

1850
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1850 / A.I. 2380

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PROCEEDINGS
AT THE
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,
HELD IN THE
CITY OF MONTGOMERY,
DECEMBER, 1850.

AMAND P. PFISTER, GRAND SECRETARY.
MONTGOMERY.

MONTGOMERY :
BOOK AND JOB OFFICE OF THE ADVERTISER AND GAZETTE.
1851.

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STATE OF ALABAMA

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PROCEEDINGS.

MONTGOMERY, December 2, 1850.

The Grand Chapter of Alabama convened today, according to the provisions of the Constitution, in the city of Montgomery, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

PRESENT:

M. E. WM. HENDRIX, Grand High Priest.
 E. RUFUS GREENE, Dep. Grand High Priest.
 E. WM. P. CHILTON, Grand King.
 E. J. R. CLARK, Grand Scribe.
 E. N. E. BENSON, Grand Treasurer.
 E. AMAND P. PFISTER, Grand Secretary.
 E. WILEY BURGESS, Grand Chaplain.
 E. DAVID HARTWELL, Grand Lecturer.
 E. THOS. C. HARTWELL, }
 E. WM. A. FERRELL, } Grand Marshals.
 THOS. McDOUGALL, Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

N. E. BENSON, G. H. P.
 J. McCALEB WILEY, Dep. G. H. P.
 SYD. SMITH, G. K.
 WM. A. FERRELL, G. K.

CHAPTERS REPRESENTED.

No.	Chapter.	Location.	Representative.	Office.
4	Monroe,	Claiborne,	R. C. Torrey,	H. P.
			J. M. Lindsey,*	K.
			A. J. Henshaw,	S.
5	Eunomia,	Huntsville,	Amand P. Pfister,*	H. P.
			David Hartwell,*	K.
9	Clinton,	Athens,	Jas. M. Brundidge,*	H. P.
11	Phoenix,	Greensbooro,	John McCormick,*	H. P.

12	Marion,	Marion,	Porter King,*	H. P.
			Charles Savarey,*	S.
13	Gainesville,	Gainesville,	Wm. H. Dandridge,	S.
15	Hayneville,	Hayneville,	Wm. H. Crocheron,	H. P.
			William Barry,	K.
			J. M. Saddler,*	S.
17	Wetumpka,	Wetumpka,	A. J. Terrell,*	H. P.
			C. M. Jennings,	S.
18	Jameston,	Warsaw,	Wm. Little,*	H. P.
			Milo Abercrombie,*	K.
			Durret White,*	S.
21	Mobile	Mobile,	Oliver S. Beers,*	H. P.
			Edmund Harrison,*	K.
22	Montgomery,	Montgomery,	Thomas Harrison,	H. P.
			E. M. Hastings,	K.
			Thos. McDougall,*	S.
23	Talladega,	Talladega,	S. H. Dixon,	H. P.
			John M. Moore,*	K.
24	Eufaula,	Eufaula,	Thomas Robinson,*	H. P.
			J. H. Danforth,	K.
26	Union,	Woodville,	James L. Price,	H. P.
27	Dayton,	Dayton,	E. D. Connor,	H. P.
			John H. Prince,*	K.
28	St. Johns	Selma,	S. R. Wright,*	H. P.
			W. A. Taylor,	K.
			Wm. Waddell, Jr.,*	S.
29	Eureka,	Lowndesboro,	Y. W. Graves,	H. P.
			Wm. Graves,	K.
			J. G. Rodgers,	S.
30	James Penn,	Jacksonville,	John R. Clark,	H. P.
			John N. Young,*	K.
			Wm. Johnson,*	S.
31	Pr. Friens'p,	Benton,	O. P. King,	H. P.
			John Adams,	K.
			Josiah Blackman,	S.
32	Liberty,	Fulton,	William H. Norris,	H. P.

33	Autauga,	Vernon,	E. T. Robinson,	K.
34	Hermon,	Union Spr'gs,	A. A. Stewart,	H. P.
35	Jas. L. Daniel	Glennville,	John M. White,*	H. P.
36	Pickensville,	Pickensville,	D. A. Walker,	H. P.
			John T. McCune,*	K.
37	Concord,	LaFayette,	R. P. Bragaw,*	H. P.
39	Turnbull,	Turnbull,	G. Longmire,	K.
40	Camden,	Camden,	J. G. Blythewood,	H. P.
			W. C. Gilmore,	S.
41	Washington,	Summerfield,	P. R. McCrary,	H. P.
42	Macon,	Auburn,	J. W. W. Drake,	H. P.
			Patrick H. Drake,	K.
			W. G. Swanson,	S.
43	Tuskegee,	Tuskegee,	Wm. P. Chilton,	H. P.
			S. B. Paine,	K.
			David Clopton,	S.
44	Rufus Greene	Butler,	S. E. Catterlin,*	H. P.
45	Dadeville,	Dadeville,	E. J. Havis,	K.
46	Jerusalem,	New Prospect,	Wm. A. Ferrill,	H. P.
48	McKinley,	McKinley,	H. C. McCall,	S.
49	Hope,	Bridgeville,	Wiley Burgess,	H. P.
			Thomas J. Clarke,*	K.
50	Sumterville,	Sumterville,	L. H. Anderson,	H. P.
			J. C. Jones,	S.
51	Franklin,	Sparta,	H. F. Sterns,	H. P.

*Proxy.

The Grand Chapter was opened in due form.

The M. E. Grand High Priest submitted the following Annual Address, which was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes:

ADDRESS.

Officers and Companions of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama:

Twelve months have elapsed since our last meeting, during which period many of our beloved companions have been taken

from amongst us. It is a source of no inconsiderable degree of pleasure to me to meet so many of my companions at this time; and we should bow ourselves in humble gratitude to the Grand High Priest of the Universe, that whilst the grim monster Death has made so fearful inroads in our State, we are spared as monuments of Divine goodness.

In accordance with my duty, I shall proceed to lay before you a succinct account of my official acts during the past year. As G. H. P. of this Grand Chapter, I attended the session of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, held in the city of Boston on the second Tuesday of September last, and represented, with what ability I possessed, the interest of this Grand Chapter. I regretted much at not having the pleasure of meeting and receiving the aid of the counsel and advice of other Grand officers. As to the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, I would refer you to the printed minutes of that body; and would respectfully recommend that the same be read in open Chapter. In addition to the printed minutes, some slight alterations were made in the Work, which I will communicate at the proper time to this Grand Chapter.

During the past year I have granted dispensations to form the following named Chapters: Jerusalem, No. 46, New Prospect, Greene county, William A. Ferrell, H. P., W. G. Sadler, King, C. Dowling, Scribe; Newbern, No. 47, at Newbern, Greene county, J. G. Huckabee, H. P., W. T. Herndon, King, J. T. Whitset, Scribe; McKinley, No. 48, at McKinley, Marengo county, F. G. Lowry, H. P., John F. Jones, King, H. C. McCall, Scribe; Hope, No. 49, at Hope postoffice, Pickens county, J. P. Cravins, H. P., Wiley Burgess, King, L. B. Stephenson, Scribe; Sumterville, No. 50, at Sumterville, Sumter county, L. H. Anderson, H. P., J. C. Gillespie, King, J. Cross Jones, Scribe; Franklin, No. 51, at Sparta, Conecuh county, H. F. Sterns, H. P., A. Perryman, King, A. J. Robertson, Scribe. The fees for the above dispensations are in the hands of the Grand Secretary. It affords me great pleasure to communicate to this Grand Chapter that while a few of the old Chapters are

more lukewarm than is desirable, the Chapters generally, and especially the younger ones, evince a very commendable zeal.

I hope, companions, that our proceedings may be characterized by that harmony which should ever distinguish Masonic assemblies, and that a due and proper consideration may be given to all measures brought before this Grand Chapter.

The report of the Grand Secretary was read, received and referred.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Alabama reports that during the recess of the Grand Chapter, the order of R. A. Masonry has kept up with the most sanguine desires of companions thereof. Six new Chapters have been instituted, viz:

Jerusalem Chapter, No. 46, at New Prospect, Greene county;

Newbern Chapter, No. 47, at Newbern, Greene county;

McKinley Chapter, No. 48, at McKinley, Marengo county;

Hope Chapter, No. 49, at Bridgeville, Pickens county;

Sumterville Chapter, No. 50, at Sumterville, Sumter county;

Franklin Chapter, No. 51, at Sparta, Conecuh county.

The funds which have passed through his office is as follows:

Amount contributions for 1849-----	\$483 50
Back contributions, Liberty Chapter-----	7 00
Six Dispensations issued-----	540 00
Amount balance remaining in contingent fund-----	162 08

\$1,192 58

Which amount has been paid to the Grand Treasurer. His account current, exhibits and vouchers accompany this report.

Which are fraternally submitted.

AMAND P. PEISTER,

Montgomery, Dec. 3, 1850.

Cash received since the adjournment of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, 1849:

1850.

Back contributions Liberty Chapter, No. 32-----	\$ 7 00
July 20. Dispensation Jerusalem Chapter, No. 46-----	90 00
Dispensation Newbern Chapter, No. 47-----	90 00
Dispensation McKinley Chapter, No. 48-----	90 00
Dispensation Hope Chapter, No. 49-----	90 00
Oct. 9. Dispensation Sumterville Chapter, No. 50-----	90 00
Oct. 11. Dispensation Franklin Chapter, No. 51-----	90 00
	\$547 00

Montgomery, December 2, 1850.

DR. AMAND P. PFISTER, Grand Secretary, in account current with the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

1849.

Dec. 4. To cash for annual contributions, 1849----- \$483 50

1850.

To cash for back contributions Liberty Chapter -----	7 00
Oct. 11. To cash for six Dispensations-----	540 00
To amount brought from contingent fund---	162 08
	\$1,192 58

CONTRA CR.

By cash paid Grand Treasurer-----\$1,192.58

AMAND P. PFISTER.

Montgomery, December 3, 1850.

CONVOCATION 1849.

Amount of cash received for contribution Subordinate Chapters.

