

Marinette, Wisconsin,
June, 16th

Dear Mr. Dick.

Sincere Friend: I was really happy to hear that you were well. And would say that your humble servant - is in the same "Countee". I would also state that I am back at home again in good, ^{and} lively, Old Marinette, Marinette County, Wis. I have been up running a steam Wagon, but now I have a stationary Engine to run at the large Marinette Planing Mill, you will see that I am again obliged to labor for a livelihood having had a reversalment in fortune about 4 years ago, still I am in hopes of regaining a portion, ^{and} I know I must climb up again in time. Well, dear E^d at last - I have joined (for life) the Mammoth, Marinette Temple of Honor No 116, (on the 23^d day of May, '99) ^{and} of which I am justly proud, knowing as I do, the vast amount of benefit it has done on this Menominee river, ^{and} by the way, since you ^{and} I, are now members, let us move to have Article 3^d of the constitution, changed, I for one would suggest -

that there be three words added, Making the article read thus, All white-Male persons,^{2nd} native americans, of good moral character &c. — — — — —

Thus barring out the "heathen Chinese", in-stead of ~~the~~ ^{us} native americans, — — — — —

Our regular sessions are each Friday evening, the hall being open at all other times as a free reading^{2nd} pleasure parlor, our association has a splendid public library.

You will in all probability wonder why the temple mainpains a pleasure parlor, ^{2nd} I will endeavor to explain the object we have in "so doing, in as few words as possible,

The object is atraction

we are aware that young people Must have a place of resort, or in other words, a place to spend their leisure hours, Now if it be not in a good place: It will be "vice versa", as we all know,^{2nd} must acknowledge, that temptations in a city are numerous, ^{2nd} one cannot always remain at the home fireside, as we are living beings, ^{2nd} not permanent fixtures, we must move, though home does not become irksome, yet we feel it in our bones that we must take ~~we must~~ take an occasional stroll, (I allude to the male portion) now where shall we go this evening? down to La Berges concert-saloon? & get-jolly drunk. spend about 10 dollars?[?] No! sir!! we will array ourselves to our taste,

call upon some lady friends, ^{and} acquaintances,
^{and} engage them for an evenings walk, ^{and} as a matter
of course, we finally find ourselves comfortable seated
within the spacious hall, merrily chatting with relatives
^{and} friends, that were there before us, or to some
that arrive after us, we have (as the Ladies term
it-) "Just a splendid duck of a time,, perhaps
we have played a Game of Chess, Gammon, Dominoes,
Checkers, &c (As every thing imaginable for innocent-pleasure
is within that hall) you can see some reading,
others looking at pictorials, a few are drawing books
to take home with them, while some are at the
farther end of the hall, entertaining a group of
acquaintances, with some first-class music, the latest
pieces out,, Instruments of all kinds, suitable for
a hall, are there, (donated by the city) ^{and} none but
first-class players of either sex, will perform a
piece of music, in a public hall like that, hence
you hear good music, ^{and} have a good time.

at 10 P.M. They have all returned to their
respective homes, Ice-cream, cake, ^{and} Lemonade,
candies, ^{and} nuts, ^{and} fruits ^{and} berries, are sold in one
portion of the hall, thereby paying for the ware of
Instruments, for the Lights, for the clerk, ^{and} watchman
salary.

Now I ask; is not that institution
far better, as a place of resort- than any other?
I must now conclude, though I hate to give it
up that way, but- more anon, write soon,
Affectionately Yours. A. G. LeR.

P. S.

How many members has your temple?

Have you taken several degrees? I.T. A.T.

And are you insured?

What - is the loc of your temple?

Respect to all.

Same.

In haste,