

1838
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1838 / A.I. 2368

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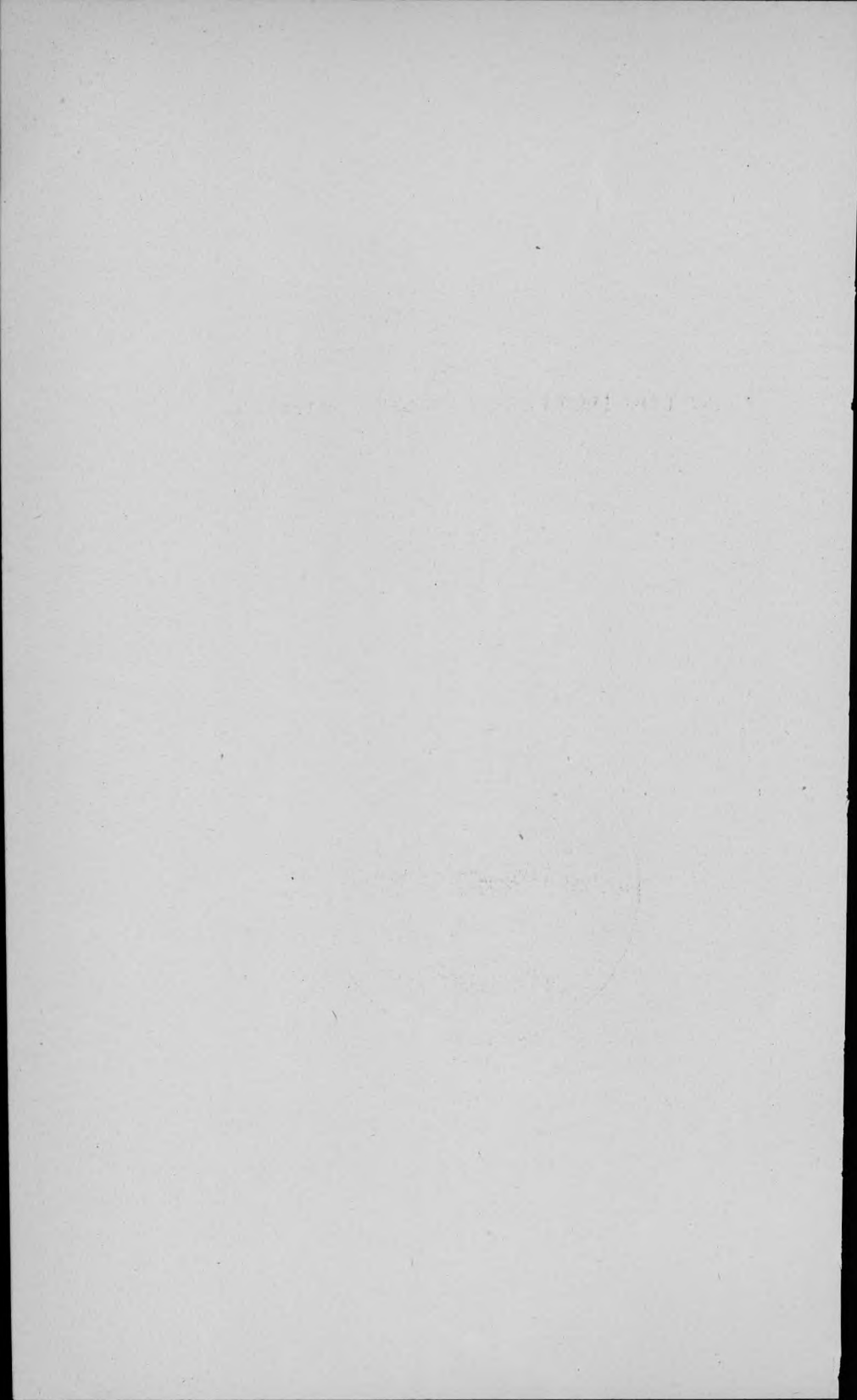
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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF THE
STATE OF ALABAMA,
AT A GRAND ANNUAL CONVOCATION, DECEMBER 4,
A. D. 1838; A. L. 5838; R. A. M. 2368.
TO WHICH IS APPENDED
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SAME.



TUSCALOOSA.
HALE & EATON, PRINTERS.
1839.



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

MASONIC HALL, TUSCALOOSA, Dec. 4th, 1838.

At a Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama, begun and held in the city of Tuscaloosa, on the fourth day of December, 1838, there were

PRESENT:

M. E. J. C. HICKS, G. H. P.
G. W. ESSELMAN, Dept. G. H. P.
J. W. BAKER, G. S., p. t.
F. G. NORMAN, G. C. H.
JOHN FIFE, G. R. A. C., p. t.
D. S. BALL, C. Sec'y.
M. COOK, G. Tr.
C. BEALLE, G. Sentinel.

