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Political, Military, Social,
Religious, Educational & Industrial
1865 to the Present Time

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THE
MUSEUM
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CHICAGO

2. THE DECLARATIONS OF THE SECRET ORDERS

Organization and Principles of the Ku Klux Klan

*Revised and Amended Prescript of the Order of * * *. Extracts.*
The original Prescript adopted in 1867 provided for the organization, but had no declaration of principles. [1868]

APPELLATION

THIS Organization shall be styled and denominated, the Order of the * * *.

CREED

WE, the Order of the * * *, reverentially acknowledge the majesty and supremacy of the Divine Being, and recognize the goodness and providence of the same. And we recognize our relation to the United States Government, the supremacy of the Constitution, the Constitutional Laws thereof, and the Union of States thereunder.

CHARACTER AND OBJECTS OF THE ORDER

THIS is an institution of Chivalry, Humanity, Mercy, and Patriotism; embodying in its genius and its principles all that is chivalric in conduct, noble in sentiment, generous in manhood, and patriotic in purpose; its peculiar objects being

First: To protect the weak, the innocent, and the defenseless, from the indignities, wrongs, and outrages of the lawless, the violent, and the brutal; to relieve the injured and oppressed; to succor the suffering and unfortunate, and especially the widows and orphans of Confederate soldiers.

Second: To protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and all laws passed in conformity thereto, and to protect the States and the people thereof from all invasion from any source whatever.

Third: To aid and assist in the execution of all constitutional laws, and to protect the people from unlawful seizure, and from trial except by their peers in conformity to the laws of the land.

TITLES

SECTION 1. The officers of this Order shall consist of a Grand Wizard of the Empire, and his ten Genii; a Grand Dragon of the Realm, and his eight Hydras; a Grand Titan of the Dominion, and his six Furies; a Grand Giant of the Province, and his four Goblins; a Grand Cyclops of the Den, and his two Night-hawks; a Grand Magi, a Grand Monk, a Grand Scribe, a Grand Exchequer, a Grand Turk, and a Grand Sentinel.

SEC. 2. The body politic of this Order shall be known and designated as "Ghouls."

TERRITORY AND ITS DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. The territory embraced within the jurisdiction of this Order shall be coterminous with the States of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee; all combined constituting the Empire.

SEC. 2. The Empire shall be divided into four departments, the first to be styled the Realm, and coterminous with the boundaries of the several States; the second to be styled the Dominion and to be coterminous with such counties as the Grand Dragons of the several Realms may assign to the charge of the Grand Titan. The third to be styled the Province, and to be coterminous with the several counties; *provided*, the Grand Titan may, when he deems it necessary, assign two Grand Giants to one Province, prescribing, at the same time, the jurisdiction of each. The fourth department to be styled the Den, and shall embrace such part of a Province as the Grand Giant shall assign to the charge of a Grand Cyclops.

[QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED CANDIDATES]

1st. Have you ever been rejected, upon application for membership in the * * *, or have you ever been expelled from the same?

2d. Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Radical Republican party, or either of the organizations known

thirds vote of the grand Dragons of the Realm, in Convention assembled, and at which Convention the grand Wizard shall preside and be entitled to a vote. And upon the application of a majority of the grand Dragons, for that purpose, the grand Wizard shall appoint the time and place for said Convention; which, when assembled, shall proceed to make such modifications and amendments as it may think will advance the interest, enlarge the utility, and more thoroughly effectuate the purposes of the

STIPULATIONS

Art. XVI. The origin, designs, mysteries and ritual of this * shall never be written, but the same shall be communicated orally.

REGISTER.

- I.
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1st—Dismal. | 7th—Dreadful. |
| 2nd—Dark. | 8th—Terrible. |
| 3rd—Furious. | 9th—Horrible. |
| 4th—Portentous. | 10—Melancholy. |
| 5th—Wonderful. | 11—Mournful. |
| 6th—Alarming. | 12th—Dying. |
- II.
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| I—White. | IV—Black. |
| II—Green. | V—Yellow. |
| III—Blue. | VI—Crimson. |
- III.
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1—Fearful. | 7—Doleful. |
| 2—Startling. | 8—Sorrowful. |
| 3—Awful. | 9—Hideous. |
| 4—Woeful. | 10—Frightful. |
| 5—Horrid. | 11—Appalling. |
| 6—Bloody. | 12—Last. |

I. The Initiation Fee of this * shall be one dollar, to be paid when the candidate is initiated and received into the

II. No member shall be allowed to take any intoxicating spirits to any meeting of the * Nor shall any member be allowed to attend a meeting when intoxicated; and for every appearance at a meeting in such a condition, he shall be fined the

Caveat tutus.

9. The most profound and rigid secrecy concerning any and everything that relates to the Order, shall at all times be maintained.

10. Any member who shall reveal or betray the secrets of this Order, shall suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

ADMONITIONS.

Hush! thou art not to utter what I am; be-think thee! it was our covenant!

REGISTER.

