

1875
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1875 / A.I. 2405

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

AT THE

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

City of Montgomery,

1875.



MONTGOMERY, ALA.
SOUTHERN PLANTATION PRINT.

PROCEEDINGS.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama held its Forty-ninth Annual Grand Convocation at the New Masonic Temple, in the City of Montgomery, on Tuesday, the 7th day of December, A. D., 1875, A. L. 5875, Anno Inv. 2405.

PRESENT.

MYLES J. GREENE.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES E. COBB.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
JAMES MILTON.....	Grand King.
LUCKY W. JENKINS.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Grand Secretary.
REV. JAMES K. HAZEN.....	Grand Chaplain.
WILLIAM W. HARDER, <i>p. t.</i>	Grand C. of H.
OLIVER S. BEERS, <i>p. t.</i>	Grand P. Sojourner.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Grand R. A. Captain.
CHARLES COLEMAN, <i>p. t.</i>	Grand M. 3 Veil.
EDWARD N. KRING.....	Grand M. 2 Veil.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Grand M. 1 Veil.
JAMES DAVIDSON.....	Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

PELEG BROWN.....	Grand High Priest.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES McCALEB WILEY.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
JAMES M. BRUNDIDGE.....	Grand King.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Grand King.
STEPHEN C. WILLIAMS.....	Grand Scribe.
PALMER J. PILLANS.....	Grand Scribe.

And High Priests, Kings, Scribes, and Proxies from Subordinate Chapters, as follows :

No.	1.	Tuscaloosa.....	John Snow*.....	H. P.
"	13.	Gainesville.....	Edward N. Kring.....	"
"	17.	Wetumpka.....	William S. Penick*.....	"
"	21.	Mobile.....	{ William S. Foster*.....	"
			{ William T. Walthall*.....	K.
			{ William D. Wadsworth.....	H. P.
"	22.	Montgomery	{ Stephen H. Beasley.....	K.
			{ John Gindrat Winter.....	S.
"	24.	Enfaula.....	James Milton.....	H. P.
			{ William W. McCollum	"
"	28.	Saint Johns	James Kent*.....	K.
			{ John A. McKinnon.....	S.
"	30.	James Penn.....	George I. Turnley.....	H. P.
"	32.	Fulton.....	William E. Beaird.....	"
"	35.	James L. Daniel.....	Julius C. Mitchell.....	"
"	40.	Camden	Lucky W. Jenkins.....	"
"	44.	Choctaw	Seth S. Mellen*.....	"
"	63.	Clayton	Alto Velo Lee.....	"
"	64.	Central.....	Edward G. Walker.....	K.
"	66.	Alabama.....	{ Oliver S. Beers*.....	H. P.
			{ Peleg Brown*.....	K.
"	67.	Farriortville.....	Abijah Haley.....	H. P.
"	70.	Choctaw Corner.....	Horatio C. Grayson.....	"
"	71.	Landmark.....	James M. Bridges.....	"
			{ John H. Weed.....	K.
"	72.	Midway.....	James Stratton Paullin.....	H. P.
			{ Jacob H. Prnett.....	K.
"	76.	Elyton.....	Sam Thompson.....	H. P.
"	78.	Danville.....	Jesse J. Woodall*.....	"
"	80.	Loachapoka.....	Myles J. Greene.....	"
"	81.	Jefferson.....	{ William W. Harder.....	"
			{ John W. Jones*.....	K.
"	83.	Bell.....	John W. Garrison.....	H. P.
"	85.	Gaston.....	Charles F. Threadgill*.....	S.
"	87.	Moulton.....	DeWitt C. White.....	H. P.
"	90.	Greenville.....	Thomas H. Barge*.....	"
"	93.	Columbus.....	{ Ben Dowd*.....	"
			{ Joseph A. Adams.....	K.
"	94.	Cowikee.....	Thomas Swanson*.....	H. P.
"	96.	Daniel Pratt.....	{ James K. Hazen.....	"
			{ Samuel P. Smith.....	K.
"	98.	Oxford.....	Stephen C. Williams.....	H. P.
"	100.	Rock Mills	Richard J. Breed.....	S.
			{ Andrew J. Sitton.....	H. P.
"	102.	Cross Plains.....	Jacob F. Dailey*.....	K.
			{ Robert R. Savage*.....	S.

*Proxies.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter was opened in Ample Form.

Prayer by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, Companion James K. Hazen.