And the representatives of the following Subordinate Chapters:

Comp. JOHN W. BAKER, Scribe Leighton Chapter.

JOHN FIFE, Scribe,

J. J. WINSTON, Representative, } Phoenix Chapter.
C. BRIGGS, proxy H. P.

G. W. ESSELMAN, K.

J. L. F. COTTRELL, H. P.

} Hayneville Chapter.

A. B. DAWSON, proxy H. P. Wetumpka Chapter.

M. COOK, H. P.
J. H. THOMASON, proxy Scribe. } Tuscaloosa Chapter.

F. G. NORMAN, proxy King,
J. C. HICKS, H. P. } Tuscumbia Chapter.

VISITING COMPANIONS.

Skinner, Baylor, De Haro, Hazlett and Ross.

The Grand Chapter was opened in solemn form, after appropriate invocations, by the Grand High Priest.

On motion of Companion Thomason, it was

Resolved, That all the work done in Tuscumbia Chapter, heretofore acting under charter from the G. R. A. Chapter of Tennessee, be considered legal to all intents and purposes; and that said Chapter be entitled to representation in this G. R. A. Chapter of Alabama, as a subordinate Chapter of the same.

On motion, the following standing committees were then appointed by the M. E. G. H. Priest, viz:

ON ACCOUNTS.—Companions R. A. Baker and J. W. Baker.

ON RETURNS OF CHARTERED CHAPTERS.—Companions Fife and Cook.

ON RETURNS OF CHAPTERS UNDER DISPENSATION.—Comp. Dawson, Norman, Winston and Briggs.

ON CORRESPONDENCE.—Companions Esselman, Cottrell and Dawson.

The Grand Chapter then adjourned till three o'clock to-morrow, P. M.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 5th, 1838.

The Grand Chapter met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT:

M. E. J. C. HICKS, G. H. P.

M. COOK, G. King, p. t.

A. P. PFISTER, G. Scribe, p. t.

D. S. BALL, G. Sec'y.

A. B. DAWSON, G. C. H. p. t.

J. W. BAKER, G. Tr., p. t.

J. FIFE, G. R. A. C., p. t.

Comp. HAZLETT, G. Sentinel, p. t.

COMPANIONS.

Norris, Seth Little, Grey Little, Wm. Little, J. B. Tarrrt, G. W. Creagh, Esselman, Ross, Cantly, John Craig, Wm. R. Hinton, J. Baker, J. L. F. Cottrell, J. H. Thomason.

Companion Grey Little presented his credentials as High Priest of Gainesville Chapter.

Comp. Craig, presented a petition from several Companions near Dayton, praying for a continuation of Clinton Chapter, No. 8, and the removal of the same to Dayton, which, on motion, was referred to a special committee, consisting of Comps. Norris, Dawson and Thomason.

On motion of Comp. Pfister, it was resolved, that the election for Grand Officers take place to-morrow evening.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow evening 3 o'clock.

THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 6th, 1838.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, met pursuant to adjournment.

PRESENT:

M. E. J. C. HICKS, G. H. P.
GREY LITTLE, G. K. p. t.
A. B. DAWSON, G. S. p. t.
M. COOK, G. Tr.
D. S. BALL, C. Sec'y.
F. G. NORMAN, G. C. H.
J. FIFE, G. R. A. C.
WM. HAZLETT, G. Sentinel.

COMPANIONS.

Whiting, Thompson, Cottrell, Pfister, Winston, Thomason, Ross, Herndon, Craig, W. R. Hinton, Norris, Baker, and others.

Companion J. F. Thompson, presented his credentials, as proxy for the H. P. of Marion Chapter, and took his seat.

Companion Norman made a report from the committee on Chapters under dispensation, recommending the acceptance of the returns of the following Chapters:

WETUMPKA CHAPTER,
PHOENIX CHAPTER,
LEIGHTON CHAPTER.

Which was received and concurred in, and on motion, it was ordered that charters be issued to said Chapters.

Companion Norris made a report from the special committee, on the petition of sundry Companions, praying for the removal of Clinton Chapter, and renewal of the charter of the same, which recommended that the prayer of the petitioners be not granted.

On motion, the report was received and concurred in.