- I.
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dismal, | 7. Painful, |
| 2. Mystic, | 8. Portentous, |
| 3. Sorrow, | 9. Fading, |
| 4. Peculiar, | 10. Melancholy, |
| 5. Bleeding, | 11. Glorious, |
| 6. Brilliant, | 12. Gloomy. |
- II.
- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| I. White, | II. Green, | III. Yellow, | IV. Amber, |
| V. Purple, | VI. Crimson, | VII. Emerald, | |
- III.
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Fearful, | 7. Hideous, |
| 2. Startling, | 8. Frightful, |
| 3. Wonderful, | 9. Awful, |
| 4. Alarming, | 10. Horrible, |
| 5. Mournful, | 11. Dreadful, |
| 6. Appalling, | 12. Last. |
- IV.
- Cumberland.

L'INVOC.

To the lovers of law and order, peace and justice, we send greeting; and to the shades of the departed dead we affectionately dedicate the Order of the

Resurguntis.

FACSIMILE OF PAGE FROM ORIGINAL.

PRESCRIPT OF KU KLUX KLAN

| From copy in possession of the Editor |

FACSIMILE OF PAGE FROM REVISED AND AMENDED

PRESCRIPT OF KU KLUX KLAN

| From copy in possession of the Editor |

as the "Loyal League" and the "Grand Army of the Republic?"

3d. Are you opposed to the principles and policy of the Radical party, and to the Loyal League, and the Grand Army of the Republic, so far as you are informed of the character and purposes of those organizations?

4th. Did you belong to the Federal army during the late war, and fight against the South during the existence of the same?

5th. Are you opposed to negro equality, both social and political?

6th. Are you in favor of a white man's government in this country?

7th. Are you in favor of Constitutional liberty, and a Government of equitable laws instead of a Government of violence and oppression?

8th. Are you in favor of maintaining the Constitutional rights of the South?

9th. Are you in favor of the re-enfranchisement and emancipation of the white men of the South, and the restitution of the Southern people to all their rights, alike proprietary, civil, and political?

10th. Do you believe in the inalienable right of self-preservation of the people against the exercise of arbitrary and unlicensed power?

The Knights of the White Camelia

Constitution and Ritual adopted 1869. Extracts. [1869]

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Radical legislation is subversive of the principles of the Government of the United States, as originally adopted by our fathers:

And whereas, our safety and our prosperity depend on the preservation of those grand principles and believing that they can be peacefully maintained: Therefore, we adopt the following [constitution somewhat similar to that of the Klan].

[QUESTIONS ASKED THE CANDIDATE]

1. Do you belong to the white race? Ans. — I do.
2. Did you ever marry any woman who did not, or does not, belong to the white race? Ans. — No.
3. Do you promise never to marry any woman but one who belongs to the white race? Ans. — I do.
4. Do you believe in the superiority of your race? Ans. — I do.
5. Will you promise never to vote for any one for any office of honor, profit or trust, who does not belong to your race? Ans. — I do.
6. Will you take a solemn oath never to abstain from casting your vote at any election in which a candidate of the negro race shall be opposed to a white man attached to your principles, unless or prevented by severe illness or any other physical disability? Ans. — I will.
7. Are you opposed to allowing the control of the political affairs of this country to go in whole or in part, into the hands of the African race, and will you do everything in your power to prevent it? A. — Yes.
8. Will you devote your intelligence, energy and influence to the furtherance and propagation of the principles of our Order? A. — I will.
9. Will you, under all circumstances, defend and protect persons of the white race in their lives, rights and property, against all encroachments or invasions from any inferior race, and especially the African? A. — Yes.
10. Are you willing to take an oath forever to cherish these grand principles, and to unite yourself with others who, like you, believing in their truth, have firmly bound themselves to stand by and defend them against all? Ans. — I am.

The C[ommander] shall then say: If you consent to join our Association, raise your right hand and I will administer to you the oath which we have all taken: . .

[CHARGE TO INITIATES]

Brothers: You have been initiated into one of the most

important Orders, which have ever been established on this continent: an Order, which, if its principles are faithfully observed and its objects diligently carried out, is destined to regenerate our unfortunate country and to relieve the White Race from the humiliating condition to which it has lately been reduced in this Republic. It is necessary, therefore, that before taking part in the labors of this Association, you should understand fully its principles and objects and the duties which devolve upon you as one of its members.