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest delivered his Annual Address, and on motion of Companion William T. Walthall, it was referred to a special

COMMITTEE ON G. H. P. ADDRESS.

WILLIAM T. WALTHALL, of Mobile No. 21.

SETH S. MELLEN, of Choctaw No. 44.

JACOB H. PRUETT, of Midway No. 72.

Grand High Priest's Annual Address.

Companions of the Grand Chapter :

Another volume in the annals of Freemasonry draws to a close. Another drama, full of stirring scenes, is about to terminate a year that will be memorable in history for its chapter of accidents by "flood and field."

Freemasonry, having within the scope of its objects the noting of passing events, both in the national and moral world, finds abundant material for speculation as to the cause, as well as a broad field of charity for the alleviation of the direful effects, of the dreadful cyclones that have swept across our Southern land.

These terrible engines of destruction have scattered ruin and desolation over the fair face of nature, and rendered houseless and homeless many of our already stricken people. Respecting neither age nor condition, they have strewn their dreadful paths with the mangled remains of human victims, bringing sorrow and mourning to many a devoted household, where erst while the pleasant converse of parents, the joyous laugh of childhood, had made a scene of domestic tranquility and happiness. In addition to these, over a considerable portion of our territory an unprecedented summer drouth has smitten the products of our fields, destroying almost utterly the fair promise and high hopes to which a most encouraging spring season had given rise. But while we should bow with humble submission to these, and all other dispensations of Divine Providence, let us not be unmindful of the consoling fact that we are at all times in the hands of a loving Father, who "doeth all things well," and from all our misfortunes

as a people let us learn to cultivate a more lively sense of, and a profounder gratitude to Him for the manifold blessings we still enjoy, through His abounding mercy.

Although there seems to be paralysis in every limb that branches out from the parent tree of Industry, and our oppressed and impoverished people stagger under the heavy burdens imposed upon them by long years of misrule, yet, let us trust that a change that comes to all will come to us, and that this dark picture will mellow in the sunlight of a brighter day coming, whose early dawning is foreshadowed by the very darkness of the present.

Under the benign influence of a wise and economical government — now happily assured — may we not hope for a return of the long prayed-for days of peace, prosperity, and happiness!

In the restoration of better times, while the hand of industry is busy with the plough, the hoe, and the sickle; while commerce is spreading her sails for a wider sweep over Ocean's wave; while science, in the laboratory with retort and crucible, is taming the wild coursers of nature, to be harnessed by the cunning hand of man to the car of civilization, let us remember that Masonry has a no less important part to perform. Be it her's to mingle like an unseen spirit in all the busy throng—diffusing throughout the whole the genius of brotherly love—whispering courage into the heart of the timid, mildly rebuking the hasty and inconsiderate, and covering all errors and imperfections with the broad mantle of a true Mason's charity.

Let every Mason nerve himself for a vigorous contest against the encroachment of vice — “set his face like a flint” against the demoralizing tendencies of the times—practice as well as preach the great cardinal virtues of our order, and thus “live up to, and live out,” the noble principles so eloquently symbolized in our sublime and beautiful rites.

Then, whatever of success we may have achieved in our efforts to elevate and enoble our common humanity, our own consciences, and a candid public will say of us, as was said of her of the “alabaster box of ointment” by the Immaculate one himself, we have done what we could.

While I cannot report a high degree of prosperity, it is my privilege to inform you that complete harmony continues to prevail in our ranks.

I regret that some of our Chapters have been compelled to succumb to the stringency of the times, while others maintain a feeble existence. But in the "good time coming," for which we so fondly look, we trust that these broken altars will be rebuilt, and new life infused into the faltering, so that each may be prepared and ready to do its appropriate work.

For the first time during my administration, a year has passed without an application to me for an official decision — a fact which affords gratifying evidence both of the existence of harmony, and of a commendable progress in the knowledge of our laws, among the officers and members of subordinate Chapters. And, as a means of further promoting such knowledge, I would recommend to companions generally, and particularly such as hold official positions, a careful study of the various works extant on Masonic law, embracing our own Chapter code, together with the able and comprehensive reports of Committees on Foreign Correspondence, which last, I fear, are not overread by very many of the members, but which contain a fund of information so vast, varied, and valuable, not alone as to the Masonic law and usage, but as to the condition and progress of our Order throughout the globe, that the time required for their perusal cannot well be better employed.

