bearer No. 1

(Marches toward the center a few steps, turns, marches to the altar, out around north side of altar, up to the East- places candle on Worthy Matron's pedestal- takes position in front of pedestal, facing west.)

Guard of Honor-

Light of the West.

Light of the West- Candle Bearer No. 4-

(Marches toward the center a few steps, turns, marches to the west- places candle on Associate Matron's pedestal- takes position in front of the pedestal, facing east.)

T.G.T.L.W.- 4.

Guard of Honor-

Light of the North.

Light of the North- Candle Bearer No. 2-

(Marches toward the center a few steps, turns, marches to the altar, out around the north side of the altar to position opposite the Associate Conductress' pedestal- turns, marches to the Associate Conductress' pedestal- places candle on pedestal- takes position in front of pedestal, facing south.)

Guard of Honor-

Light of the South.

Light of the South- Candle Bearer No. 5-

(Marches towards the center a short distance, turns, marches to the altar, out around south side of the altar to position opposite the Conductress' pedestal- turns, marches out to Conductress' pedestal- places candle on the pedestal- takes position in front of the pedestal- facing north)

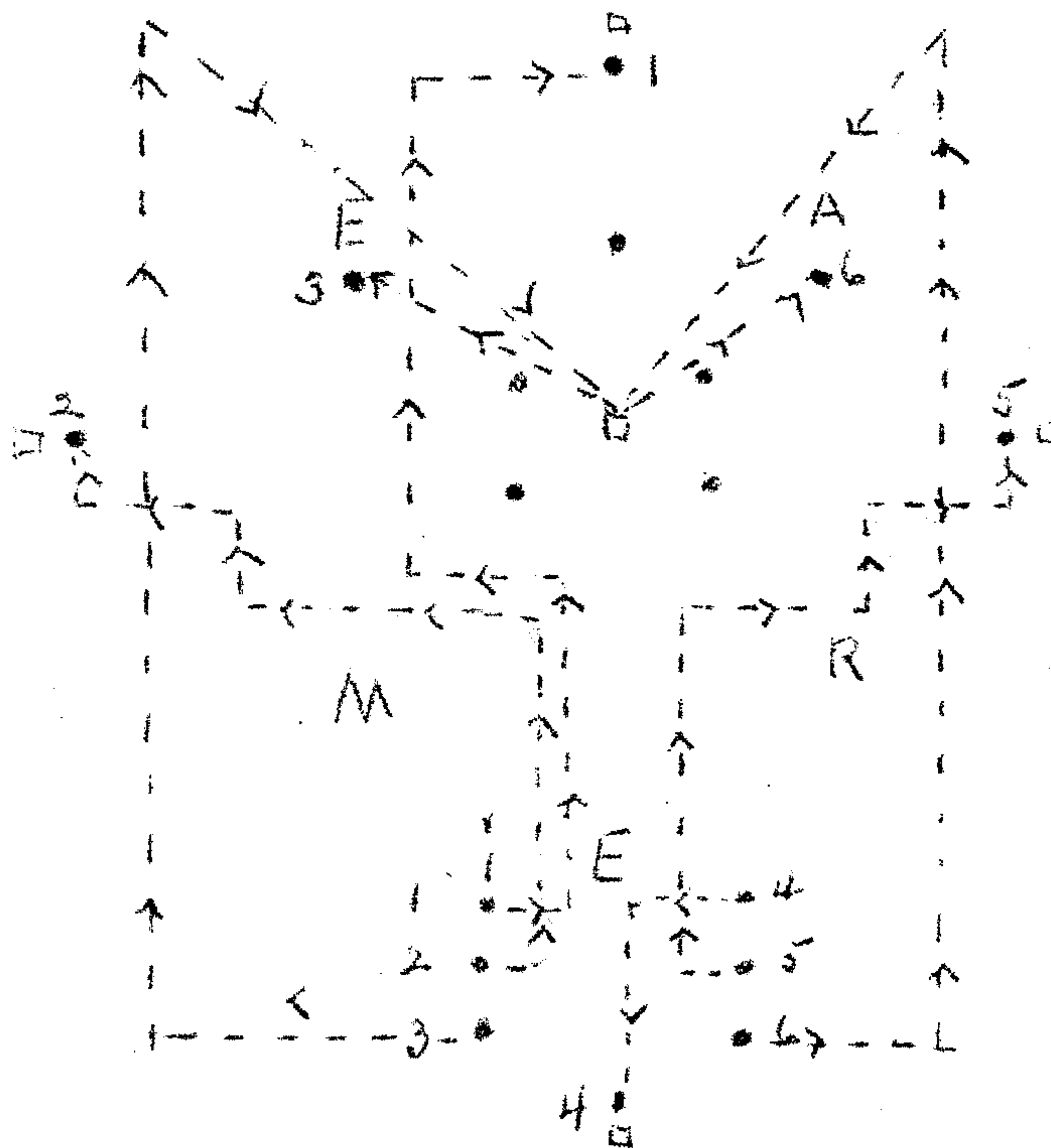
Guard of Honor-

Lights of Remembrance.

Lights of Remembrance- Candle Bearers Nos. 3 and 6-