No. 1, Tuscaloosa --\$11 50--	No. 4, Monroe ---\$13 00--	\$24 50
No. 5, Eunomia ---- 12 50--	No. 6, Cyrus ---- 13 50--	26 00
No. 9, Clinton ----- 11 50--	No. 10, Tuscumbia 16 50--	23 00

No. 11, Phoenix	-----	12 50	No. 12, Marion	---	17 00	29 00
No. 13, Gainesville	--	7 50	No. 15, Hayneville	-	16 00	23 50
No. 17, Wetumpka	--	19 00	No. 18, Jameston	-	7 50	26 50
No. 19, Mt. Moriah	--	8 00	No. 20, Livingston	-	9 50	17 50
No. 21, Mobile	-----	26 00	No. 22, Montgom'y	-	22 50	48 50
No. 23, Talladega	---	12 00	No. 24, Eufaula	--	14 00	26 00
No. 25, Courtland	---	8 00	No. 26, Union	----	17 50	25 50
No. 27, Dayton	-----	18 00	No. 28, St. Johns	-	20 50	38 50
No. 29, Eureka	-----	12 50	No. 30, Jas. Penn	-	13 50	26 00
No. 31, P. Friend'p	--	11 50	No. 33, Autauga	--	11 00	22 50
No. 34, Hermon	-----	12 50	No. 35, J. L. Daniel	-	10 50	23 00
No. 36, Pick'nsville	-	12 50	No. 37, Concord	--	15 50	28 00
No. 38, Decatur	-----	8 50	No. 39, Turnbull	--	6 50	15 00
No. 40, Camden	-----	12 50	No. 41, Washing'n	-	7 00	19 50
No. 42, Macon	-----	10 50	No. 43, Tuskegee	-	10 50	21 00
No. 44, R. Greene	---	8 50	No. 45, Dadeville	-	6 50	15 00

\$483 50

Contingent Fund in account with the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

1849.

Dec. 3. To balance in contingent fund reported	-----	\$ 90 88
Dec. 7. To amount appropriated	-----	200 00

\$290 88

CONTRA CR.

By cash paid Grand Sentinel, No. 1	-----	\$ 12 00
By cash paid Printing proceedings, No. 2	-----	87 50
By cash paid Postage bill, No. 3	-----	12 30
By cash paid Stationery, No. 4	-----	14 00
By cash paid Subscription Moore's Magazine and binding, No. 5	-----	3 00
By cash refunded in general account	-----	162 08
	-----	\$290 88

AMAND P. PFISTER,

Grand Secretary.

Montgomery, December 3, 1850.

The report of the Grand Treasurer was read and referred :

DR. The Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama in account with N. E. Benson, Grand Treasurer, from the first Tuesday in December, 1849, to the first Tuesday in December, 1850.

1849.

Dec. 4. To balance brought forward----- \$691 63

1850.

Dec. 3. Received from Grand Secretary----- 1,192 58
 ----- \$1,864 21

CONTRA CR.

1849.

Dec. 29. Amount paid Thos. McDougall----- \$ 20 00

1850.

Jan. 28. Amount paid Comp. W. Compton--- 8 50

Jan. 28. Amount paid Comp. W. Compton--- 200 00

July 22. Amount paid G. H. P.----- 200 00

Dec. 20. Amount paid A. P. Pfister----- 200 00

Dec. 2. Amount paid for jewels----- 25 00

Amount paid Contingent fund----- 200 00

----- \$853 50

Balance in cash----- \$1,010 71

Which is respectfully submitted.

N. E. BENSON, Grand Treasurer.

On motion of Comp. Benson,

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated to G. H. P. Comp. Hendrix, in payment of his expenses to the triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter, held in the city of Boston last September.

On motion of Comp. Benson,

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty cents, the amount of Comp. Syd. Smith's note, be appropriated to the Masonic Institute at Dayton.

Which motion was laid on the table.

On motion of Comp. Norris,

Resolved, That the name of Liberty Chapter, No. 32, be changed to Fulton Chapter, No. 32.

Bro. Pfister read a letter from sundry companions, forming a committee from Leighton Chapter, No. 14, praying that said Chapter be permitted to renew its charter, it being delinquent since 1847; which was referred to the Committee on Chartered Chapters.

A memorial from sundry companions of Autauga Chapter, No. 33, praying that the location of said Chapter be changed from Vernon to Autaugaville; which prayer was granted.

On motion,

Resolved, That the following committees be appointed:

On Accounts;

On Chartered Chapters;

On Dispensations;

On Education;

On By-Laws;

On Foreign Correspondence.

On motion of Comp. Wiley,

Resolved, That thirty days be granted to Talladega Chapter, No. 23, to perfect returns.

The Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until tomorrow, 3 o'clock, P. M.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4, 1850—3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Chapter was called to labor.

PRESENT:

M. E. WM. HENDRIX, G. H. P.
E. RUFUS GREENE, Dep. G. H. P.
E. WM. P. CHILTON, G. K.
E. J. R. CLARK, G. Scribe.
E. REV. WILEY BURGESS, G. Chaplain.
E. DAVID HARTWELL, G. Lecturer.
E. NIMROD E. BENSON, G. Treasurer.
E. AMAND P. PFISTER, G. Secretary.
E. T. C. HARTWELL, }
E. WM. A. FERRELL, } G. Marshals.
THOS. McDOUGALL, G. Sentinel.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

Minutes read and approved.

The following committees were announced:

On Accounts—Comps. Waddell, Thomas Harrison, Beers, Havis and Crocheron.

On Chartered Chapters—Comps. Ferrell, D. A. Walker, Terrell, Blythewood, Prince.

On Dispensations—Comps. Norris, Y. W. Graves, E. T. Robinson, Stewart and O. P. King.

On Education—Comps. Chilton, S. R. Wright, McCrary, J. H. Moore, Connor.

On By-Laws—Comps. Dandridge, Henshaw, Rogers, Longmire, Paine.

On Foreign Correspondence—Comps. Torrey, James L. Price, David Clopton, Dixon, Danforth.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand officers for the ensuing twelve months:

- M. E. RUFUS GREENE, of Mobile, Grand H. P.
 E. WM. P. CHILTON, of Tuskegee, Dep. Grand H. P.
 E. JOHN R. CLARK, of Alexandria, Grand King.
 E. SYD. SMITH, of Dayton, Grand Scribe.
 E. E. M. HASTINGS, of Montgomery, Grand Treasurer.
 E. AMAND P. PFISTER, of Montgomery, Grand Secretary.
 E. Rev. S. R. WRIGHT, of Selma, Grand Chaplain.
 E. T. C. HARTWELL, Lowndesboro, { G. Marshals.
 E. OLIVER S. BEERS, of Mobile, {
 E. THOS. HARRISON, of Montgomery, Grand Lecturer.
 THOS. McDUGALL, Montgomery, Grand Sentinel.

The following appointments were made by the M. E. G. H. P.:

Sidney B. Paine, of Tuskegee-----P. S.
 E. D. Connor, of Dayton----- { G. { 3 {
 R. C. Torrey, of Claiborne----- { { 2 { Veils.
 S. H. Dixon, of Talladega----- { M's { 1 {

The Grand Chapter was called from labor until tomorrow 3 o'clock P. M.

THURSDAY, Dec. 5—3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor.

Present—M. E. Wm. Hendrix, G. H. P., presiding.

Grand Officers at their several stations.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to install the officers elect.

The following Chapters were reported delinquent:

Cyrus	No. 6	Livingston	No. 21
Tuscumbia	No. 10	Courtland	No. 25
Leighton	No. 14	Decatur	No. 38
Mt. Moriah	No. 19	Newbern	No. 47

Moved that the above Chapters have fifty days to make returns, &c.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISPENSATIONS.

Comp. Norris, from the Committee on Chapters under Dispensations, reported the following, which was concurred in:

The Committee on Dispensations, to whom were referred the proceedings of Sumterville Chapter, No. 50, Hope Chapter No. 49, McKinley Chapter, No. 48, beg leave to report, that they have examined the same, and find in the proceedings of Sumterville Chapter many errors and informalities, such as receiving petitions and acting upon them without referring the same, or without making them cases of emergency; also, in exalting a single candidate alone, which we see has been the course of this Chapter. We recommend that they should be properly instructed, and a charter granted if they desire it.

Hope Chapter, No. 49.—The proceedings of this Chapter we find neatly kept and in proper form. We recommend this Chapter to strike out the word "meeting," where it occurs in their by-laws, and insert "convocation" in lieu thereof; and recommend that a charter be granted.

The proceedings of McKinley Chapter, No. 48, we find to be very neatly kept and in proper form. We find in the report of their annual return they report no dues to the Grand Chapter, but learn from the Grand Secretary that they have paid their dues. We recommend that a charter be granted.

The committee have also examined the proceedings and returns of Jerusalem Chapter, No. 46—forms generally correct. We find, however, the names of several persons presented as petitioners. The proceedings do not show that they petitioned separately, and show that they were elected without first being referred to a committee, or their cases being considered emergent. In fact, this has been the usual course of this Chapter. We find also the committee reported a code of by-laws without first having been appointed. The proceedings of the Chapter, nor the returns, are attested by the Secretary.

We find the fifth section of the fourth article of by-laws of this Chapter is in violation of section seven article four of the constitution of the Grand Chapter of Alabama. We recommend that they should be properly instructed and a charter granted, if they desire it.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. H. NORRIS, Chairman.

On motion of Comp. Hendrix,

Resolved, That the resolution "that no Chapter has any authority to consider any case a case of emergency, but shall strictly conform to the fourth section third article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter," which was passed at the last annual convocation, be and is hereby rescinded.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Comp. S. R. Wright, from the Committee on Education, submitted his report, which was received, concurred in, and ordered to be spread upon the minutes:

On going back to the antiquities and reading the earlier records of Masonry, one of the most interesting and distinguishing features which strikes the scholar and historian, is its strong affinity and inseparable alliance with the vital elements and cardinal laws of civilization. The sublime princi-

ples of the one, and the genial elements of the other, like kindred drops, mingle and blend into one harmonious development of improved and improving society and humanity.

The bright spots and radiant points of civilization, which have often relieved the vast expanse of deep moral darkness and gloom in the world's history, have been obviously and largely indebted for their lustre, duration and effluence to this double-elective affinity. The great central element of modern civilization is universal education—the education of the high and the low, the rich and the poor.

This is the chief corner stone of the polished temple of civilization, and the chief beauty and strength and environment of the inner and more sacred temple of civil, religious and republican liberty. Shall Masonry be faithful and true to her ancient instincts and natural affinities? Shall she illustrate, upon the largest and grandest scale ever allotted by a benignant Providence, her capabilities for good and her admirable adaptations to the higher grades and to the new and startling developments of a bright civilization? Shall she, in humble imitation of Him whose teachings have renovated, remodeled and given unwonted tone and vitality to all modern civil organizations, bid little children come to her bosom not only to find food, and raiment, and shelter, and consolation, but pearls of still greater value; to come to her crystal fountain of instruction, knowledge and wisdom, and there to imbibe lessons of usefulness and immortality without money and without price? Shall she thus display the resources of her charity, the life and power of her principles, and the noble and native characteristics of her mission to earth? Your committee feel that every loyal hearted Mason must proclaim a prompt and strong affirmative to these practical interrogatories.