On motion, the Grand Chapter then proceeded to elect Grand Officers for the ensuing year, whereupon the following companions were duly elected:

M. E. J. C. HICKS, G. H. P. of Leighton.

J. L. F. COTTRELL, Dep. G. H. P. of Hayneville.

A. B. DAWSON, G. King, of Wetumpka.

F. G. NORMAN, G. Scribe, of Tuscumbia.

J. H. THOMASON, G. Chaplain, of Tuscaloosa.

M. COOK, G. Tr., of Tuscaloosa.

D. S. BALL, G. Sec'y., of Tuscaloosa.

J. W. BAKER, G. C. H. of Leighton.

A. P. PFISTER, G. R. A. C. of Tuscaloosa.

WM. HAZLETT, G. Sentinel, of Tuscaloosa.

The Grand Chapter then adjourned, until three o'clock to-morrow evening.

FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 7th, 1838.

The G. Chapter met pursuant to adjournment, and resumed its labors.

PRESENT:

M. E. J. C. HICKS, G. H. P.
A. B. DAWSON, G. King.
F. G. NORMAN, G. Scribe.
M. COOK, G. Tr.
D. S. BALL, C. Sec'y.
A. P. PEISTER, G. C. H.
J. W. BAKER, G. R. A. C.

COMPANIONS.

Trippe, Sibley, Fife, S. Little, Grey Little, Cantley, McAfee and Baker.

Comp. Winston, asked and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the Grand annual convocation.

Comp. Fife, from the committee on returns, reported the returns of Tuscaloosa Chapter to be in due form and correct, which, on motion, was received and concurred in.

On motion of Comp. Thomason, it was

Resolved, That John Craig be excluded from visiting this Grand Chapter.

Comp. Grey Little asked and obtained leave of absence.

The committee on accounts, reported that in consequence of the recent reorganization of the Grand Chapter, no funds had been received into the treasury of the same.

The committee on returns of Chapters under dispensation, reported the returns of Gainsville correct in facts, but not in due form; and that the minutes and bye-laws of the same have not been submitted. They further reported the returns of Marion Chapter informal; and that the proceedings of the same have not been duly approved and signed. They further recommend that these irregularities be excused, and that charters be issued to the same.

On motion, the report was concurred in, and it was ordered that charters be issued accordingly.

Companion Trippe presented the petition of sundry Companions for the removal of the charter of Clinton Chapter No. 8, which, on motion, was granted.

The Grand Chapter then adjourned until to-morrow three o'clock.

SATURDAY EVENING, Dec. 7th, 1838.

The Grand Chapter met pursuant to adjournment, and resumed its labors.

PRESENT:

M. E. J. C. HICKS, G. H. P.

G. W. CREAGH, G. King, p. t.

R. H. BAKER, G. Scribe, p. t.

M. COOK, G. Tr.

D. S. BALL, G. Sec'y.

A. P. PFISTER, G. C. H. p. t.

J. W. BAKER, G. R. A. C.

WM. HAZLETT, G. Sentinel.

COMPANIONS.

Ross, Thompson, Thomason, Norman, Fife, Dawson, and Fry.

On motion of Companion Thompson, it was ordered that the Grand Secretary annex a proper form for Chapter returns, with the constitution of the Grand Chapter, to the minutes of this Grand Convocation.

On motion, the sum of one hundred dollars was appropriated to the Grand Sec'y.

The M. E. G. H. Priest reported that he had, during the past year, granted dispensations to the following Chapters, viz:

Gainesville Chapter, Leighton Chapter, Hayneville Chapter, Wetumpka Chapter; and renewed the dispensation of Phoenix Chapter; all of which are in a prosperous condition.

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

On motion, the Grand Chapter then proceeded to the installation of the several officers thereof, in due and solemn form.

On motion, the sum of two hundred dollars was allowed and appropriated to the M. E. G. H. Priest, for services rendered this Grand Chapter, during the past year.

Our Bro. Grand Sec'y. presented the Grand Tyler's account of twenty dollars and fifty cents; which, on motion, was allowed and ordered to be paid.

On motion of Companion Fife, Companions Fife, Ross, Thompson, Pfister, Cooper and Dawson, were appointed to make such amendments as to them

may seem expedient, to the present Constitution of the Grand Chapter, to report the same at the next Grand annual convocation.

The Grand Chapter was then closed until the first Monday in December next, after solemn prayer and invocation by the Grand High Priest.

D. S. BALL, Grand Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Of Subordinate Chapters, to the M. E. G. R. A. Chapter of
Alabama, 1838.

TUSCALOOSA CHAPTER, No. 1, TUSCALOOSA.

M. Cook, H. P.	J. H. Thomason, R. A. C.
A. P. Pfister, King.	J. Rather, C. H.
J. C. Van Dyke, Scribe.	L. S. Skinner, Sec'y. and Tr.
J. Cantley, P. S.	Wm. Hazlett, Sentinel.