(Turn simultaneously, march out to the north and south sides of hall respectively, turn, march east to positions on east of Electa's and Adah's chairs respectively, turn, march diagonally to the altar- place candles on the northeast and southeast corners of the altar, turn, march out to positions in vicinity of Electa's and Adah's chairs respectively. All as per diagram:- )

T.G.T.L.W.- 5.



(As soon as the lights have been placed and the Candle Bearers are in position- the Book Bearers march to the west. "B" and "D" march out to the south down to the west to positions on south side of Associate Matron's pedestal. "A" and "C" march out to the north, down to the west to positions on north side of Associate Matron's pedestal. All face the East.)

Worthy Matron-

*Call up chapter*

Guard of Honor, open the Book of Memory and read therefrom the names of those who have gone down the western shore.

Guard of Honor-

(Advances to altar)

Twinkling lights are all of our lives gleaming awhile in splendor only to be snuffed out in a moment at the call of the Great Master.

"The songs they used to sing- ah, me! Ah, me!  
I turn the well-thumbed book of memory.

Through years fraternal, in soothing, comforting,  
They never failed- the songs they used to sing.  
I see them thus, the saint-like faces and fair,  
With halo of the lamplight on their hair.

Though quavering-sweet the voices in life's bright day  
Still had power to charm all care away.  
The songs they used to sing, in time of need  
They were a refuge for my soul, indeed.