They are more than gratified in the assurance which the signs of the times and the clear indications of keener perceptions of duty and of correspondingly awakened zeal on this subject authorizes, that a better spirit and a better day is dawning upon the Masonic fraternity—a day which will marshal her devoted brotherhood, her means and her powerful

influence to co-operate with the genius and forces of the nineteenth century in disseminating the inestimable blessings of universal education.

They also not only think that there is a peculiar characteristic appropriateness in this co-operation, but a binding and indispensable obligation resting upon the fraternity to provide the means of intellectual, moral and social training for the children of its own poor and needy, and especially for those who are orphans indeed. They regard with pride and gratitude the improving spirit on this subject among Lodges and Chapters, revealing itself in large and well organized and well conducted institutions of learning, and in their numerous attending beneficiaries. They hail this indication as the "bright particular star," by whose radiance and guidance Masonry will go on to more glorious moral achievements, "and better thence again, and better still, in infinite progression."

It affords your committee unaffected pleasure to state to the companions of the Grand Chapter of Alabama that the Central Masonic Institute has enjoyed during the past masonic year a degree of prosperity unanticipated by its most sanguine friends and patrons. It closed its second annual session the first of July last with nearly two hundred pupils, and has, at the end of the second month of the third annual session, within its classic halls, over one hundred and ninety pupils, twenty-five beneficiaries, and twelve professors and teachers—eighty more pupils than it ever before numbered so early in the session. Its prospects for a large increase in numbers and usefulness, are cheering to the friends of sound learning and of masonic munificence and charity.

This institution has now a much larger number of professors and teachers, pupils and beneficiaries than any other masonic literary institution in the United States. Your committee are also happy to report that the Dayton Masonic Institute is going on in the even tenor of its way of usefulness and efficiency. This institution has been some years in operation, and has earned a deservedly high reputation. It has

now an adequate number of teachers, seventy-five pupils, and one beneficiary.

Your committee feel no ordinary gratification in announcing to the Grand Chapter the speedy completion and admirable arrangements of the East Alabama Masonic Female Institute, at Talladega. The brethren of Clinton Lodge, No. 38, aided by the liberality of brethren of sister Lodges, and many friends who are not Masons, have erected a noble brick edifice one hundred and two by fifty-two feet, with twenty-seven large and airy rooms.

This institution will go into operation the first Monday in February next, with six professors and teachers. Your committee congratulate these brethren upon the success of their enterprise, and unite with the companions of the Grand Chapter in bidding them a hearty God speed.

Indirect information has also come to the committee of the prosperity and usefulness of the male Masonic School at Uniontown, Perry county, and of the Oak Bowery Institute, East Alabama.

They commend these excellent institutions to the cordial support of all true Masons.

Your committee beg permission, in conclusion, suggestively and thoughtfully to hint that in their estimation our time-honored institution has survived, undecayed and undiminished, all the changes of time and the vicissitudes of all other human institutions, is not solely because of the intrinsic excellence of its principles and organizations, but because the God of Israel, who gave to King Solomon wisdom and promises, has heeded and answered the prayers of widows and orphans.

Masonry has thus, year after year, and age after age, been baptized in the tears of gratitude which orphanage has wept and widowhood has shed.

May these tearful baptisms continue to be deserved and received by our noble institution through all coming time from those who have been befriended, educated and blessed by her generous and well directed charities.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. R. WRIGHT, Chairman.

The amendment to the Constitution, viz: In the seventh section fourth article to strike out all after the word "exalted" and insert as follows: "For the degree of Mark M., five dollars; Past M., five dollars; M. E. M., five dollars; R. A. M., fifteen dollars, and no Chapter shall confer any of the degrees on a credit," was considered.

There not being a constitutional number of Chapters to vote on the above, the further consideration was postponed.

Comp. Chilton offered the following, which was concurred in:

Whereas this Grand Chapter has been credibly informed that certain subordinate Chapters in the States of Georgia and Florida are in the habit of conferring Chapter degrees on brethren residing within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, much to the injury of the subordinate Chapters located near the said States of Georgia and Florida; therefore be it

1. *Resolved*, That this Grand Chapter protest against such invasion of jurisdiction, and would fraternally recommend a discontinuance of such practice.

2. That our Grand Secretary be instructed to correspond with the M. E. Grand Chapters of Georgia and Florida requesting those Grand Bodies to pass such restrictions on their subordinate Chapters as to prevent the recurrence of a practice fraught with so much injury to R. A. Masonry in the State of Alabama.

The Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment.

SATURDAY MORNING, Dec. 7—9 o'clock.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor. M. E. Rufus Greene, G. H. P., presiding. Officers at their several stations.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS.

Comp. Waddell, from the Committee on Accounts, reported as follows, which received the concurrence of the Grand Chapter:

The Committee on Accounts have performed their duty, and beg leave to submit the following report:

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter has submitted vouchers for all the funds which have passed through his hands since the last annual report to this Grand Chapter to the commencement of the present convocation.

The Grand Treasurer has accompanied his report with vouchers for the several sums charged in his account, leaving a balance in cash in his hands of \$1,010.71.

The following statement shows the whole fund belonging to the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama at this time:

Cash in the hands of the Grand Treasurer-----	\$1,010.71
Notes and bonds-----	800 50
Cash for dues paid to the Grand Secretary at the present convocation -----	469.00
	\$2,280.21

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. WADDELL, JR., Chairman.

Report of Dues collected by the Grand Secretary at the Convocation of 1850.

No. 1, Tuscaloosa ---\$7 00--	No. 4, Monroe --- \$17 00--	\$24 00
No. 5, Eunomia ---- 11 50--	No. 9, Clinton ---- 11 50_	23 00
No. 11, Phoenix ----- 9 50--	No. 12, Marion ---- 15 50_	25 00
No. 13, Gainesville -- 7 50--	No. 15, Hayneville 19 00_	26 00
No. 17, Wetumpka --- 10 50--	No. 18, Jameston _ 8 50_	19 00
No. 21, Mobile ----- 24 50--	No. 22, Montgom'ry 22 00_	46 50
No. 23, Talladega --- 12 50--	No. 24, Eufaula --- 14 00_	26 50
No. 26, Union ----- 18 50--	No. 27, Dayton ---- 15 50_	34 00
No. 28, St. Johns ---- 21 00--	No. 29, Eureka --- 14 00_	35 00

No. 30, Jas. Penn	15 00	No. 31, P. Friend'p	10 00	25 00
No. 32, Liberty	9 00	No. 33, Autauga	10 50	19 50
No. 34, Hermon	12 00	No. 35, J. L. Daniel	12 00	24 00
No. 36, Pickensville	12 50	No. 37, Concord	15 50	28 00
No. 39, Turnbull	7 50	No. 40, Camden	24 50	32 00
No. 41, Washingt'n	9 50	No. 42, Macon	11 50	21 00
No. 43, Tuskegee	13 50	No. 44, R. Greene	8 50	22 00
No. 45, Dadeville	9 50	No. 46, Jerusalem	8 00	17 50
No. 48, McKinley	8 50	No. 49, Hope	7 00	15 50
No. 50, Sumterville			5 50	5 50

\$469 00

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS.

Comp. Ferrell reported thereon, which was adopted:

The Committee on Returns of Chartered Chapters beg leave to report that they have examined the returns from the following Chapters, viz:

Tuscaloosa	No. 1	Eureka	No. 29
Monroe	No. 4	James Penn	No. 30
Eunomia	No. 5	Perfect Friendship	No. 31
Clinton	No. 9	Liberty	No. 32
Phoenix	No. 11	Hermon	No. 34
Marion	No. 12	James L. Daniel	No. 35
Gainesville	No. 13	Pickensville	No. 36
Hayneville	No. 15	Turnbull	No. 39
Wetumpka	No. 17	Camden	No. 40
Jameston	No. 18	Washington	No. 41
Mobile	No. 21	Macon	No. 42
Montgomery	No. 22	Tuskegee	No. 43
Eufaula	No. 24	Rufus Greene	No. 44
Union	No. 26	Dadeville	No. 45
Dayton	No. 27	Autauga	No. 33
St. Johns	No. 28		

Tuscaloosa, No. 1, gives no masonic grade after the Scribe, nor reported any dues in their returns.

Eunomia, No. 5, has not separated the withdrawals from the regular members in the returns. There is no R. A. C. or Masters of veils reported.

Phoenix, No. 11, dates R. A. M. 2382.

Marion, No. 12—The withdrawn, suspended and dead are not separated from the members.

Gainesville, No. 13—The Sentinel is reported next to the Scribe; the R. A. C. and Secretary then follow. But six officers reported, and no masonic grade given.

Hayneville, No. 15, has given no masonic grade.

Wetumpka, 17—King placed after the Sentinel—Masters of Veils reversed, making that of the first veil the highest officer—withdrawals recorded with the members.

Jameston, No. 18—No masonic grade after the officers.

Mobile, No. 21, reports no C. of the H. or R. A. C. in the list of officers. Dates R. A. M. 2385.

Union, No. 26—Officers of this Chapter given in the margin, and the Masters of the Veils reversed.

St. Johns, No. 28—Withdrawals and deaths recorded with the members.

Eureka, No. 29, dates R. A. M. 2850.

James Penn, No. 30—Expulsions and withdrawals recorded with the members—paid dues for four dimitted companions—recommend that two dollars be returned—no masonic grade after the officers.

Perfect Friendship, No. 31, reports a dimitted companion by the initials J. R. G. No R. A. C. or Treasurer in the list of officers—no certificate as to when they commenced the year or ended it, showing a total disregard to the form laid down in the constitution.

Hermon, No. 34—No officers or masonic grade given—withdrawals reported with the members.

James L. Daniel, No. 35—In the list of officers the R. A. C. and Master of the second veil are given, and opposite their names in the margin they are reported withdrawn.

Turnbull, No. 39—The certificate of these returns is not signed by the H. P., only by the Secretary—no Chapter seal on the returns.

Washington, No. 41—The officers are given as follows: M. E. H. P., G. M. 3 v., P. S., R. A. C., C. H., Secretary, G. M. 2 v., Chaplain, Sentinel, M. E. Scribe, G. M. 1 v., and M. E. King.

Macon, No. 42—This Chapter has paid no attention to all the forms laid down for returns, having no certificate appended as required.