Eighteen members—annual contribution, thirty-eight Dollars, paid.

TUSCUMBIA CHAPTER.

Reported to Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Tennessee.

PHOENIX CHAPTER—GREENSBORO.

Charles Wheelan, H. P.	Henry Webb, C. H.
J. B. Sac Venoy, King.	R. Haywood, P. S.
John Fife, Scribe.	Wm. D. Baldwin, R. A. C.

Twelve members—annual contribution, eighteen dollars, paid.

MARION CHAPTER—MARION, PERRY COUNTY.

O. G. Eiland, H. P.	J. C. Harrell, R. A. C.
N. W. Fletcher, King.	E. W. King, Tr.
W. H. Watson, Scribe.	Jno. F. Thompson, Sec'y.
A. B. W. Hopkins, C. H.	A. J. Armstead, Sentinel.
J. P. Cravens, P. S.	

Twenty-four members—annual contribution, fifty-eight dollars, paid.

LEIGHTON CHAPTER, LEIGHTON.

J. C. Hicks, H. P.	J. S. Peters, R. A. C.
W. Leigh, King.	Jno S. Napier, P. S.
J. W. Baker, Scribe.	Warren Hooks, Sentinel.
A. K. Ellett, C. H. and Sec'y.	

GAINESVILLE CHAPTER, GAINESVILLE.

G. Little, H. P.	W. Elliott, P. S.
W. Little, King.	S. Little, Tr.
B. Little, Scribe.	J. C. Whitsett, Sec'y.
W. W. Payne, C. H.	J. Pollard, Sentinel.

Twenty-six members—annual contribution, fifty-six dollars.
paid.

WETUMPKA CHAPTER, WETUMPKA.

A. A. McWhorter, H. P.	Wm. S. Morgan, R. A. C.
W. J. Couch, King.	J. M. Friout, Tr.
J. P. Pond, Scribe.	W. J. Campbell, Sec'y.
A. B. Dawson, C. H.	E. Roberts, Sentinel.
S. A. Billing, P. S.	

Twenty-one members—annual contribution, thirty-nine dollars, paid.

HAYNEVILLE CHAPTER, HAYNEVILLE.

J. L. F. Cottrell, H. P.	C. T. Oliver, R. A. C.
G. W. Esselman, King.	W. W. Holman, Tr.
Geo. B. Whitfield, Scribe.	A. Varner, Sec'y.
J. A. Elmore, C. H.	John Scott, Sentinel.
E. W. Thompson, P. S.	

Fifteen members.

FORM FOR ANNUAL RETURN

Annual Report of _____ Chapter, No. _____, to the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama, for the year 18—.

Names.	Masonic Grades.	Advanced.	Presided.	Accepted.	Exalted.	Rejected, Suspended and Expelled.	With-drawn and Dead.	Dues to G. Chapter.	Remarks.

Attested, and Seal affixed
 [L. S.] *this—day of— A. D.—*
A. L.—, R. A. M.—.
—, Secretary.

I certify that the above is a correct annual report of—
 Chapter, No.—, held at the town of—in the county of—
 for the year ending at present date.

—, H. P.

CONSTITUTION

We, the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, in the State of Alabama, in the preceding resolutions mentioned, created and established by the authority of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, by, and with the consent of the said General Grand Chapter, have agreed to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Alabama; and being duly represented by our respective delegates, (or their proxies fully empowered) convened at Mobile, on the 2d day of June, 1827, pursuant to public notice, and the powers vested in us by the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, for the purpose of insuring good order, promoting harmony, and supporting brotherly union—advancing the interest of pure Masonry—perpetuating, and handing down to posterity its beneficial principles—for diffusing Masonic instruction, and inculcating good morals among the craftsmen—and for regulating their labors by one uniform standard—do ordain and declare the following articles to be the Constitution of this Grand Chapter; subject to no alteration or amendment, unless altered and amended as hereinafter described.

ARTICLE I.

SEC. 1. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama, shall consist of a Grand High Priest, a Deputy Grand High Priest, a Grand King, a Grand Scribe, a Grand Secretary, a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Chaplain, and two Grand Marshals, and the Past Grand High Priests, Past Deputy Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, and Past Grand Scribes, together with the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the *time being*, of all subordinate Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, (or their legal proxies, duly empowered) who only shall be members and voters in this Grand Chapter.