March 10th I granted a dispensation to Jefferson Chapter, No. 81, to continue work until the present convocation of the Grand Chapter, the charter of said Chapter having been forfeited for non-representation, and its dues having been paid in full. At same date, I also granted to the same Chapter a dispensation to use two substitutes in the exaltation of a class.

June 3d and 12th, respectively, I granted dispensations to Tuskegee Chapter, No. 43, and Loachapoka Chapter, No. 80, to elect their officers out of time, sufficient reasons having been given in each case for their failure to attend to that duty at the proper time.

On the 23d of April, 10th of May, and 18th of September, respectively, I received notice of the appointment of the following named

companions as the Representatives of other Grand Chapters, near the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

George D. Norris, P. G. H. P., by the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

George P. Harrison Jr., by the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

James E. Cobb, D. G. H. P., by the Grand Chapter of Minnesota.

Wiley W. Bloodworth, G. C. of H., by the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

These Representatives come to us duly accredited and at a suitable time you will receive and welcome them as such.

In pursuance of an established custom of this Grand Chapter, the object of which is to insure representation in other similar bodies, I have appointed the following named companions as the Representatives of this Grand Chapter, near those named below.

April 26th, Augustine T. Smythe, G. H. P., of Charleston, to the Grand Chapter of South Carolina.

May 8th, Moses W. Gatchell, of Minnesota, to the Grand Chapter of Minnesota.

May 8th, William C. Swain, of Milwaukee, to the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

May 8th.—Being informed of the removal from that jurisdiction, of our Representative in Mississippi, I appointed in his stead, Companion Robert L. Sanders, of Jackson.

September 18th, I appointed Companion William E. Hill, to the Grand Chapter of Nebraska.

This system of mutual representation, now generally adopted by the Grand Chapters both in and out of the United States, while it possesses few practical advantages, is certainly calculated to induce a warmer sympathy, and a closer bond of union, between the various departments of the Grand Army of Freemasons, who are so nobly laboring to shed abroad over the world those happy influences which tend in no small degree to cultivate in the human heart, a sense of universal brotherhood.

The important duties of another Convocation now demand our attention. For their successful discharge, sufficient time for due deliberation is essential, that we may not hereafter be called upon to de-

plore and correct the evils arising from hasty and inconsiderate legislation. Especially do I commend that ample time be allowed the Committee on Work, to make a full and complete report, as such reports constitute the principle means of disseminating the work of the Grand Chapter among her subordinates.

The time is now near at hand when I shall lay aside the emblems of authority with which you have invested me for three successive terms. Right sure am I, that during life, I shall not cease to appreciate the high and unmerited honor thus conferred, nor the confidence you have reposed in me.

For the errors and imperfections which I have exhibited as your presiding officer, I crave your generous forbearance. However far I have fallen short of their attainment, my sincere desire and constant aim have been, not only to protect the interests of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, but above all, to elevate Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, to an exalted plane of earnest, virtuous and consistent living.

Finally, companions, may Heaven's choicest blessings attend you through life; and when we shall cease to meet in Temples below, may we each be found worthy to be "received and accepted" by Him, in whose presence there is "fullness of joy;" and at whose right hand are "pleasures forevermore."

MYLES J. GREENE,

Grand High Priest.

The Grand Secretary made his Annual Report, and it was received and referred to the Committee on Finance. (*See Appendix.*)

The Grand Treasurer made his Annual Report, and it was received and referred to the Committee on Finance. (*See Appendix.*)

Companion Grand Secretary offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

RE-INSTATEMENT.

Resolved, That all Chapters, the charters of which have been forfeited by reason of non-representation or non-payment of dues, and which have now paid up their dues in full, be, and the same are hereby, reinstated.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Companion Palmer J. Pillaus made his Report on Foreign Correspondence, and it was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes, and printed with the proceedings; and the resolution appended thereto, was adopted.

REPORT ON WORK.

The Committee on Work, by its Chairman, Companion H. Clay Armstrong, made report on the M. M. Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

Companion William T. Walthall, from the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in:

REPORT ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

COMPANIONS:—Your Committee, to whom was referred the Address of the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, have the honor and pleasure to report, that they find no occasion for any action on the part of this Grand Chapter, beyond a hearty approval of the various official acts reported therein, as well as of the counsels which have been so wisely, eloquently, and feelingly addressed to us.

We find no reason for reference of any part of the Address to any of our standing committees; as happily there has been no occasion for any decision upon questions of Capitular law, or other action, on which there could possibly be any variety of opinion.