Tuskegee, No. 43, shows having paid for three Ministers. Recommend one dollar and fifty cents be refunded if applied for.

Rufus Greene, No. 44—Masters of veils reversed.

Dadeville, No. 45—Withdrawals recorded with the members—Masters of the veils reversed, and no seal.

Liberty, No. 32, has no seal on the returns.

Several of the Chapters have sent no dues for Ministers of the Gospel, as required by the constitution.

WM. A. FERRELL, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. Torrey, from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted his report. Concurred in:

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence respectfully report, that they have had laid before them the proceedings of but seven Grand Chapters, which have been received since our last annual convocation; nor have they yet enjoyed the benefits of examining the proceedings of the late triennial convocation of the General Grand R. A. Chapter.

The many matters of interest which are discussed in these proceedings, and the light and information which they diffuse among the craft, lead us to regret that so few of the Grand Chapters with which we are in correspondence have

extended to us the courtesy which we would so cheerfully reciprocate.

From the transactions of the Grand Chapter of New York we find that they hold that the fee required for the institution of new Chapters is not too large, but a query of some interest is suggested, whether this subject had not better be left to the discretion of the several State Grand Chapters.

This Grand Chapter also approves of a request made by a Chapter in Mississippi, that subordinate Chapters be authorized to punish those companions "who may be guilty of acts of wanton profanity." We, on our part, incline to the opinion that subordinate Chapters already possess that power, as we hold that wanton profanity is clearly unmasonic.

This Grand Chapter also denounces as a clandestine body the self-styled Grand Lodge of the State of New York, which had its origin in the riotous proceedings of the 5th of June, 1849.

In the transactions of the Grand Chapter of Florida the craft are warned that while such general prosperity marks the progress of our Order, we cannot be too cautious and guarded in opening our doors to those who may incline merely to examine the exterior of our beautiful edifice, while its internal structure and mysteries are viewed as through a glass darkly.

The degrees of Royal and Select Master, their proper location and the order in which they should be conferred, are a prominent topic of discussion in the proceedings of most of the Grand Chapters, and great diversity of opinion prevails. In Florida they were at first conferred in connection with the Chapter degrees, and under the same jurisdiction, on the recommendation of the Grand Chapter of Virginia; but being notified by the Supreme Grand Council of the 33d, &c., that these degrees were claimed by that Supreme Grand Body, the Grand Chapter of Florida ceased to have any connection with them. Their Committee on Foreign Correspondence, however, incline to the opinion that they are properly Chapter degrees, *provided they are really a part of Ancient York Masonry*; and on this point they mainly agree with the Grand Chapter of

Missouri, that the degrees are of little value—certainly of not sufficient importance to warrant the discussion, difference and doubt which they have occasioned.

In this connection we will mention that we are informed that the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter have expressed the opinion that they, under their constitution, have not jurisdiction over these degrees. Hence a fruitless discussion will probably be continued, the end and result of which we will not pretend to foresee. The opinion of the Grand Chapter of Alabama was sufficiently expressed at the convocation of 1849.

The Grand Chapter of Florida, like that of New York, does not acknowledge the jurisdiction of the General Grand R. A. Chapter, and proceeds to give its reasons for holding the latter to be "a useless body." We find also that this Grand Chapter has passed a resolution that when a Grand Lodge, or other competent authority, has expelled or suspended a brother who is a R. A. Mason, it shall be the duty of the subordinate Chapter to which he belongs, or within whose jurisdiction he may reside, to proceed and decide whether such companion shall be suspended or expelled "from his Arch Masonic functions," &c. On this point we think it well established Masonic law, that expulsion from a Lodge necessarily carries with it not only expulsion from a Chapter, but also from the rights and privileges of Masonry.

The Grand Chapter of Virginia denies the propriety of recognizing the R. and S. M. degrees as separate and distinct from the Chapter, and contends that they should precede the R. A. degree. They seem to concur in the views expressed by the committee on foreign correspondence for the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, who say: "We believe that it has been the practice in this State to confer these degrees after the R. A., and in the absence of a Grand Council, by regular Chapters. Your committee are free to acknowledge that the degrees above stated appear to be the peculiar and almost necessary property of the Chapter, (and should in all cases be conferred previous to the R. A.) In this arrangement they present a most expressive and beautiful chain of traditionary his-

tory, which is rendered disjointed and incomplete by any other practice. Even the Royal Arch degree is unsatisfactory and imperfect without the explanation afforded by them." Truly a remarkable discrepancy between these views and those expressed by the Grand Chapter of Missouri!

We find that the Grand Chapter of Georgia has adopted a resolution "that a committee be appointed to open a correspondence with the proper authorities of every State where Council degrees are conferred, for the purpose of creating, if possible, an uniform jurisdiction over said degrees throughout the United States, and an uniform method of conferring the same." Some benefit may be derived from such correspondence and enquiry, but we almost despair of a satisfactory result.

Neither this Grand Chapter nor that of Rhode Island acknowledge the reception of a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Alabama. Omissions of this kind are much to be regretted, and we recommend that the Grand Secretary hereafter send two copies of our proceedings to every other Grand Chapter, and we request them to extend to us the same favor.

The Grand Chapter of Rhode Island adopts the opinion that suspension or expulsion from a Master Mason's Lodge operates as suspension or expulsion from R. A. Masonry.

In the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Ohio we find a resolution "that it is improper and contrary to the well established rules and regulations governing Royal Arch Masonry to confer the degrees over which a Royal Arch Chapter has jurisdiction upon one who is not of hale and entire limbs," a conclusion in which your committee would feel much reluctance in concurring.

The proceedings of these several Grand Bodies show that this branch of our ancient Order is in a flourishing and progressive state. In several States where the blasts of popular prejudice and fury beat rudely against the walls of our time-honored edifice, we see signs of a healthy recovery and steady progress, which bespeak a happy future.

We have reason for regret in not receiving the proceedings of all the Grand Chapters with which we correspond, and that our proceedings rarely appear to have been received by them. We recommend that the address of each Grand Secretary be carefully sought out, and that duplicate copies of our proceedings be sent to them by different mails, and that the same favor be extended to us in return.

The labors of a committee on Foreign Correspondence are capable of being made highly serviceable and beneficial to the craft when well performed; and this desirable end we think cannot be attained unless the report be prepared with more deliberation, care and research than we can command amid the hurry and pressure of business which attend the sessions of our Grand Bodies. This interchange of our acts, opinions and regulations will tend to lead to a uniformity of action and of views, to the establishment of a system of masonic jurisprudence, which is now peculiarly desirable. To promote this purpose and remedy the evil as it now exists, we recommend that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be appointed at each annual convocation, so that they may be prepared to make a full report at the opening of the succeeding convocation—and to ensure certainty in this respect, we recommend that the Grand Secretary, *ex officio*, be chairman of that committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. C. TORREY.

And on motion of Comp. Torrey, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee on Foreign Correspondence be appointed, to report at the opening of the next annual convocation.

Comps. Torrey, Sterns and Ferrell appointed committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the mode of Work exemplified in the presence of the Grand Chapter by the Committee on Work be adopted.

On motion of Comp. Wiley, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated to our Grand Secretary for his services during the past year.

Resolved, That twenty dollars be appropriated to the Grand Sentinel for his services during the present convocation.

Resolved, That five hundred copies of the proceedings of this Grand Convocation, together with the Constitutions of the Grand Chapter, be published by the Grand Secretary.

Resolved, That two hundred and fifty dollars be set aside as a contingent fund.

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated to Comp. D. Hartwell for his services as Grand Lecturer, and that the thanks of the Grand Chapter be tendered him.

Resolved, That two hundred and fifty dollars be donated to the East Alabama Female Masonic Institute.

On motion of Comp. T. Harrison,

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars be donated to the Oak Bowery Male Masonic Institute, Chambers county.

Resolved, That five hundred and forty-seven dollars, the amount of the note of J. M. Strong, P. B. Carson and Amos White, be donated to the Central Masonic Institute, at Selma, and that said note be handed over to Comp. Waddell for said Institute.

On motion of Comp. Wiley, the following resolution offered by Bro. Benson, to-wit:

That the sum of two hundred and fifty-three dollars and fifty cents, the amount of Comp. Syd. Smith's note, be appropriated to the Masonic Institute, at Dayton,

Was taken from the table and adopted.

On motion of Bro. Stewart, it was resolved,

That the sum of one hundred dollars be donated to the Masonic Male and Female Academy at Ridgely, under the supervision of the Ridgely Lodge, No. 121, at Ridgely.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The following amendment to the Constitution lies over for consideration :

That "first Tuesday after first Monday in December" be stricken out third section article first and insert "third Monday in June;" also to strike out "at such place as the Legislature of the State shall convene," and insert "the town of Selma."

On motion of Comp. Wiley,

Resolved, That the remaining fund in the Grand Treasury be loaned to the East Alabama Female Institute, at Talladega, for one year, without interest, on note and good security.

On motion of Comp. Pfister,

That the dispensation of Newbern Chapter, No. 47, be continued until the next annual convocation.

On motion of Comp. Ferrell,

That the dispensation of Franklin Chapter be continued until the next annual convocation.

A communication from Comp. Rev. H. H. Brown, P. Grand Chaplain, was read; whereupon it was

Resolved, That said communication be filed, and Comp. Brown excused for non-attendance at this convocation.

The Grand Chapter was closed in ample form.

Directory and Tabular Statement of Reports of Subordinate Chapters for the year 1850.