SEC. 2. All Masters and Wardens of Mark Masters Lodges, or their proxies, within this jurisdiction, and holding warrants under this Grand Chapter, shall be entitled to a seat, and be lawful voters in the same at all times when opened in the Mark Masters degree; and then to represent their respective Lodges, and to transact any business in their behalf, as fully as the members in the first section hereof named, are entitled to do in any degree; any thing above mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 3. The Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter, shall be annually elected by a majority of the ballots in open Chapter, and the companion having a majority of votes for any of the offices aforesaid, shall be declared duly elected.

SEC. 4. Each Subordinate Chapter shall be entitled to three votes on all questions, and no more, whether represented by one or more companions; each permanent or standing member hereof, shall have one vote, and the Grand High Priest two votes, when the number of votes happen to be equal, otherwise he shall have but one vote; and no companion or brother can represent more than one Chapter or Lodge at the same time.

SEC. 5. Every companion who shall offer himself as proxy for any High Priest, King, or Scribe of any Chapter, or any brother who shall offer himself as a proxy for any Master, or Warden of any Mark Masters Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, before he or they shall be permitted to take a seat as such, shall produce to the Grand Secretary his warrant of appointment, signed by the officer whom he represents.

SEC. 6. In case of the death or absence of any of the said officers, the Chapter or Lodge whereof he was an officer, may authorize any companion or brother in regular standing, in any Chapter or Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, to represent them as aforesaid, as fully as such deceased or absent officer might have done were he alive or present, by a resolution of said Chapter or Lodge, which shall be certified by the Secretary thereof; and he shall also certify the death or absence of such officer, upon the back or margin of the same resolution.

ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. As the institution of Masonry acknowledges revealed religion, and inculcates the devout worship of the supreme High Priest, whose creatures we are, and by whose bounty we subsist, and one whose mercy we ought always humbly to depend for present prosperity and future happiness; and being thus dependent, it well becomes us to acknowledge our obligations for his beneficence, to invoke his blessing, and return our thanks with heartfelt gratitude in all humility for favors received; therefore, after the opening of this Grand Chapter, and before any business shall be proceeded upon, a suitable address may be made to the Deity by the Grand Chaplain, (if present) and the same be followed by an appropriate address to the members present, unless dispensed with by order of the Grand Chapter.

SEC. 2. The Grand Chapter shall not have power to proceed to the election of officers, or any other business, unless to open and adjourn, except there be present the representatives of at least two regular Chapters, and not then until the second day, which shall be a sufficient number at all times to form a Grand Chapter.

SEC. 3. For the convenience of the Mark Masters Lodges, this Grand Chapter may at some time during its session, be opened in the Mark degree, and continue open until the whole of the business of that degree shall be completed for that session.

SEC. 4. The monies paid into the funds of the Grand Chapter, being to defray the necessary expenses in the administration of its government, and to support the dignity and respectability thereof, and also for charitable purposes; it is therefore declared, that no disbursements shall be made unless by a vote of the Grand Chapter; and it is further declared, that each member of the Grand Chapter, shall be entitled to receive from the funds thereof, two dollars per day for his travel in going to and returning from the Grand Chapter, computing forty miles travel per day, two dollars per day for his actual attendance. *Provided nevertheless, that each Chapter shall re-*

ceive pay for the travel and attendance of one member only; and every permanent member shall be entitled to receive the like sum as aforesaid: *Provided however*, That no member or proxy residing within twenty miles of the place where the Grand Chapter may sit, shall receive any compensation during the period that the Grand Chapter sits in the city or town in which the respective members reside.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. This Grand Chapter being the highest source of legitimate Masonic authority, and only subject to the obligations contained in the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States of America, can, and of right ought to have the government and superintendence of all Chapters and Mark Masters Lodges within its jurisdiction—it therefore may grant warrants and dispensations for constituting Royal Arch Chapters, Lodges of Most Excellent Masters, Past Masters, and Mark Masters; it may make laws, pass regulations, and at pleasure repeal, amend or alter the same; it may censure, suspend or expel Chapters, Lodges, or members, for violation or disobedience of its laws, regulations or rules; and in order that harmony may exist among the Chapters now holden in this jurisdiction, as regards their numbers and standing, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, to ascertain the dates of the different charters and dispensations, and to issue (according to seniority) new charters, or endorse the old ones with the proper number—the form to be devised by the said Grand High Priest, and the numbers to be registered by the Grand Secretary—the charters to be written or printed on parchment, and the expense of the same to be paid by the Grand Chapter.