Your Committee recognize, with emotions of painful regret, the constitutional necessity, adverted to by our M. Ex. Grand High Priest, for a termination of his present official relations with us. In view of the ability, dignity, firmness, moderation, and gentleness, which have invariably marked his administration, and which will ever render it a bright and pleasing chapter in the history of the Fraternity, we beg to offer for adoption the following resolution:

Resolved That this Grand Chapter deeply regrets the termination now approaching (under constitutional limitation) of the administration of our M. Ex. Grand High Priest, Companion MYLES J. GREENE, and that we hereby tender our thanks for the ability, impartiality, wisdom, and brotherly kindness, by which it has always been characterized.

Respectfully submitted.

W. T. WALTHALL,
SETH S. MELLEN,
J. H. PRUETT,
Committee.

Companion Grand Secretary offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

COOSA CHAPTER, NO. 86.

Resolved, That Coosa Chapter, No. 86, be granted sixty (60) days from the adjournment of this Grand Chapter in which to make its returns and pay its dues to the Grand Chapter, and that said Chapter be reinstated upon said payment of dues, and permitted to elect its officers.

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 1.—William S. Penick, Jesse J. Woodall, Richard J. Breed.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 2.—Seth S. Mellen, Charles F. Threadgill, Robert R. Savage.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 3.—William W. Harder, Joseph A. Adams, Samuel P. Smith.

ON DISPENSATIONS.—Edward N. Kring, Edward G. Walker, Ben Dowd.

ON FINANCE.—John W. Garrison, James M. Bridges, James S. Paullin.

ON BY-LAWS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS AND APPEALS.—John H. Weed, Julius C. Mitchell, Andrew J. Litten.

ON JURISPRUDENCE.—James E. Cobb, Oliver S. Beers, James H. Joiner.

And then, after prayer by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, December 8, 1875.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8 o'clock, the Most Ex. Grand High Priest, Myles J. Greene, presiding; the other Grand Officers at their several stations.

Prayer by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic year. Companions Joseph H. Johnson and William W. McCollum acting as Tellers, and the election resulted as follows:

ELECTED GRAND OFFICERS.

JAMES E. COBB.....	Tuskegee.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES MILTON.....	Eufaula.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
LUCKY W. JENKINS.....	Allenton.....	Grand King.
JAMES KENT.....	Selma.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY.....	Montgomery	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Montgomery	Grand Secretary.
REV. JAMES K. HAZEN.....	Prattville.....	Grand Chaplain.
WILEY W. BLOODWORTH.....	Loachapoka	Grand C. of H.

On motion of Companion Palmer J. Pillans, the following preamble and resolution, introduced by him at the Annual Convocation in 1872, were taken up, and the preamble concurred in, and the resolution adopted:

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

Whereas, The reasons which induced the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama to declare "That the connection subsisting between the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama and the General Grand Chapter of the United States be, and the same is hereby dissolved," passed by this M. Ex. Grand Chapter at its Convocation in 1861, have ceased to exist; and

Whereas, This M. Ex. Grand Chapter believes that great good to the R. A. Craft might result in united and harmonious action; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the said resolution be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Companion James E. Cobb, offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

HERMON NO. 34.

Resolved, That the charter of Hermon Chapter No. 34, upon the payment of the dues for this Grand Convocation, be, and the same is hereby restored, and that said Chapter be authorized to elect officers.

Resolved, That all other dues owing by said Chapter be, and the same are hereby remitted.

Companion Edward G. Walker offered the following resolution and it was adopted:

SHELBY, NO. 97.

Resolved, That Shelby Chapter, No. 97, having lost its furniture, jewels, Charter, and its Hall by fire, a new Charter is hereby granted to it free of charge, and its dues for the present Convocation are hereby remitted in.

Companion William W. Harder, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters, No. 3, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in.

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS, NO. 3.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Chartered Chapters, No. 3, beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the returns submitted to them, and find the following

CORRECT :

Jefferson.....	No. 81	Oxford	No. 98
Bell.....	" 83	Rock Mills.....	" 100
Carrollton.....	" 84	Cross Plains.....	" 102
Gaston.....	" 85	Warrior Station, U. D.....	" 103
Moulton.....	" 87		

INCORRECT.

GREENVILLE No. 90.—Dues, being for two years, are run out at \$1.50. Dues for 1874 should have been added at the bottom of the column. Blanks not filled out with the word *none* according to directions.