Number.	Chapters.	Location.	Counties.	H. Priests.	Secretaries.	Exalted.	Rejected.	Expelled.	Suspended.	Withdrawn.	Died.	No. Memb's.
1	Tuscaloosa,	Tuscaloosa,	Tuscaloosa,	H. McGowen,	Henry Kulper-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
4	Monroe,	Claiborne,	Monroe,	R. C. Torrey,	J. B. Colburn-----	3	--	--	--	--	--	34
5	Eunomia,	Huntsville,	Madison,	J. J. Sample,	J. B. Trotman-----	3	--	--	--	--	--	21
9	Clinton,	Athens,	Limestone,	J. Turrentine,	T. G. Tyus-----	1	--	--	--	--	--	23
10	Tuscumbia,	Tuscumbia,	Franklin,	A. M. Barclay,	F. A. Ross-----	2	--	--	--	--	1	31
11	Phoenix,	Greensboro,	Greene,	Wm. Kerr,	J. C. Meredith-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
12	Marion,	Marion,	Perry,	W. R. Brown,	D. Dykous-----	1	--	--	1	--	2	31
13	Gainesville,	Gainesville,	Sumter,	E. Herndon,	A. H. Harris-----	--	--	--	--	--	1	15
15	Hayneville,	Hayneville,	Lowndes,	W. H. Crocheron,	E. W. Thompson-----	7	--	--	--	--	--	38
17	Wetumpka,	Wetumpka,	Coosa,	W. A. Allen,	W. B. Cooper-----	4	--	--	--	--	--	21
18	Jameston,	Warsaw,	Sumter,	Gray Little,	W. V. Hare-----	3	--	--	--	--	--	17
20	Livingston,	Livingston,	Sumter,	W. H. Green,	S. W. Murley-----	1	--	--	--	--	2	18
21	Mobile,	Mobile,	Mobile,	H. Y. Levert,	J. A. Miller-----	9	--	--	5	--	1	49
22	Montgomery,	Montgomery,	Montgomery,	Thos. Harrison,	B. S. Theiss-----	3	--	--	--	--	1	44
23	Talladega,	Talladega,	Talladega,	S. H. Dixon,	A. J. Cotten-----	6	--	--	--	--	--	25
24	Eufaula,	Eufaula,	Barbour,	S. G. Cato,	C. W. Snow-----	5	--	--	--	--	--	28
25	Courtland,	Courtland,	Lawrence,	A. W. Bentley,	A. Penland-----	2	--	--	--	--	--	19
26	Union,	Uniontown,	Perry,	P. N. Brooker,	J. G. Hudson-----	8	--	--	--	--	--	37

27 Dayton,	Dayton,	Marengo,	E. D. Connor,	B. E. Smith-----	--	--	--	--	1	31
28 St. Johns,	Selma,	Dallas,	J. M. Strong,	W. Waddell, Jr.-----	2	--	--	--	1	42
29 Eureka,	Lowndesboro,	Lowndes,	Y. W. Graves,	N. Smith -----	6	--	--	--	--	28
30 James Penn,	Jacksonville,	Benton,	J. B. Clark,	O. Hendrick -----	4	--	1	--	--	30
31 P. Friendship,	Benton,	Lowndes,	O. P. King,	W. H. Chambliss-----	2	--	--	--	--	20
32 Fulton,	Fulton,	Dallas,	W. H. Norris,	F. G. Adams-----	6	--	--	--	--	18
33 Autauga,	Autaugaville,	Autauga,	C. C. Howard,	A. W. McNeil-----	--	--	--	--	--	21
34 Hermon,	U. Springs.	Macon,	M. N. Eley,	Thos. Pullum-----	5	--	--	--	--	24
35 J. L. Daniel,	Glennville,	Barbour,	J. Butt,	W. M. Turner-----	11	--	--	--	--	24
36 Pickensville,	Pickensville,	Pickens,	D. A. Walker,	H. S. Shelton-----	9	--	--	--	--	25
37 Concord,	LaFayette,	Chambers,	G. W. Hanson,	J. Appleby-----	7	--	--	--	--	31
38 Decatur,	Decatur,	Morgan.	W. E. Murphy,	L. S. Banks-----	--	--	--	--	--	34
39 Turnbull,	Turnbull,	Monroe,	J. G. Wallace,	P. F. Tanner-----	--	--	--	--	--	15
40 Camden,	Camden,	Wilcox,	J. G. Bythewood,	E. L. Moore-----	24	--	--	--	--	49
41 Washington,	Summerfield,	Dallas,	P. R. McCrary.	R. D. Sturdivant-----	8	--	--	--	--	26
42 Macon,	Auburn,	Macon,	J. W. W. Drake,	R. A. Crawford-----	12	--	--	--	--	23
43 Tuskegee,	Tuskegee,	Macon,	W. P. Chilton,	Jas. Chappell-----	9	--	--	--	--	30
44 Rufus Greene,	Butler,	Choctaw,	T. C. Galloway,	G. W. Gaines-----	--	--	--	--	--	18
45 Dadeville,	Dadeville,	Tallapoosa,	J. Faulkner,	L. Gresham-----	--	--	--	--	--	19
48 McKinley,	McKinley,	Marengo,	F. C. Lowery,	W. B. Modawell-----	3	--	--	--	--	17
49 Hope,	Hope Postoffice	Pickens,	Wiley Burgess,	T. J. Clark-----	5	--	--	--	--	14
50 Sumterville,	Sumterville,	Sumter,	L. H. Anderson,	J. H. Webb-----	--	--	--	--	--	11

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

GRAND CHAPTER.

Of whom composed.

Section 1. The Grand 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 voters in this Grand Chapter.

Its powers.

Sec. 2. The Grand Chapter has power and authority to order and establish laws, rules and regulations, for the government of the Subordinate Chapters in the State; to grant dispensations and Charters, and to revoke and annul the same, for such causes as it may deem sufficient; to prescribe the manner and to require a uniform mode of working—but in no case to alter, remove or deface the ancient and established landmarks of the Order; to receive and determine appeals; to redress grievances and remove all complaints of Subordinate Chapters; to reprehend and control improper conduct in any Chapter under its jurisdiction, and require such fees or annual contributions from said Chapters as it may think right and proper, and to do and

perform all such duties as properly appertain to a Grand Chapter.

Sec. 3. The Grand Chapter shall be holden on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in December annually, at such place as the Legislature of the State shall convene, until ordered otherwise; but special Convocations may be ordered by the Grand High Priest, or in his absence, by the Deputy Grand High Priest, at such time and place as, in his opinion, the good of the Order may require it—provided that every Chapter under their jurisdiction shall be notified at least thirty days previous to the time of holding such Convocation.

Time and place of holding convocations.
Special convocations may be ordered on 30 days' notice.

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 in all cases of a tie, the Grand High Priest shall have the casting vote, and no decision shall be reconsidered by a less number of members than were present at making the same.

Decisions and reconsideration of questions.

Sec. 5. All officers and members of the Grand Chapter and proxies appointed by the High Priest, King or Scribe of Subordinate Chapters, must be regular members of some Chapter under its jurisdiction.

Qualifications of officers, members, proxy's and representatives.

Sec. 6. No Companion can represent more than one Chapter at the same time, nor shall the High Priest, King or Scribe of any Chapter attending the Grand Chapter as such, nor either of the proxies, by them appointed, act as the representative of any other Chapter.

No person can act as the representative of more than one Chapter.

Sec. 7. Every Companion who shall offer himself as proxy for any High Priest, King or Scribe of any Chapter under the jurisdiction of

Proxies to produce warrant.

the Grand Chapter, before he or they may 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.

How to proceed in the promotion of Chapters.

Recommendation from the nearest Chapter, vouching for moral character; price of warrants.

Charges against members, how made.

Sec. 8. 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 the Grand High Priest or Deputy Grand High Priest, 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 said warrant, the sum of ninety dollars.

Sec. 9. Every charge brought before the Grand Chapter against any member thereof, shall be made in writing, and the member so charged shall be furnished with a copy thereof, by the Grand Secretary; and any Companion suspended or expelled therefrom shall be entirely excluded from all the benefits and privileges of Masonry while under such sentence.

ARTICLE II.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Time of holding elections, and manner of conducting them.

Section 1. The Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter shall be annually elected by a majority of ballots in open Chapter, on or before the first Wednesday after its convocation, by the

Subordinate Chapters, and the present and past Grand Officers, who are members according to the provisions of this Constitution, and the Companion having a majority of votes for any of the offices aforesaid, shall be duly elected. The Officers thus elected, shall be installed according to ancient usage, as soon thereafter as practicable; and when so installed, shall hold their offices for the term of one year, or until their successors are duly elected and installed. Officers installed, term of office.

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 three regular Chapters, which shall be a sufficient number at all times to form a Grand Chapter. Three Chapters requisite to election.

ARTICLE III.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF GRAND OFFICERS.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Grand Officers to attend punctually, in person, the annual and special convocations of the Grand Chapter. Grand Officers generally.

Sec. 2. The M. E. Grand High Priest shall preside at Convocations of the Grand Chapter; see that the rules and usages of the Order are strictly observed, and that the other officers faithfully perform their respective duties: he may grant dispensations during the recess of the Grand Chapter, for holding Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, according to the provisions of the eighth Section of the first Article of this Constitution, and not otherwise; he shall install the officers of all newly chartered Chapters unless when the distance is such that he cannot Grand High Priest.

conveniently attend, in which case the Deputy Grand High Priest, or some capable High Priest or Past High Priest of a Chapter, by a dispensation under his hand and seal, shall perform the services aforesaid—and the form of installation in those cases shall be agreeable to that directed by the General Grand Constitution; he may visit subordinate Chapters at his pleasure, preside therein, inspect their records and proceedings, and instruct them in the correct mode of working, and in general, shall exercise a supervising control over the Order throughout the State, conforming in all things to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Chapter.

Sec. 3. When the Grand Chapter is opened, the Deputy Grand High Priest—
 Deputy Grand High Priest—who shall preside in the absence of the G. and Dep. G. H. Priest,

the Deputy Grand High Priest shall be stationed on the left of the Grand Council, and in his absence shall fill the chair, or in the absence of both, the Grand King, or in his absence, the Grand Scribe shall preside with the powers of the M. E. Grand High Priest, and if no such officer be present, then the Companions shall nominate some suitable person to fill the chair,

Gr. Chaplain.

Sec. 4. As the institution of Masonry acknowledges revealed religion, and inculcates the devout worship of the Supreme High Priest, whose creatures we are, by whose bounty we subsist, and on 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 obligation for his beneficence, to invoke his blessing, and return our thanks with heart-felt gratitude, in all humility, for favors received; therefore, after opening the Grand Chapter, and before any business shall be proceeded upon, the Grand Chaplain, if present, shall invoke a blessing of Deity,

and deliver a suitable address to the members, unless dispensed with by order of the Grand Chapter.

Sec. 5. The Grand Treasurer, before entering G. Treasurer. on the duties of his office, shall give bond and security, conditioned for the faithful performance of his official duties, in the sum of one thousand dollars; he shall account to the Grand Chapter for all moneys received and disbursed by him by virtue of his office, and at every annual Convocation exhibit a full and accurate statement of his accounts to the Grand Chapter—he shall pay out no money without the direction of the Grand High Priest or the Grand Chapter.