SEC. 2. All Royal Arch Chapters or Lodges of Most Excellent Masters, Past Masters, or Mark Masters, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, which have not already acknowledged the authority thereof, and subscribed to its government, shall do the same within one year from the 4th day of July

next; or be considered, by this Grand Chapter, and all subordinate Chapters, and Lodges, as acting contrary to the true principles of Masonry, and working without constitutional authority, and be deprived of all benefit of Masonic intercourse with either this Grand Chapter, or any Chapter, or Lodge under its jurisdiction, or with individual members of the same—and to carry the same into effect, all Chapters, and Lodges, as before mentioned, and under this jurisdiction, as well as all members thereof, are hereby strictly charged and forbidden, holding any masonic intercourse with any such offending Chapters, Lodges, or members, after the 4th day of July, 1828, under the penalty of forfeiting the rights and privileges of Masonry under this Grand Chapter.

SEC. 3. No warrant shall be granted by the Grand Chapter, for the creation of any Royal Arch Chapter, unless upon the petition of at least nine regular Royal Arch Masons, directed to this Grand Chapter, praying that a warrant may issue to authorize the creating of a new Chapter; which said petition shall be recommended by the Chapter nearest to the place where the same new Chapter is to be created; and which said recommendation shall vouch that the petitioners are all Royal Arch Masons, in good standing as such, and that they are men of good morals, and of fair reputation—and the petitioners shall pay, upon the granting of the said warrant, the sum of one hundred dollars, and Secretary's fees, for a warrant for the degrees of Royal Arch, Most Excellent Master, Past Master, and Mark Master Masons.

SEC. 4. No warrant shall issue for the purpose of erecting a Mark Masters Lodge, unless upon the petition of at least seven respectable Mark Master Masons, recommended as in section last aforesaid; and also, upon the payment of the sum of forty-five dollars, and Secretary's fees.

SEC. 5. The Grand High Priest, and Deputy Grand High Priest, during the recess of this Grand Chapter, shall have power and authority to grant dispensations for holding Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, Lodges of Most Excellent Masters, Past Masters, and Mark Masters, on a regular application to

either of them for that purpose, accompanied with the same number of petitioners, and recommended in all cases as would be necessary to obtain a warrant for either of those purposes, and on paying the same sum or sums of money therefor; such dispensation, when granted, shall be as valid as a warrant could be, until the next annual meeting of the Grand Chapter, at which time it shall be the duty of the officer granting the same, to make a report in writing to the Grand Chapter, of his doing thereon; pay over the money received by him for said dispensation into the hands of the Secretary, and produce the petition and other documents accompanying the same—whereupon it shall be the duty of the Grand Chapter to confirm the power of said Chapter, or Lodge, by granting them a warrant, or annul the same by their special act; in which last case the said petitioners shall receive back such sum or sums of money, which they have heretofore paid, after deducting the sum of ten dollars for the expense of granting the dispensation.

SEC. 6. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, holding under this Grand Chapter, shall pay into the funds thereof the following sums to-wit:—For the exaltation of every companion to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, the sum of two dollars; and for every member thereof, the annual sum of one dollar, and every Mark Masters Lodge, (whereto there is not a Chapter attached) shall pay into the funds of this Grand Chapter, for every brother advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason, the sum of one dollar; and for every member, the annual sum of one dollar, which said several sums, shall be punctually paid during the session of this Grand Chapter, at their regular annual meeting thereafter; and every Chapter, or Lodge, which shall neglect or refuse to pay said sums at the times aforesaid, and continue so to refuse or neglect, without good reason shown to the satisfaction of a majority of the members present, of this Grand Chapter, until the next regular session thereof, shall be deemed the violators of this Constitution, and unwholesome members of this Grand body, and shall therefor be punished by forfeiture of their warrant,

and expulsion from this Grand Chapter, and only restored by paying up all dues, and a sufficient and satisfactory apology for the breach of good rules.

SEC. 7. And for the better carrying the preceding section into effect, the Grand Secretary shall, on the last day of the session of this Grand Chapter, inform the same, what Chapters or Lodges are deficient, and how long they have been so, in the payment of their dues as aforesaid, that the Grand Chapter may make such order thereon, as the members thereof shall deem right.

SEC. 8. The Treasurer, and Secretary, previous to entering upon the duties of their offices, shall give bond and security in the sum of one thousand dollars, for the faithful disbursement of all monies which may come into their hands.

SEC. 9. The Grand Secretary shall be entitled to the sum of ten dollars for every charter issued by this Grand Chapter; and the sum of five dollars for every dispensation so issued; and one dollar for indorsing a charter, and such other compensation as the Grand Chapter may allow.

SEC. 10. The Grand Tyler shall be entitled to the sum of three dollars per day, for his attendance on the communications of this Grand Chapter.

SEC. 11. The Grand Chapter may annually appoint one or more discreet and well informed Royal Arch Masons, Grand Visitors; whose duty it shall be, if required by any Chapter, or Lodge, belonging to this Grand body, to visit such Chapter, or Lodge, and instruct them in the lectures of the degrees which they have taken, and the mode of work—and such Chapter, or Lodge, shall pay such visitor a reasonable compensation for the same.