COLUMBUS No. 93.—Same name reported under the head of Mark Master and Past Master. Should have been only under the latter, with the date of receiving the former degree.

DANIEL PRATT No. 96.—No dues run out opposite the names.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

W. W. HARDER, Chairman.

Companion Seth S. Mellen, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters, No. 2, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in :

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS, NO. 2.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

Your Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 2, beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the returns submitted to them, and find the following

CORRECT :

Concord.....	No. 37	Farriorville.....	No. 67
Camden.....	" 40	Choctaw Corner.....	" 70
Choctaw.....	" 44	Landmark	" 71
Central.....	" 64	Elyton	" 76
Russell.....	" 65	Danville, 2 years.....	" 78
Alabama.....	" 66	Loachapoka.....	" 80

INCORRECT.

CLAYTON No. 63.—Initials and abbreviations used. Name of *one* exalted in the wrong place, and *two* left out of the general list. Dues short \$1.50.

MIDWAY No. 72.—Dues not extended against each member. Blanks not filled in with the word *none*. Seal in the wrong place.

Fraternally submitted,

S. S. MELLEN, Chairman.

Companion Edward N. Kring, from the Committee on Dispensations, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in :

REPORT ON DISPENSATIONS.

Your Committee on Dispensations have examined the minutes of Warrior Chapter No. 103, *U. D.*, and find that the four degrees were conferred on three candidates at one Convocation.

Also, that the minutes of one Convocation have never been read and approved.

Also, that at one Convocation petitions were received from three candidates and referred; and that at the next Convocation all three were exalted. Their is no record of their having received the other degrees. These proceedings your Committee cannot harmonize with the Constitution and requirements of the Grand Chapter.

Your Committee have also examined the By-laws of this Chapter, and recommend their approval.

After conferring with the officers of this Chapter, and impressing them with the necessity of greater care and particularity in their proceedings, your Committee recommend a charter.

Fraternally,

E. N. KRING,
E. G. WALKER,
Committee.

REPORT ON P. M. DEGREE.

The Committee on Work, by its Chairman, H. Clay Armstrong, made report on the Past Master's Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

And then, after prayer by the R. W. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, Companion James K. Hazen, the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 8½ o'clock.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

THURSDAY MORNING, December 9, 1875.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8½ o'clock, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, Myles J. Greene, presiding; the other Grand Officers at their several stations.

Prayer by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain.

The minutes were read and approved.

Companion William S. Penick, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 1, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in:

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 1.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 1, beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the returns submitted to them, and find the following

CORRECT:

Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1.	Talladega	No. 23
Eunomia.....	" 5.	Eufaula	" 24
Wetumpka	" 17.	James Penn	" 30
Mobile.....	" 21.		

INCORRECT:

CYRUS No. 6.—The number of this Chapter is not put in the right place on the back of the returns. In the recapitulation on the back of same, in the blanks the word none is not used. The name of the postoffice and the county is not given.

TUSCUMBIA No. 10.—The dates under the heads of the dead and dimitted were placed under the wrong head, and then marked across with ink, which defaces the report. The seal of this Chapter is not plumb.

GAINESVILLE No. 13.—The name of the High Priest is not signed to the returns of this Chapter. What is written under the head of Degrees conferred is carelessly done. The report is in some degree defaced by scratching. The name of the postoffice and county is not given.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—Under the head of officers and members in giving the name of Companion Barksdale, his initials are alone used, otherwise the report is correct and very neat.

COURTLAND No. 25.—Under the heads of officers and members in giving the name of Companion Gibson, the first word of his name is not written, but only the initial. The first word of the name of Companion Simpson is abbreviated.

ST. JOHNS No. 28.—The returns of this Chapter are not signed by the High Priest.

JAMES L. DANIEL No. 35.—The impression from the seal of this Chapter is so much defaced by ink that the name and number of the same cannot be ascertained from it.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM S. PENICK,
Chairman.

Companion John W. Garrison, from the Committee on Finance, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in. (*See Appendix.*)

Companion Joseph H. Johnson offered the following resolutions, and they were adopted :

Resolved, That, in consideration of the love and esteem, we, as Royal Arch Masons feel for our M. Ex. G. H. Priest, Myles J. Greene, whose term of office has now ended by constitutional limitation, the sum of one hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the procurement of a suitable Grand High Priest's Jewel, to be presented to him at the next Grand Annual Convocation.