Sec. 6. The Grand Secretary shall record G. Secretary. neatly and correctly, in a substantial book, all the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, proper to be written; he shall keep a regular set of books, in which he shall open and keep all necessary accounts; charge the Subordinate Chapters regularly with their annual contributions and give them credit for all moneys when paid; he shall collect all moneys due the Grand Chapter; make proper entries of the same; pay them over to the Grand Treasurer and take his receipt therefor; he shall charge the Grand Treasurer with all moneys paid him, and credit him with all drafts and orders drawn on him; and at every annual Convocation, he shall lay before the Grand Chapter a full and accurate statement of all moneys received by him by virtue of his office since the date of his last report; he shall communicate to the several Grand Chapters within the United States and to all the Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, such matters as

may, from time to time, be required to be so communicated; he shall submit, for the inspection of the Grand Chapter, all communications received by him during its recess; attest and affix the seal of the Grand Chapter to all instruments of writing necessary to be executed; report the number of dispensations granted since the last annual Convocation, with the recommendations upon which they were founded, and he shall be entitled to the sum of five dollars for every dispensation drawn by himself, and the sum of five dollars for every charter so issued, and such other compensation as the Grand Chapter may allow. Before his installation he shall give bond and security in the sum of one thousand dollars, condition for the faithful discharge of his official duties.

Other Officers. Sec. 7. All other Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter shall perform the duties respectively assigned to them on the charges given at their installation, and the Grand Sentinel shall receive for his services three dollars per day for his attendance on the Convocations of the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE IV.

SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

How organized.

Section 1. Every Subordinate Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of a High Priest, a King, a Scribe, Captain of the Host, a principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, three Masters of the Veils, a Secretary and Treasurer, a Sentinel 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 Chapter thus organized 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 twelve 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 further forbearance.

Meetings, how often.

Warrant forfeited and struck from the record.

Sec. 2. Every Subordinate Chapter must have a charter, signed by the Grand H. P., Dep. Grand H. P., Grand K. and Grand Scribe, attested by the Grand Secretary, with the seal of the Grand Chapter, or dispensation from the G. H. P. or D. G. H. P., under their private seal; and no Chapter shall be deemed regular or legal without such charter, warrant, or dispensation; and all Masonic communication, either public or private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter, under this jurisdiction, or any member of either or any of them, and any Chapter that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden, or any or either of their members, or any person advanced or exalted in such illegal Chapter.

Must have charter or dispensation.

Sec. 3. Dispensations granted by the G. or D. G. High Priest, for the establishment of new Chapters, shall continue and be in force until the succeeding annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, after the date of such dispensation, at which time the original record of all the proceedings of every such Chapter, or a true copy thereof, together with the by-laws which have been adopted for its government, shall be submitted to the Grand Chapter for examination, and if approved, a charter may issue for the permanent

Dispensation—how long to continue.

May be renewed for 12 months.

Charter must issue.

Chapters must have seal.

No document legal without such seal.

Petition for advancement, received at regular meeting and lie over until next regular meeting.

Cases of emergency.

Candidates rejected cannot be advanced in another Chapter without being recommended by nine members of the Chapter in which he was rejected.

establishment of said Chapter, or the dispensation may be renewed for twelve months longer by an endorsement thereon by the Grand High Priest or Deputy Grand High Priest, attested by the Grand Secretary; at the expiration of which time a charter must issue or the Chapter be discontinued.

Sec. 4. Every Chapter holden under this Grand Chapter shall have a seal, with the name and number of the Chapter engraved thereon, the device thereof to be made as a majority of its members may think proper to adopt; and no papers or documents presented to this Grand Chapter, as credentials or evidence from any such Grand Chapter shall be deemed legal, without such seal being affixed thereto, allowing twelve months to procure the same.

Sec. 5. All applications for the advancement or exaltation of candidates in any Chapter under this jurisdiction, shall be made in writing, referred to a committee, and lie over until the next regular meeting, when the committee shall report on such application; *Provided*, Should the case be considered emergent by the unanimous voice of the members present, then the committee may report at an earlier period and the applicant be ballotted for and the degrees conferred.

Sec. 6. No applicant for advancement, whose petition may be rejected by the Chapter, shall be advanced in any other Chapter than the one to which he first applied, without a recommendation from nine members from said Chapter, of whom the High Priest, King and Scribe shall be three; if any Companion knowingly assist or recommend for advancement in any Chapter whatever any candidate rejected as aforesaid, who may not have obtained a recommendation as

before provided, such Companion shall be expelled from all the privileges of the Order.

Sec. 7. The following fees shall be severally paid for advancement or exaltation: 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 Mason, not less than twenty dollars: and no Chapter under this jurisdiction shall take notes of hand for advancing or exalting fees, or grant any time or credit therefor—all such fees shall be paid at the time candidate receives the degrees.

Fees for
degrees.

No credit to
be given.

Sec. 8. Every Chapter may elect and install its officers at such time as it may think proper to appoint, and may fill vacancies, as they may severally occur, according to the provisions of its by-laws; and every Chapter has an inherent right to make by-laws and regulations for its own government and concerns: *Provided, always,* That such regulations and laws are conformable to the principles of the Order, and usages of Masons, and the Constitution and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

Election of
officers.

Every Chapter
to make its
own by-laws.

Sec. 9. If any Companion or Brother of any Chapter 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 to which such offender may belong (but in case he belongs to no Chapter, he may be called on by the Chapter 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 shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary without delay, who shall lay the same before the Grand

Chapters have
cognizance of
improper con-
duct.

Expulsion to
be immedi-
ately com-
municated to
the G. Sec-
retary and
laid before the
Grand Chap-
ter.

Appeal may be taken.

Copy of proceedings sent to G. Secretary.

Candidates living nearer another Chapter, not to be received without being recommended.

Removal of Chapters.

Attendance at the convocations of the G. Chapter.

Chapter at their next meeting, but if such suspended or expelled Companion shall have appealed from the decision of such Chapter, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to forward a copy of the proceedings thereon to the Grand Secretary, who shall lay the same before the Grand Chapter, for its determination at the regular Convocation thereof.

Sec. 10. No candidate residing in or near any city or town where a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is holden under this jurisdiction, shall be advanced or exalted in any Chapter in any other place without a recommendation from the Chapter nearest the place where said candidate may reside.

Sec. 11. No Chapter shall be removed from the place where it is located, except by the consent of the Grand Chapter, upon petition by a majority of the members of such Chapter, or by permission of the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest, given upon like petition, in cases of emergency, during the recess of the Grand Chapter.

Sec. 12. It being the duty of every Chapter belonging to this Grand body to be represented at an early period of each session thereof, 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 the Grand Chapter be 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, and 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 aforesaid.

Sec. 13. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Ma- Dues to the
 sons, holden under this jurisdiction, shall pay G. Chapter.
 into the funds thereof the following sum to-wit:
 For every member thereof, the annual sum of Must be paid
 fifty cents, which sum shall be punctually paid, annually.
 during the session of this Grand Chapter at their
 regular annual meeting thereafter, and every
 Chapter which shall neglect or refuse to pay said
 sum at the time 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 reg- Warrant for-
 ular session thereof, shall be punished therefor feited in case
 by forfeiture of their warrant, and expulsion of neglect.
 from this Grand Chapter, and only restored by How restored.
 paying up all dues, and a sufficient and satisfac-
 tory apology for the breach of good rules.

Sec. 14. And for the better carrying the pre- G. Secretary to
 ceding section into effect, the Grand Secretary report delin-
 shall, on the second day of the session of this quent Chap-
 Grand Chapter, inform the same what Chapters ters.
 are deficient, and how long they have been so,
 in the payment of their dues as aforesaid, that No Chapter
 the Grand Chapter may make such order there- represented
 on as the members thereof shall deem right, and until dues are
 no Chapter can be represented until its dues are paid.
 paid.

ARTICLE V.

AMENDMENTS.

Every proposition to revise, alter, or amend
 this Constitution, shall be submitted in writing, How made.
 at an annual Convocation, distinctly read, and
 if approved by a majority of the members pres-
 ent, shall be entered on the minutes, and shall
 lie for consideration until the next annual Con-

vocation, at which time it may be adopted: *Provided*, Two-thirds of the Subordinate Chapters must be represented, and concur therein.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Members of the Chapter to be clothed with badges. | 1st. Every member of this Grand Chapter must, previous to his taking his seat as such, at the Convocation, clothe himself with the uniform and badges appertaining to his station. |
| Behavior of members after the G. Chapter is opened. | 2d. After the Grand Chapter is opened, the members and visitors shall conduct themselves with that order and propriety which the dignity of the Order requires—they shall pay due respect to the presiding officer, for the time being, to whose commands they shall be attentive and obedient, and they shall not leave the Grand Chapter without permission. |
| Resolutions—how offered. | 3d. 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 to be submitted to the consideration and decision of the Grand Chapter. |
| No member to speak more than twice. | 4th. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject, without permission from the presiding officer, for the time being. |
| Companions speaking not to be interrupted, unless wandering from the subject. | 5th. Every Companion who speaks shall rise, and in a respectful manner address the presiding officer, and while speaking no one shall interrupt him, unless he is wandering from the subject or question under consideration, when he shall be called to order, and shall sit down, but may again proceed, if he think proper, after being corrected. |
| Power of presiding officers. | 6th. The presiding officer shall decide questions of order without debate, allowing any member the right of appeal to the Chapter from such decision; he shall appoint all committees, where |

the number composing the committee does not exceed five; fill all vacancies which may occur by the absence of any regular officer, by appointment pro tem., and shall publicly reprimand any Companion who may be guilty of any indecorous or disorderly conduct during the working of the Chapter. A second offense of the same nature may be punished by suspension or expulsion from all the benefits of the Order.

Disorderly conduct to be punished by suspension or expulsion.

7th. No member of the Grand Chapter, after taking his seat as such, shall be permitted to leave any annual or special Convocation without asking for, and obtaining permission by a vote of the members present.

Members must obtain leave of absence by vote of members.

8th. Reports from Subordinate Chapters, and the credentials of proxies, shall be handed to the Grand Secretary, and shall be by him examined and reported correct before such proxy shall be entitled to the privileges of a member; and it is hereby made the duty of the Grand Secretary to annex to these laws a proper form of returns which shall be strictly observed in all cases.

Reports and credentials to be submitted to the Grand Secretary.

Form to be annexed.

9th. When an appeal shall be taken to this Grand Chapter, the same may be decided in open Chapter, or referred to a committee, as shall be deemed expedient; and in all cases the Chapter from which the appeal has been taken, shall have the benefit of any additional testimony. Should the sentence of suspension or expulsion pronounced by any Subordinate Chapter be reversed on appeal by the Grand Chapter, the person so suspended or expelled shall not thereby be restored to membership in said Chapter without the unanimous consent of its members.