As you may have already gathered from the questions which were propounded to you, and which you have answered so satisfactorily, and from the clauses of the Oath which you have taken, our main and fundamental object is the **MAINTENANCE OF THE SUPREMACY OF THE WHITE RACE** in this Republic. History and physiology teach us that we belong to a race which nature has endowed with an evident superiority over all other races, and that the Maker, in thus elevating us above the common standard of human creation, has intended to give us over inferior races, a dominion from which no human laws can permanently derogate. The experience of ages demonstrates that, from the origin of the world, this dominion has always remained in the hands of the Caucasian Race; whilst all the other races have constantly occupied a subordinate and secondary position; a fact which triumphantly confirms this great law of nature. Powerful nations have succeeded each other on the face of the world, and have marked their passage by glorious and memorable deeds; and among those who have thus left on this globe indelible traces of their splendor and greatness, we find none but descended from the Caucasian stock. We see, on the contrary, that most of the countries inhabited by the other races have remained in a state of complete barbarity; whilst the small number of those who have advanced beyond this savage existence, have, for centuries, stagnated in a semi-barbarous condition of which there can be no progress or improvement. And it is a remarkable fact that as a race of men is more remote from the Caucasian and approaches nearer to the black

African, the more fatally that stamp of inferiority is affixed to its sons, and irrevocably dooms them to eternal imperfection and degradation.

Convinced that we are of these elements of natural ethics, we know, besides, that the government of our Republic was established by white men, for white men alone, and that it never was in the contemplation of its founders that it should fall into the hands of an inferior and degraded race. We hold, therefore, that any attempt to wrest from the white race the management of its affairs in order to transfer it to control of the black population, is an invasion of the sacred prerogatives vouchsafed to us by the Constitution, and a violation of the laws established by God himself; that such encroachments are subversive of the established institutions of our Republic, and that no individual of the white race can submit to them without humiliation and shame.

It, then, becomes our solemn duty, as white men, to resist strenuously and persistently those attempts against our natural and constitutional rights, and to do everything in our power in order to maintain, in this Republic, the supremacy of the Caucasian race, and restrain the black or African race to that condition of social and political inferiority for which God has destined it. This is the object for which our Order was instituted; and, in carrying it out, we intend to infringe no laws, to violate no rights, and to resort to no forcible means, except for purposes of legitimate and necessary defense.

As an essential condition of success, this Order proscribes absolutely all social equality between the races. If we were to admit persons of African race on the same level with ourselves, a state of personal relations would follow which would unavoidably lead to political equality; for it would be a virtual recognition of status, after which we could not consistently deny them an equal share in the administration of our public affairs. The man who is good enough to be our familiar companion, is good enough also to participate in our political government; and if we were to grant the one, there could

be no good reason for us not to concede the other of these two privileges.

There is another reason, Brothers, for which we condemn this social equality. Its toleration would soon be a fruitful source of intermarriages between individuals of the two races; and the result of this *miscegenation* would be gradual amalgamation and the production of a degenerate and bastard offspring, which would soon populate these States with a degraded and ignoble population, incapable of moral and intellectual development and unfitted to support a great and powerful country. We must maintain the purity of the white blood, if we would preserve for it that natural superiority with which God has ennobled it.

To avoid these evils, therefore, we take the obligation TO OBSERVE A MARKED DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO RACES, not only in the relations of public affairs, but also in the more intimate dealings and intercourse of private life which, by the frequency of their occurrence, are more apt to have an influence on the attainment of the purposes of the Order.

Now that I have laid before you the objects of this Association, let me charge you specially in relation to one of your most important duties as one of its members. Our statutes make us bound to respect sedulously the rights of the colored inhabitants of this Republic, and in every instance, to give to them whatever lawfully belongs to them. It is an act of simple justice not to deny them any of the privileges to which they are legitimately entitled; and we cannot better show the inherent superiority of our race than by dealing with them in that spirit of firmness, liberality and impartiality which characterizes all superior organizations. Besides, it would be ungenerous for us to undertake to restrict them to the narrowest limits as to the exercise of certain rights, without conceding to them, at the same time, the fullest measure of those which we recognize as theirs; and a fair construction of a white man's duty towards them would be, not only to respect and observe

their acknowledged rights, but also to see that these are respected and observed by others.

From the brief explanation which I have just given you, you must have satisfied yourselves that our Association is not a political party, and has no connection with any of the organized parties of the day. Nor will it lend itself to the personal advancement of individuals, or listen to the cravings of any partisan spirit. It was organized in order to carry out certain great principles, from which it must never swerve by favoring private ambitions and political aspirations. These, as well as all sentiments of private enmity, animosity and other personal feelings, we must leave at the door before we enter this Council. You may meet here, congregated together, men who belong to all the political organizations which now divide, or may divide, this country; you see some whom embittered feuds and irreconcilable hatred have long and widely separated; they have all cast away these rankling feelings to unite cordially and zealously in the labors of our great undertaking. Let their example be to you a useful lesson of the disinterestedness and devotedness which should characterize our efforts for the success of our cause!

Initiation Oath of the White Brotherhood

Ku Klux Report, South Carolina testimony, p. 653. This version was given from memory by a former member. [1871]

YOU solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God that you will never reveal the name of the person who initiated you; and that you will never reveal what is now about to come to your knowledge; and that you are not now a member of the Red String Order, Union League, Heroes of America, Grand Army of the Republic, or any other organization whose aim and intention is to destroy the rights of the South, or of the States, or of the people, or to elevate the negro to a political equality with yourself; and that you are opposed to all such principles: So help you God.