SEC. 12. Whereas it is of essential importance, that the mode of working in the several Chapters under this jurisdiction, should be uniformly the same—therefore, the better to accomplish this desirable object, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, or presiding officer for the time being, to give, or cause to be given, the Royal Arch, and Mark Master lectures, at least once at every general communication of this

Grand Chapter; so that the officers of the several Chapters, and Lodges, may become acquainted with the same, and dispense a knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters, and Lodges.

SEC. 13. No person shall be permitted to sit in this Grand Chapter, as a visitor, without the unanimous consent of all the members present.

SEC. 14. The Grand High Priest, or his deputy, shall have power to convene the members thereof, at any place they may think proper to appoint, whenever either of them shall for any special purpose deem it necessary, by giving sufficient notice thereof to the Grand Secretary in writing, whose duty it shall be to give immediate information to all the subordinate Chapters, and private members under the jurisdiction thereof, by mail or otherwise, as he may deem most sure of conveying timely notice.

SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. A Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of a High Priest, a King, and a Scribe, Captain of the Host, a Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of the Veils, a Secretary, and Treasurer, and as many members as may be found convenient, not less than nine regular Royal Arch Masons, including the officers—and no Chapter shall be opened in the degree of Royal Arch, without that number—and every Mark Masters Lodge shall consist of a Master, a Senior, and Junior Warden, a Secretary, and Treasurer, and shall never be opened without the number of seven regular Mark Master Masons present—and no Chapter, or Lodge can be held under this jurisdiction, without a warrant or endorsement from this Grand Chapter.

SEC. 2. That the election of officers in all Chapters, or Lodges, under this jurisdiction, shall take place at such times as the said Chapters may direct..

SEC. 3. All applications for the advancement or exaltation of candidates, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, shall be made in writing, referred to a committee, and lie over at least one meeting, in order that a report may be received from such committee, and they shall severally pay for advancement or exaltation the following fees: For the degree of Mark Master, not less than Ten Dollars; for that of Past Master, Five Dollars; for the degree of Most Excellent Master, not less than Five Dollars; and that of Royal Arch, not less than Twenty Dollars.

SEC. 4. Every Chapter and Lodge holden under this Grand Chapter, shall have a seal—the device thereof to be made at the pleasure of the persons for whom it shall be made, and shall be engraven with the name of the Chapter or Lodge aforesaid, and the number thereof in figures or numerical letters—an impression of which said seal shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary, and the device of the same described in writing in a book, to be kept by him for that purpose—and no papers or documents, presented to this Grand Chapter, as credentials, or evidence, from any such Chapter or Lodge, shall be deemed legal, unless there is a sufficient similarity between the impression thereof and the one deposited as aforesaid, to be determined by the Grand Secretary; or in case of doubt, or controversy on the subject, to be determined by a majority of the members present.

SEC. 5. It being the duty of every Chapter and Mark Masters Lodge, belonging to this grand body, to be represented at an early period of each session thereof, in order to support its respectability, and to become informed of all the proceedings and doings, and to aid by their wisdom in the deliberations and councils, that the general interest may be advanced, good order prevail, and the true state of every branch of this Grand Chapter well understood: It is therefore, hereby declared, that an omission of a duty so important to the well

being of this institution, deserves severe censure; it is therefore, hereby strongly enjoined, on all such persons, to be prompt in the performance of the duties aforesaid; to be early at the said session, with their returns of the officers, members, and dues of the respective Chapters and Lodges aforesaid.

SEC. 6. If any companion or brother, of any Chapter or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, shall be guilty of a Masonic misdemeanor, by breaking the rules and regulations thereof, or by betraying the trust reposed in him, The Chapter or Lodge to which such offender may belong, (but in case he belongs to no Chapter or Lodge, he may be called on by the Chapter, or Lodge, having cognizance thereof,) shall have full power of punishing the same by reprimand, suspension, or expulsion, as they may deem proper; but, if by expulsion, the nature of the offense, with a copy of the proceedings thereon, shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary without delay, who shall lay the same before the Grand Chapter at their next meeting, who shall ratify or annul the same: *Provided always*, the person so offending, and being expelled, feeling himself aggrieved thereby, shall have the privilege of an appeal to this Grand Chapter, if in session, and during the recess to the Grand High Priest, or his deputy, who shall appoint a committee to investigate the facts in the proceedings, and make report at the next meeting thereof; which shall have the power of restoring him to the general privileges of Masonry, but not to membership within the body from which he has been expelled, without their own consent; nor can there be a dispensation in this case; for every Masonic Body ought to have the power of determining its own members, for the better maintenance of harmony and good order therein.