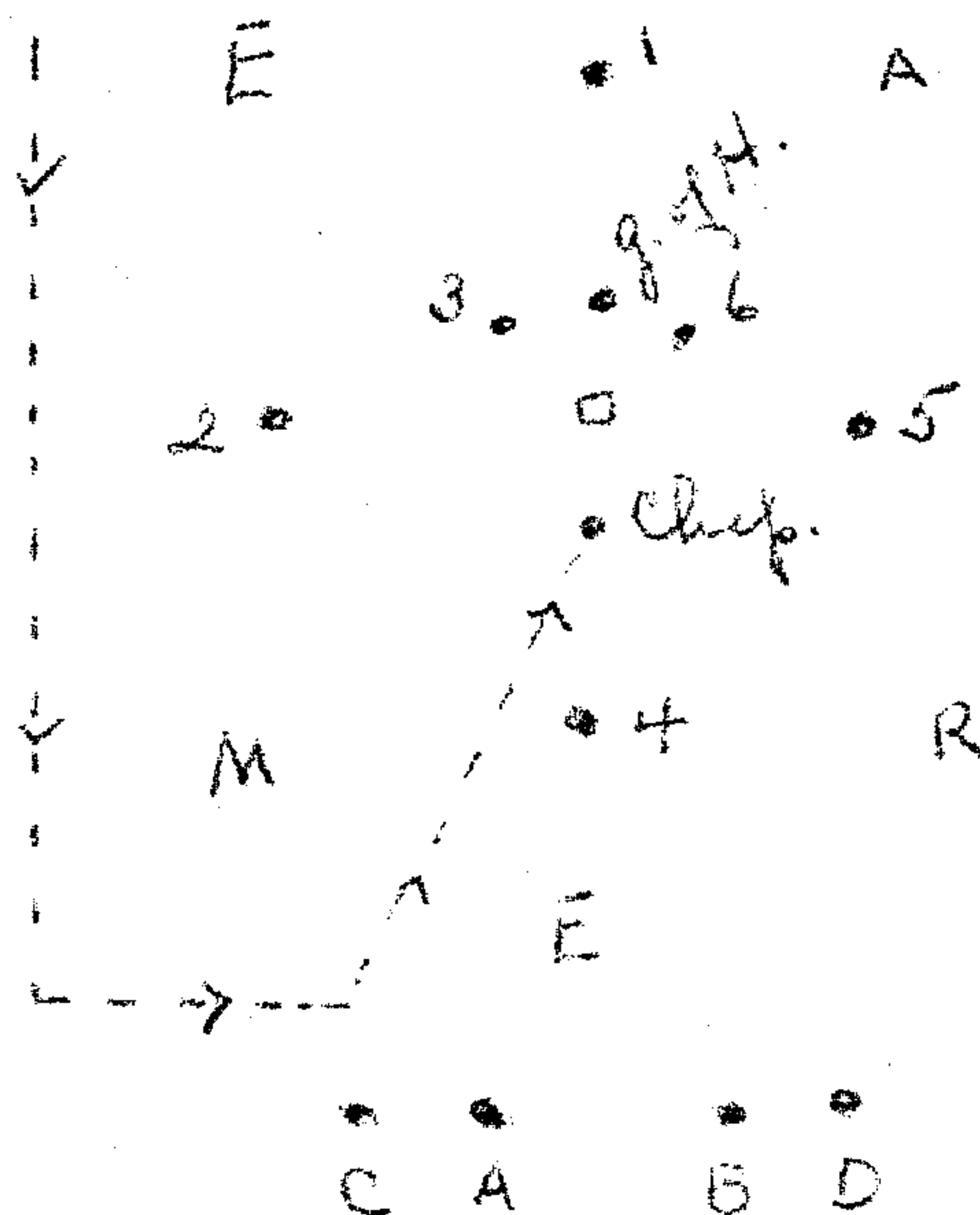
O voices the years have silenced! Face o'dreams!  
The nearing west with sunset splendor gleams;  
With joy I welcome sleep the night shall bring;  
To waken to the songs they used to sing."

(Opens book and reads names)

(Lights Nos. 1,2,4,5, advance to positions in line  
with altar about four feet distant.  
Lights Nos. 3 and 6 advance to corners of altar.  
Each brings her basket of flowers with her.)

(Chaplain marches down north- enters Star - marches  
to altar)

(Chaplain and Lights kneel simultaneously as per  
diagram:- )



Chaplain- (Prayer)

"What's death? A little broadening of the ripple  
Upon the Eternal Shore;  
A little loosening of the bands that cripple,  
This and nothing more.

What's death? A parting of the clouds above us  
That hide the sun;  
A golden vision of the souls that love us,  
And labor done.



T.G.T.L.W.-7.

What's death? The opening of a perfect flower.  
No watcher sees-  
The silent Spirit who at twilight hour  
The bondman frees.

What's death? God's mercy, strange, uncomprehended,  
The undiscovered goal;  
The Land of Promise when the toil is ended,  
The Day-Dawn of the soul."

(All rise)

Solo-

(Lights Nos. 3 and 6 step back to former positions.  
Beginning with No. 1 each with a low bow place  
their baskets in front of them and as they do so  
each repeats her verse in the following order:- )

No. 1-

"I shall go out as all men go,  
Spent flickers in a mighty wind,  
Then I shall know, as all must know,  
What lies the great gray veil behind."

