MEMORY'S ALTAR

BY

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WINTER PARK, FLORIDA
MEMORY'S ALTAR

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Characters-- (12)
Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Secretary, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Chaplain, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, and Soloist.

Time--
Fifteen Minutes

Costumes-----
White

Properties ------
Drape of white cloth with evergreen festoons for the altar; small broken column of white flowers; rope of smilax; fern sways; sufficient number of flowers for the deceased.

Cries of ----
"Lead Kindly Light", "One Sweetly Solemn Thought",
"Asleep in Jesus",

Scene ----
Chapter Setting.
Worthy Matron —

Throughout this life, with all of its joys, there comes a measure of sadness. Silent as the dawn, mysterious as the night, yet, certain as Truth the messenger comes, and whether from the North, the South, from the East or from the West, we, none of us can tell—yet, one by one our friends are drifting over the breast of the silent sea and one by one we too, shall cross the river to "That city not made by hands."

"Let us draw the altar gently
For the loved ones gone before;
They have crossed the silent river;
We shall see them here no more.
Place a wreath upon the altar;
It will fade and be no more;
But the loved ones have only gone
To the bright celestial shore."

(W. M. calls up the Chapter)

(The Associate Conductress and Conductress advance from their stations --
turn square corners as they turn to march west, march west just far enough to make an acute angle between the chairs when approaching the altar. The Conductress approaches the altar between Ruth's and Esther's chairs, and the Associate Conductress between Martha's and Esther's chairs. Make a low bow, together.

The Associate Conductress lifts the Bible from the altar and steps to one side, the Conductress then places the drapery over the altar; the Associate Conductress replaces the Bible, steps back and they both make the sign. The Conductress takes her position between Ruth's and Esther's chairs and the Associate Conductress between Martha's and Esther's chairs.)

(Soft music should be played during this work. The drapery should be of white cloth, festooned with evergreen, large enough to cover the altar.)
Proper by Chaplain —

O Thou Divine Architect of our earthly labyrinth, look down in compassion upon the members of our Order here assembled, and let the glory of Thy righteousness so light our pathway, that we may heed the warning admonition "Lest not unto thine own understanding." O Thou Great Teacher, whose emblematic star did guide the destinies of our departed Sisters and Brothers to that Chapter in the Great Beyond, be Thou a lamp unto our feet, and may Thy guardian angel guide us safely past all evils that beset the road of life, and lead us safely as Thou hast led those who have preceded us to that New Jerusalem. O may the sacred memory of their good deeds be an inspiration to us, and cause us to work to live better lives, and Father, upon this service in honor of that sweet memory of those who have gone to that fairer shore, we ask Thy benediction. Amen.

Response — So may it ever be.

Solo — Lead Kindly Light.

( W. M. approaches the altar from the east, carrying a small broken column of white flowers. The Associate Matron approaches the altar from the west, carrying a rose of white.

Worthy Matron— Places the broken column on the table placed on east of altar and says:—

"God's great love entwines about our lives, and His voice speaks peace unto the soul, and on life's broken column we may erect the altars of our trustful hearts, and He will take them whole."

Associate Matron — Entwinds the white rose around the column and says:—

"The evergreen whose color never fades is Nature's promise of immortality. As a testimony of our belief in the life ascending, we will garland this broken column with this rope of green, realizing that our fraternal chain, though severed here, will one bright day be perfected, when we shall miss no broken links in Heavens.
"Fast as the rolling seasons bring
The hour of fate to those we love,
Each pearl that leaves the broken string
Is set in Friendship's crown above."

Conductor --

"As narrower grows the earthly chain,
The circle widens in the sky,
These are our treasures that remain,
But these are stars that beam on high."

Solo -- "One Sweetly Solemn Thought."

Worthy Matron --

"We shall see Him in His likeness
When we, too, have passed beyond,
Hand in hand around God's altar
When our work on earth is done.

We have dressed the altar gently
For the loved ones gone before;
Let us kneel in humble supplication
As we say 'Thy will be done',"

(The officers having speaking parts and assembled about the altar will step back in a circle formation and during this last verse by the Worthy Matron will clasped hands and kneel as the words are spoken.)

Solo -- "Asleep in Jesus"

(Officers arise and march out, singing "God be with you, till we meet again."