SEC. 7. That no candidate residing in or near any city or town, where a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or a Lodge of Mark Master Masons is holden under this jurisdiction, shall be exalted or advanced in any Chapter or Lodge, in any other place, without a recommendation from the Chapter or Lodge nearest the place where said candidate may reside.

SEC. 8. That no candidate whose application may be rejected in any Chapter or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, shall be exalted or advanced in any other Chapter, or Lodge, which shall have received official notice of such rejection, without an appeal to the Grand Chapter.

SEC. 9. That no Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted as a member or visitor in any Royal Arch Chapter, under this jurisdiction, unless he shall have regularly received the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

SEC. 10. That whenever a warrant shall be issued to authorize the holding a Chapter, and in the same to hold a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters, Past Masters, and Mark Master Masons, the High Priest, King, and Scribe, shall, *ex officio*, be the Master and Wardens of said Lodge.

SEC. 11. No Chapter shall be removed without the knowledge of the High Priest, nor any motion made for the purpose in his absence; but if the High Priest be present, and a motion is made and seconded for removing the Chapter to some more convenient place, (within the limits prescribed in the warrant,) the High Priest shall immediately cause notification to be issued to all the members, informing them of the motion for removal, and the time and place where the question will be determined, which shall be issued at least ten days previous to the appointed meeting; but, if the High Priest, after motion duly made as aforesaid, should refuse, or neglect, to cause the notices to be issued as aforesaid, the officer next in rank, who may be present at the next regular meeting following, upon motion duly made for that purpose, may in like manner issue the said notice.

SEC. 12. Whenever a warrant shall issue to authorize the holding a new Chapter, the same shall be installed by the Grand High Priest, or the Deputy Grand High Priest, unless when the distance is such that they, or either of them, cannot conveniently attend—in which case they, or either of them may appoint some capable High Priest, or Past High Priest of a

Chapter, by a dispensation under their hands and seals, or the hand and seal of either of them, to perform the services aforesaid—and the installation of Mark Master's Lodges shall be done in the same manner, excepting a dispensation may be granted in like manner to any Master or Past Master of a Mark Lodge, although a High Priest, or Past High Priest is to be preferred; and the form of installation in those cases shall be agreeable to that directed by the General Grand Constitution.

SEC. 13. Every Chapter, or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, ought to assemble at least once in three months, for the purpose of perfecting themselves in working in their respective degrees; and such as shall not meet for the space of nine months, shall forfeit all their privileges under this Grand Chapter; and the name of their warrant shall be struck from the record of the same, unless some sufficient reason be offered to induce a forbearance.

SEC. 14. The Grand Chapter next to assemble at Tuscaloosa, shall determine on the mode of altering or amending this Constitution: *Provided*, two-thirds of the members present concur therein.

SEC. 15. The officers of every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, before they enter upon the exercise of their respective offices, and also the members of all such Chapters and Lodges, and every candidate upon his admission into the same, shall take the following obligation, viz: "I, A. B. do promise and swear, that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama."

RULES OF ORDER.

1st. Every member of this Grand Chapter, must, previous to taking his seat as such at the communications, clothe himself with the badges appertaining to his station.

2d. No member shall speak more than twice upon one subject, without permission from the presiding officer for the time being.

3d. The mode of appointing committees shall be as follows, viz:—in case of a committee of three, the presiding officer for the time being, may have the sole appointment, but larger committees may be appointed by the Grand Chapter; and it is hereby made the duty of the Grand Secretary, to furnish a correct list of the members of this Grand Chapter, for the benefit of the same.

4th. All resolutions shall be reduced to writing; the member making the same shall read it in his place, and present it to the presiding officer.

5th. In case of the expulsion of any member of this Grand Chapter, or of any Chapter, or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, it shall require two-thirds of the members present.

6th. No member shall interrupt the presiding officer, or any other member, while speaking.

7th. Every member shall stand when he speaks, and shall at all times address himself to the presiding officer for the time being.

8th. No member or visitor shall retire during the communication of the Grand Chapter, without permission of the presiding officer.

9th. If any member of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall be guilty of disorderly behavior, he shall for the first offense be called to order; for the second, reprimanded by the presiding officer; for the third, he shall be suspended from a seat in this Grand Chapter, during the pleasure of the same; and all questions of order are to be decided by the presiding Grand Officers.

The above rules having been read and separately adopted, it was now

Unanimously resolved, That they form the Constitution of this Grand Chapter.