No. 6-

"There may be nothing but a deep,  
And timeless void without a name,  
Where no sun hangs, no dead stars sleep,  
And there is neither night nor flame."

No. 5-

"There may be meadows there and hills,  
Mountains and plains and winds that blow,  
And flowers bending over rills  
Springing from an eternal snow."

No. 4-

"There may be oceans white with foam  
And great tall ships for hungry men  
Who called our little salt seas home  
And burn to launch their keels again."

No. 2-

"There may be voices I have known  
And fingers that have touched my hair,  
There may be hearts that were my own-  
Love may abide for ever there."

T.G.T.L.W.-8.

No. 3-

"Who knows? Who needs to understand  
If there be shadows there, or more  
To live as though a pleasant land  
Lay just beyond an open door?"

(Lights return to positions at pedestals and Adah's  
and Electa's chairs.)

(Chaplain returns to position)

(Guard of Honor steps back to position taken before  
advancing to altar to open book)

Worthy Matron-

And now my sisters and brothers, let us remember that the  
golden hopes of dawn will appear once more in the lines of the  
sunset hour and the gathering dusk; that the Voices now lost  
to us speak again from those islands of light that lie upon  
the horizon of Twilight, washed by a shoreless sea, remote,  
profound; and that peace which may be lost in the morning will  
be found again at night, so death restoreth that which life  
must take.

"How far together? Till the road  
Ends at some churchyard wall; until the bell  
Tolls for the Entrance to the lone abode;  
Until the only whisper is "Farewell?"

How far together? Till the light  
No longer wakens in the loving eyes;  
Until the shadow of the final night  
Has swept the last star-glimmer from the skies?

How far together? Past the end  
Of this short road, beyond the starry gleam;  
Till day and night and time and space shall blend  
Into the vast Forever of our Dream."

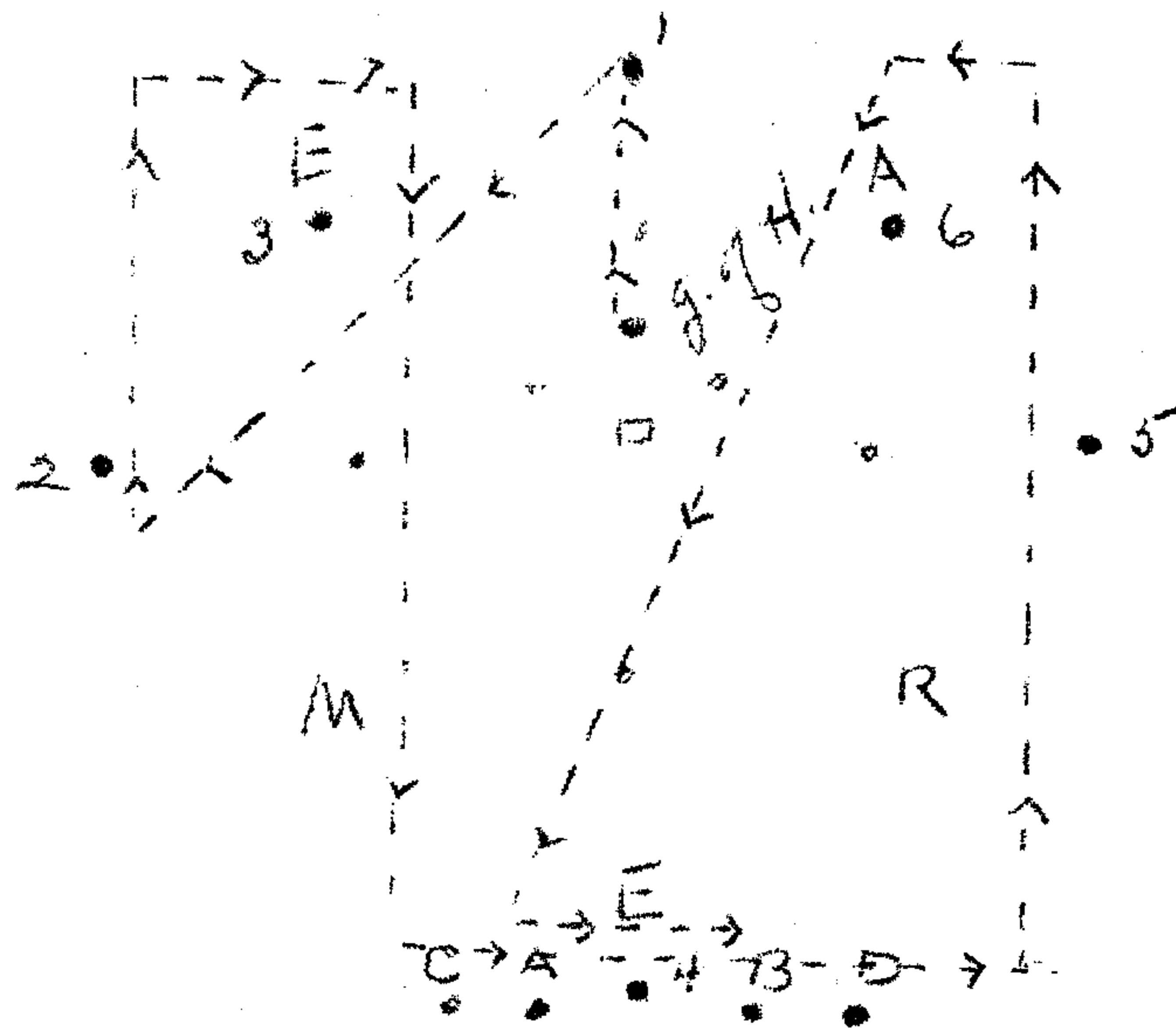
(Lights are turned up)