Proceedings on appeals in Gr. Chapter.

Gr. Chapter reversing decision, &c.

10th. Any section, or part of sections, or the whole of these laws and regulations may be amended, altered or suspended at any annual

Amendments—how made.

Convocation, by and with the consent of a majority of the Subordinate Chapters.

Repeal of former laws.

11th. All laws and regulations heretofore enacted by the Grand Chapter, which conflict or differ in any manner whatever with, or which are not herein contained, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

When these laws take effect.

12th. The laws and regulations shall commence and be in force from and after the passage thereof.

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

[illegible]

Attested, and Seal affixed
 this -- day of --, A. D..
 (L. S.) , A. L. R. A. M.
 Secretary.

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

H. P.

CONSTITUTION

Of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, as revised and Adopted, September 1844.

ARTICLE I.

OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

Section 1. There shall be a General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, which shall be holden triennially, on the second Tuesday in September, at such place as shall from time to time be designated for that purpose, and at which time the General Grand officers shall be elected by ballot, and installed.

Sec. 2. The General Grand Chapter shall have and maintain jurisdiction over all State Grand Chapters, and over Chapters in those States, Districts, Republics, or Territories, which recognize this jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Chapter regularly established, agreeably to the *provisions* of this Constitution; and shall have authority to suspend the proceedings of such State Grand Chapters, and such Chapters in States where there is no Grand Chapter, as may knowingly violate any of the provisions of this Constitution; to settle all difficulties which may arise, and to give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to their peace, and to the advancement of the great cause of benevolence and virtue.

Sec. 3. The officers of the General Grand Chapter shall consist of a General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, General Grand Scribe, General Grand Secretary, General Grand Treasurer, General Grand Chaplain, and General Grand Marshal; these, together with the Past General Grand High Priests, Past Deputy General

Grand High Priests, Past General Grand Kings, Past General Grand Scribes, the first four officers of every State Grand Chapter under this jurisdiction, or the proxies of the first four General Grand Officers, and of the first four officers of each State Grand Chapter aforesaid, shall compose the General Grand Chapter; *Provided*, that any Chapter under this jurisdiction, in any State, District, or Territory, where there is no Grand Chapter duly established, shall have a right to appear by the first three officers, or any one or two of them: which officers shall collectively have one vote.

Sec. 4. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Chapter, each State Grand Chapter shall be entitled to four votes by its representative or representatives.

The General Grand Officers when present shall each have one vote. And no General Grand Officer shall be allowed to take a seat in the General Grand Chapter, as the representative of any State Grand Chapter—nor shall any member of the General Grand Chapter be permitted to vote as a proxy, while the person giving the proxy is present;—nor shall any person be admitted into the General Grand Chapter as the representative of more than one State Grand Chapter at one and the same time.

Sec. 5. The General Grand High Priest and Deputy General Grand High Priest shall have authority to call a meeting of the General Grand Chapter, whenever they may consider it expedient or necessary; and it shall be their duty so to do, when properly requested by a majority of the State Grand Chapters, of which four months notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.

Sec. 6. The General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, shall severally have power and authority to grant Dispen-sations, for a limited length of time, for new Royal Arch Chapters and Lodges of the appendant Orders, in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, in which there is not a Grand Chapter regularly established, when, in their opinion,

the good of the craft may require the same; which term of time shall, in no case, extend beyond the time of the next triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter; but no new Chapter shall be established in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, where there is a Chapter, within a reasonable distance, under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, without the approbation of the Chapter nearest to the place where said new Chapter is proposed to be located; and in all cases of such Dispensation, the officer who may grant the same, shall immediately notify the General Grand Secretary thereof, and make report of the same at the next triennial meeting of this General Grand Chapter, when the General Grand Chapter may grant the said Chapter a Charter.

Sec. 7. The fees for instituting a new Royal Arch Chapter with subordinate degrees, shall be ninety dollars, and no more; and no credit shall be given for Dispensations or Charters, or for conferring the degrees, in any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction. And every Chapter holden by Dispensation or Charter under this jurisdiction, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Chapter, the sum of two dollars for each companion therein exalted, until such time as a Grand Chapter shall be regularly established in the State, Country, Republic, or Territory in which such subordinate Chapter is located. The Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners ten dollars for his services in furnishing the Charter.

The fees in the several States for conferring the several degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, shall not be less than twenty dollars; and the fees for the advancement of a candidate to the degree of Mark Master in all Chapters and Lodges shall not be less than four dollars.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of the General Grand High Priest, Deputy General Grand High Priest, General Grand King, and General Grand Scribe, to improve and perfect themselves in the sublime Arts, and work of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters, and Royal Arch Masons; to make themselves Masters of the several Masonic Lectures,

and ancient charges, to consult with each other, and with the Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes of the several State Grand Chapters aforesaid, for the purpose of adopting measures suitable and proper for diffusing a knowledge of the said Lectures and Charges. And the better to accomplish this laudable object, the aforesaid officers are hereby severally authorized and empowered to visit and preside in any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Lodge of Most Excellent Master, Mark, and Past Master Masons throughout the said States, and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the fraternity may require; always adhering to the ancient land-marks of the Order.

Sec. 9. No Royal Arch Mason, within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, shall be permitted to confer any degree in masonry, not recognized as a constitutional degree; nor to establish any society of Masons not recognized as a constitutional body: and the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter, or any three of them, shall in all cases have authority to decide all constitutional questions under this section; nor shall any Royal Arch Mason be permitted to give lectures, or instruction on the several degrees of masonry, conferred by or under the authority of the General Grand Chapter, except he or they shall have been duly authorized by two of the State Grand Officers; which authority shall be given under their hands and the seal of the State Grand Chapter, attested by their Grand Secretary.

Sec. 10. In all cases of the absence of an officer from any body of Masons, instituted or holden by virtue of this Constitution, the officer next in rank shall occupy his place, unless through courtesy, or for other reasons, he should decline in favor of another companion or brother; and in case of the absence of all the officers from any regular meeting of either of the bodies aforesaid, the members present shall designate some suitable companions or brethren to fill the several stations.

Sec. 11. In every Chapter and Lodge under this jurisdiction, all questions (except the admission of members, or can-

didates, which shall require an unanimous ballot), shall be considered and determined in such way and manner, as such Chapters and Lodges may, all circumstances considered, find most conducive to their harmony and permanent prosperity: *Provided*, they do not in any case interfere with, or infringe on the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

Sec. 12. The General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter shall have and keep a seal, which shall be affixed to all his communications.

Sec. 13. Should any casualty, at any time hereafter, prevent the triennial election of officers, the several officers shall retain their respective offices until successors are duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE II.

OF STATE GRAND CHAPTERS.

Section 1. The State Grand Chapters shall severally consist of a Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal; and likewise, of the High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, for the time being, of the several Chapters over which they shall respectively preside, and of the Past Grand and Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, of the said Grand Chapters: and the said Grand Chapters shall have full power and authority to elect such other officers, and to establish such rules and regulations, as they shall, from time to time, consider necessary and proper: *Provided*, such regulations do not in any way interfere with the provisions of this Constitution.

Sec. 2. The State Grand Chapters shall severally be holden once in every year, and oftener if they may consider it expedient or necessary at such time and place as they shall respectively direct; and at their annual meetings, the constitutional officers shall be elected, or appointed, in such manner as shall be provided for by their rules and regulations, and

installed into their respective offices; and the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, for the time being, may call special meetings, to be holden at such times and places as they may think proper.

Sec. 3. The several State Grand Chapters shall have the sole government and superintendence of the several Royal Arch Chapters, and Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, within their respective jurisdictions, to assign their limits, and to settle the controversies that may happen between them; and shall have power, under their respective seals and the signs manual of their respective Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings, and Scribes, attested by their respective Grand Secretaries, to constitute new Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, within their respective jurisdictions; but their jurisdictions shall, in no case, be construed to extend beyond the limits of the State, except by consent of the General Grand Chapter.

Sec. 4. The Grand, and Deputy Grand High Priests, severally, shall have the power and authority, whenever they shall deem it expedient, during the recess of the Grand Chapter of which they are officers, to grant letters of Dispensation, under their respective hands and private seals, to a competent number of petitioners, possessing the qualifications required by the seventh section of the second article of this Constitution, empowering them to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for a certain specified term of time: *Provided*, that the said term of time shall not extend beyond the next meeting of the Grand Chapter of the State in which such Dispensation shall be granted: *And provided further*, that the same fees as are required by this Constitution for Charters, shall be first deposited in the hands of the Grand Treasurer. And in all cases of such Dispensation, the officers who may grant the same, shall make report thereof at the next stated meeting of the Grand Chapter of his jurisdiction, when the said Grand Chapter may either continue or recall the said Dispensation, or may grant the petitioners a Charter of Constitution. And in case such Charter shall be granted, the fees first deposited shall be

credited in payment for the same; but if a Charter should not be granted, nor the Dispensation continued, the said fees shall be refunded to the petitioners, excepting only such part thereof as shall have been actually expended by means of their application.

Sec. 5. No Dispensation or Charter shall be granted for instituting Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, or Mark Masters, independent of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

Sec. 6. The Grand Chapters shall have power, severally, to require from the several Chapters under their respective jurisdictions, such reasonable proportion of sums received by them for the exaltation or advancement of candidates, and such certain annual sums from their respective members, as by their ordinances or regulations shall be appointed; all which said sums or dues shall be made good and paid annually by the said Chapters, respectively, into the Treasury of the Grand Chapter under which they hold their authority, on or before the first day of the respective annual meetings of the said Grand Chapters.

Sec. 7. No Dispensation or Charter for the institution of a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons shall be granted, except upon the petition of nine regular Royal Arch Masons; which petition shall be accompanied with a certificate from the Chapter nearest to the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending that a Dispensation or Charter be granted them.

Sec. 8. The Grand Secretaries of the State Grand Chapters shall, severally, make an annual communication to each other, and also to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, containing a list of Grand Officers, and all such other matters as may be deemed necessary for the mutual benefit and information of the said Grand Chapters. And the said Grand Secretaries shall also regularly transmit to the Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, a copy of all their By-Laws and regulations; and also a copy of their proceedings, annually, to each of the officers of the General Grand Chapter; and the

State Grand Chapters shall see that their Grand Secretaries faithfully and punctually perform this duty.