(March- collecting candles, baskets, book, etc.)

(The Guard of Honor turns, marches east, to Candle  
Bearer No. 1, turns, marches diagonally northwest  
to Candle Bearer No. 2, up north, across east  
near Candle Bearer No. 3, enters Star on south  
side of Electa's chair, marches to the west,  
across west, near Candle Bearer No. 4, up south  
near Candle Bearer No. 5, across east, near Candle  
Bearer No. 6, enters Star between Adah's and

Electa's chairs, marches diagonally northwest on west of altar to the west.)

(As the Guard of Honor passes the Candle Bearers they turn, pick up their candles and follow- Nos. 1,2, and 3 in single line- Nos. 4,5, and 6 taking positions opposite Nos. 1,2, and 3 as they entered.) All as per diagram:-



(They march across west, Guard of Honor enters Star on south side of Esther's chair, marches to the altar, around south side of the altar to a position in the east facing west.)

(The Candle Bearers led by Nos. 1 and 4 enter Star one line on each side of Esther's chair.)

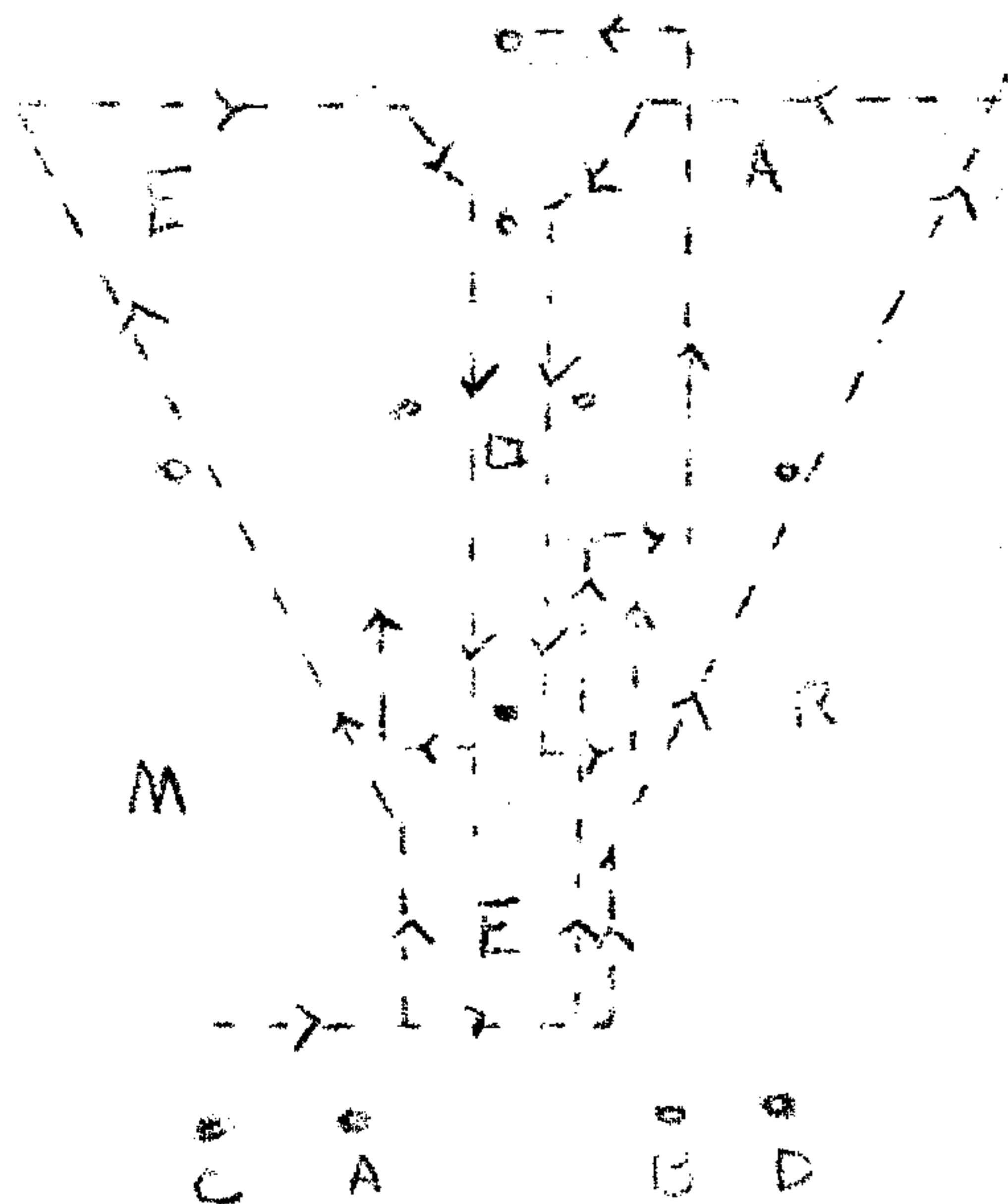
(No. 1 entering on the north, marches diagonally northeast to the east, across east, enters Star between Adah's and Electa's chairs, marches diagonally southwest a short distance, then west to position on east of Esther's chair, turns right, marches across west, then toward the east, taking positions on north side of the altar. This line picks up the following flower baskets:- No. 1 picks up No. 2's; No. 2 picks up No. 3's; No. 3 picks up No. 4's.)

(No. 4 entering on the south, marches diagonally southeast to the east, across east, enters Star between Adah's and Electa's chairs, marches diagonally northwest a short distance, then west to position on east of Esther's chair, turns left, marches across west, then toward the east taking positions on south side of the altar. This line picks up the following flower baskets:- No. 4 picks up No. 5's; No. 5 picks up No. 1's;



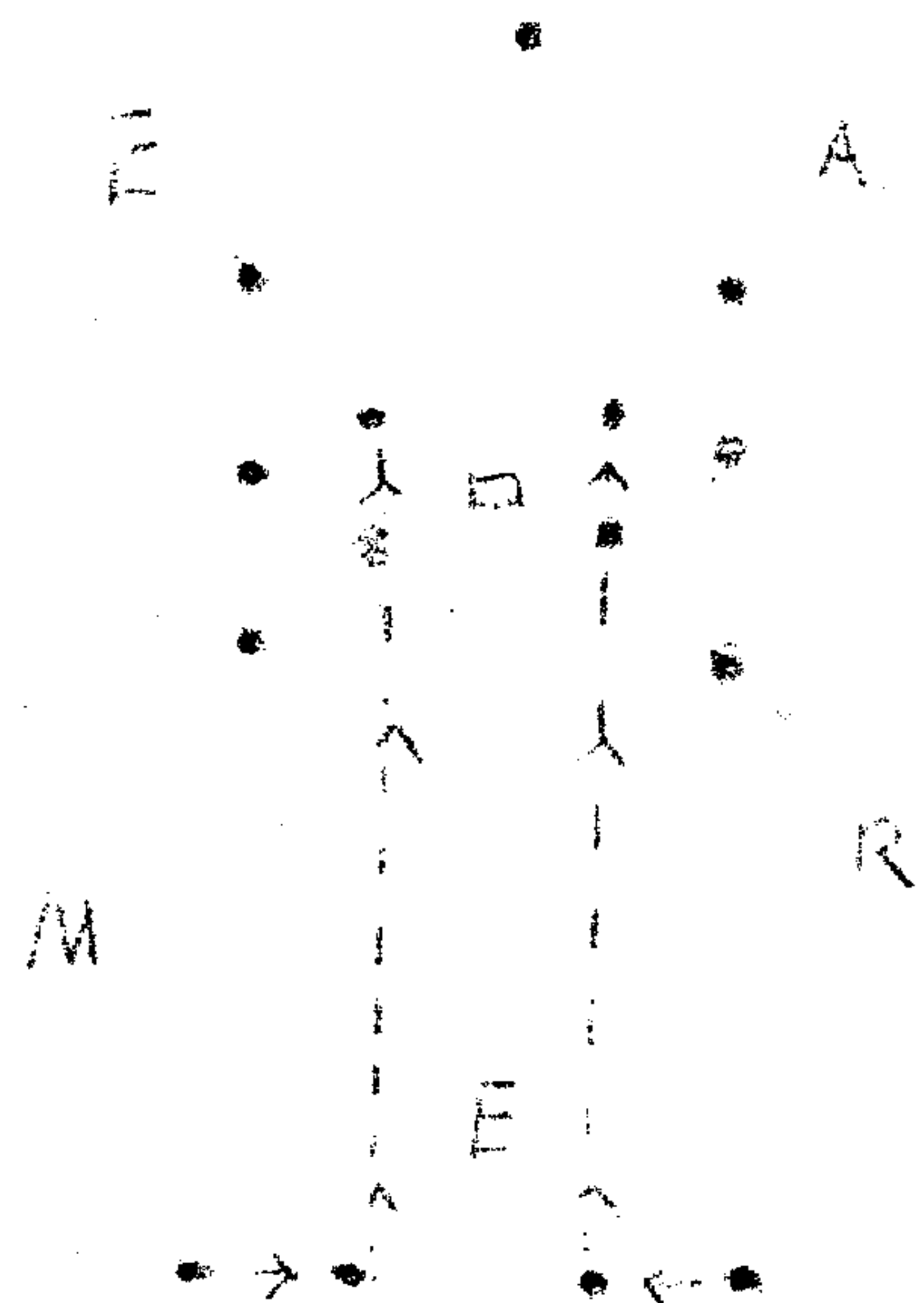
T.G.T.L.W.- 10.

No. 6 picks up No. 6's.)  
All as per diagram:-



(When the Candle Bearers have taken their positions on each side of the altar they face the altar simultaneously.)

(The Book Bearers immediately face the center, march across west, to positions each side of Esther's chair, enter Star, march to positions each side of the altar, face altar, step forward, pick up the streamers, and lift the book from the altar.)  
All as per diagram:-





T.G.T.L.W.-11.

(As soon as the Book Bearers have lifted the Book from the altar they and the Candle Bearers face east. The Guard of Honor marches to the altar, turns and followed by the Book Bearers carrying the book, and the Candle Bearers carrying the candles and flower baskets, march to the east, across east, down south and out to the ante-room.)