Sec. 9. Whenever there shall have been three Chapters regularly instituted and consecrated in any State, Country, Republic, or Territory, by virtue of authority derived from this Constitution, a Grand Chapter shall be established, so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate: *Provided*, that the approbation of one of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter be first obtained. And said G. Chapters, by their regular officers, shall assemble in some suitable place, elect their officers, and make such rules and regulations for their government as may be necessary—not inconsistent with the regulations of the General Grand Chapter.

Sec. 10. No person shall be permitted to take a seat in any State Grand Chapter, as the representative of more than one Chapter or Lodge; nor unless he is a member of a subordinate Chapter under that jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AND LODGES.

Section 1. Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, throughout this jurisdiction, shall have a Dispensation, as is provided in section 6th, of the first article, or section 4th of the second article of this Constitution, or a Charter from the General Grand Chapter, or from some Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter; and no Chapter shall be deemed legal without such Dispensation, or Charter; and masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden, between any Chapter or Lodge, or any member of either of them, and any Chapter, Lodge, or assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened, or holden, without such Charter, or any or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge. But nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any Chapter or Lodge which was established before the

adoption of the Grand Royal Arch Constitution, at Hartford, on the 27th day of January, A. D. 1798.

Sec. 2. Whenever a Charter is issued for instituting a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, with a power in said Charter to open and hold Lodges of Most Excellent, Past, and Mark Master Masons, the High Priest, King, and Scribe, for the time being, of such Chapter, shall be the Master and Wardens in said Lodges, according to seniority.

Sec. 3. It is incumbent on the High Priest of every Chapter, as appertaining to his office, duty and dignity, to see that the By-Laws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and the regulations of the Grand Chapter, be duly observed; that all his subordinate officers perform the duties of their respective stations faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to their companions; that true and exact records be kept of all the proceedings of the Chapter, by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render exact and just accounts of all the moneys belonging to the Chapter; that regular returns be made by the Secretary annually to the Grand Chapter, of all admission of candidates or members; and that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be regularly and punctually paid. The Charter of his Chapter is committed to his special care and charge. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence which, in his judgment, may require their meeting, and he is to fill the Chair when present. It is likewise his duty, together with his King and Scribe, to attend the regular and special meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person or by proxy.

Sec. 4. All Lodges of Mark Master Masons are bound to observe the preceding article, so far as it can be applied to the government of a Lodge.

Sec. 5. No person having been a member of a Chapter or Lodge shall be admitted a member of any other Chapter or Lodge, under this jurisdiction, until he shall have produced a certificate from the Chapter or Lodge to which he last be-

longed, that he was in regular standing, and as such at his own request, is dismissed and recommended.

ARTICLE IV.

OF CONSTITUTING NEW CHAPTERS.

Section 1. When a Charter of Constitution is granted by the General Grand Chapter, or by any State Grand Chapter, for constituting a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Officers, respectively, shall appoint a day and hour for constituting the same, and installing the new officers. On the day and hour appointed, the Grand, or Deputy Grand High Priest, or the presiding officer for the time being, with his officers, meet in a convenient room, near to the place where the new Chapter is to be constituted. The officers of the new Chapter are to be examined, by the Deputy Grand High Priest, or some companion appointed for that purpose; after they are approved, they are to return to the Hall, and prepare for the reception of the Grand Chapter. When notice is given, by the Grand Marshal, that they are prepared, the Grand Chapter walks in procession to the Hall, when the officers appointed for the new Chapter, resign their seats to the Grand Officers, and take their several stations on the left; the necessary cautions are then given from the chair, and the Ceremony commences by performing an Anthem or Ode adapted to the occasion. The officers and members of the new Chapter then form in front of the Grand High Priest.

The Deputy Grand High Priest then informs the Grand High Priest, that "A number of companions, duly instructed in the sublime mysteries, being desirous of promoting the honor of the Art, have applied to the Grand Chapter for a Charter to constitute a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; which having obtained, they are now assembled for the purpose of being constituted, and having their officers installed in due and ancient form."

The Grand High Priest then directs the Grand Secretary to read the Charter, which being done, he asks the members of the new Chapter if they still approve of the officers elect; this being signified accordingly, the Grand High Priest rises and says,

"By virtue of the high powers in me vested, I do form you, my worthy Companions, into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; from henceforth you are authorized and empowered to open and hold a Lodge of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; and to do and perform all such things as thereunto may appertain; conforming in all your doings to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the general regulations of the State Grand Chapter; and may the God of your Fathers be with you, guide and direct you in all your doings."

GRAND HONORS.

The Furniture, Jewels, Implements, Utensils, &c. belonging to the Chapter (having previously been placed in due form, covered in the centre), are then uncovered, and the new Chapter is dedicated, in ancient manner and form, as is well described in the Most Excellent Master's degree. The Deputy Grand High Priest then presents the first officer of the new Chapter to the Grand High Priest, saying,

"Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

"I present you my worthy Companion ——— to be installed High Priest of this new Chapter; I find him to be skillful in the Royal Art, and attentive to the moral precepts of our Forefathers, and therefore have no doubt but he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity."

"Excellent Companion,

"I feel much satisfaction in performing my duty on the present occasion, by installing you into the office of High Priest

of this new Chapter. It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it; your reputed Masonic knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties; I shall therefore only observe, that by a frequent recurrence to the Constitution, and general regulations, and a constant practice of the several sublime Lectures and Charges, you will be best able to fulfill them; and I am confident, that the companions who are chosen to preside with you, will give strength to your endeavors, and support your exertions. I shall now propose certain questions to you relative to the duties of your office, and to which I must request your unequivocal answer:

"1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors, to correct the vices, purify the morals and promote the happiness of those of your Brethren, who have attained this sublime degree?

"2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons.

"3. That you will never suffer either more or less than three Brethren be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time.

"4. That you will not exalt any one to this degree, who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition; or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the foregoing degrees.

"5. That you will promote the general good of our order, and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instructions, and particularly from the General and State Grand officers.

"6. That to the utmost of your power you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave in open Chapter with most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions.

"7. That you will not acknowledge, or have intercourse with any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional Charter or Dispensation.

"8. That you will not admit any visitor into your Chapter who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his being first formally healed.

"9. That you will observe and support such By-Laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the general regulations of the Grand Chapter.

"10. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the General and State Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several Lectures and Charges, and will resign the Chair to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter.

"11. That you will support and observe the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter under whose authority you act.

"Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practice them faithfully?"

These questions being answered in the affirmative, the companions all kneel in due form, and the Grand High Priest or Grand Chaplain, repeats the following, or some other suitable prayer:

"Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth,

"We approach Thee with reverence, and implore Thy blessing on the Companion appointed to preside over this new assembly, and now prostrate before Thee; fill his heart with Thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce Thy glory. Make him steadfast in Thy service; grant him firmness of mind; animate his heart, and strengthen his endeavors; may he teach Thy judgments and Thy law; and may the incense he shall put before Thee, upon Thine altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto Thee. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy; hear Thou from Heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive our transgressions.

"Glory be to God the Father; as it was in the beginning, &c." Response, "So mote it be."

All the Companions, except High Priests and Past High Priests, are then desired to withdraw, while the new High Priest is solemnly bound to the performance of his duties; and after the performance of other necessary ceremonies, not proper to be written, they are permitted to return.

The Grand High Priest then addresses the new High Priest as follows:

"Excellent Companion,

"In consequence of your cheerful acquiescence with the charges and regulations just recited, I now declare you duly installed and anointed High Priest of this new Chapter; not doubting your determination to support the reputation and honor of our sublime order. I now cheerfully deliver unto you the Charter under which you are to work; and I doubt not you will govern with such good order and regularity, as will convince your Companions that their partiality has not been improperly placed."

The Grand High Priest then clothes and invests the new High Priest with the various implements and insignia of the Order, with suitable charges to each of them.

The Grand High Priest then installs the several subordinate officers in turn; and points out to them the duties appertaining to their respective offices; after which he pronounces a suitable address to the new Chapter, and closes the ceremony, with the following benediction:

"The Lord be with you all; let brotherly love continue; be not forgetful to entertain strangers. Now the God of Peace, our Supreme High Priest, make you perfect to do His Will.

"Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, and good will to men. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, &c."

Sec. 2. Whenever it shall be inconvenient for the General Grand Officers, or the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priests, respectively, to attend in person, to constitute a new Chapter,

and install the officers, they shall, severally, have power and authority to appoint some worthy High Priest, or Past High Priest, to perform the necessary ceremonies.

Sec. 3. 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 General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America."

Sec. 4. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular stated meeting of the General Grand Chapter, with the approbation of two-thirds of the voters present, and not otherwise.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a true copy of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, for the United States of America, as altered, amended and ratified, at the triennial meeting of the General Grand Chapter, begun and holden at the city of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, on the 9th day of September, A. D. 1844.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the General Grand Chapter to be hereunto affixed.

Dated at the city of Baltimore, this 26th day of September, 1845.

CHARLES GILMAN,
G. G. Secretary.

STANDING TRANSACTIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER
OF ALABAMA.*Convocation 1845.*

"That hereafter it shall be the duty of the M. E. Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter to deliver at each annual Convocation thereof a full course of Lectures upon all the degrees of the Chapter, and to fully exemplify the work therein, or cause the same to be done.

"That the amendment to the Constitution, as passed in 1844, authorizing Subordinate Chapters to confer degrees on Ministers of the Gospel without the fees therefor, is in violation of the 12th Section of the 3d Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and therefore null and void."

Convocation 1846.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

"That the 13th Section of the 4th Article of the Constitution be so amended as to change the dues of Subordinate Chapters from \$1 to 50 cents."

Convocation 1847.

RESOLUTION.

"That the refunding to the candidate for the degrees a portion of the fees established by the Grand Chapter, thereby evading the Constitutional provision regulating the same, is a violation of the spirit of the Constitution, and at variance with the custom of other Chapters in the State, and wholly imprudent."

Convocation 1848.

RESOLUTION.

"That the Grand Secretary procure blank forms of reports, and furnish them to the Subordinate Chapters, with instructions to use them hereafter in making their annual reports to the Grand Chapter."

Convocation 1849.

"That no Chapter has any authority to consider any case a case of emergency, but shall strictly conform to the 4th Section of the 3d Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

"That it is the sense of this Grand Chapter that the word "meeting" in the 4th Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter means "Convocation."

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

"To strike out the Proviso in Section 5, Article 4, so as to conform to the 4th Section of the 3d Article of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

"In the 7th Section of the 4th Article, strike out all after the word exalted, and insert as follows: "For the degree of Mark Master \$5, Past Master \$5, Most Excellent Master \$5, and Royal Arch Mason \$15; and no Chapter shall confer any of the degrees on a credit."