Resolved, 2. That a committee of three, of which the Grand Treasurer shall be one, be appointed to procure such jewel and have it suitably inscribed.

Companion Benjamin F. Pope offered the following resolutions, and they were adopted :

LEBANON NO. 57.

Resolved, That Lebanon Chapter No. 57 be re-instated upon payment of the dues for the present year, and that said Chapter be allowed sixty days to make returns and pay said dues.

Resolved, That upon payment of said dues, said Chapter is authorized by a majority vote to move its Convocations from Lebanon to Van Buren, and to elect officers.

The Grand High Priest elect announced the following

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS.

WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH.....Montgomery.....Grand P. Sojourner.
JAMES H. JOINER.....Talladega.....Grand R. A. C.
JOHN W. GARRISON.....Lineville.....Grand M. 3 V.
WILLIAM S. PENICK.....Wetumpka.....Grand M. 2 V.
BEN DOWD.....Newton.....Grand M. 1 V.

Companion H. Clay Armstrong offered the following resolution, and it was adopted :

GRAND CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES.

Resolved, That the following representatives of other Grand Chapters, *to-wit* :

GEORGE P. HARRISON JR.....Auburn.....Wisconsin,
WILEY W. BLOODWORTH.....Loachapoka.....Nebraska,
JAMES E. COBB.....Tuskegee.....Minnesota,

be, and the same are hereby received and cordially welcomed as the representatives of the respective Grand Chapters opposite their names.

Whereupon, Companion James E. Cobb, being the only one present, was presented and received by the M. Ex Grand High Priest in an appropriate address.

INSTALLATION.

The Grand Officers elected and appointed, were installed in ample form by the retiring Grand High Priest, Companion Myles J. Greene; Companion Alto Velo Lee, acting as Grand Marshal, and presenting them for that purpose.

Companion H. Clay Armstrong, offered the following resolution, and it was adopted :

ZERUBBABEL NO. 56.

Resolved, That Zerubbabel Chapter No. 56 be allowed sixty days in which to make returns and pay dues; and that said Chapter have

its Charter restored, and be allowed to remove from its present location to Camp Hill, a majority of its members consenting thereto; and that said Chapter be authorized to elect officers, and make returns of such election to the Grand Secretary as soon as practicable.

Companion Alto V. Lee, offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

COWIKEE NO. 94.

Resolved, That Cowikee Chapter No. 94 have its Charter restored and be authorized to elect officers, *provided*, that all dues to this Grand Chapter are paid within sixty days from this Grand Convocation.

REPORT ON THE ROYAL ARCH.

The Committee on Work, by its Chairman, Companion H. Clay Armstrong, made report on the opening and closing ceremonies of the Royal Arch Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest announced the following Standing Committees of the Grand Chapter:

ON WORK.

Henry Clay Armstrong.....	Notasulga.
Joseph H. Johnson.....	Talladega.
Lucky W. Jenkins.....	Allenton.

CUSTODIAN OF THE WORK.

James E. Cobb, <i>virtute officii</i>	Tuskegee.
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MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

James E. Cobb.....	Tuskegee.
Oliver S. Beers.....	Mobile.
James H. Joiner.....	Talladega.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.
DeWitt C. White.....	Moulton.
William F. Beaird.....	Orrville.
Charles F. Threadgill.....	Gaston.
Jacob F. Dailey.....	Cross Plains.

COMMITTEE ON JEWEL.

William H. Dingley.....	Montgomery
Joseph H. Johnson.....	Talladega.
Stephen H. Beasley.....	Montgomery

And there being no further business to be brought before the Grand Chapter at this Annual Convocation, the minutes were read and approved.

And then after solemn prayer to the Throne of Grace, by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, Companion James K. Hazen, the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama was closed in AMPLE FORM at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes A. M.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

ALBANY

APPENDIX.

ALBERT DICK

Report on Foreign Correspondence.

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama :

Again has the undersigned through the care of Providence, been allowed to make the annual report of the Committee on correspondence, himself deriving as heretofore great pleasure from the labor and no little profit. He hopes that his work may be productive of both to the companions of this Jurisdiction.

The Committee have received and examined the following reports and have reviewed them in the following order :

Arkansas.....	1874	Minnesota.....	1874-75
Colorado	1875	Mississippi	1875
California.....	1875	Missouri.....	1875
Connecticut.....	1875	North Carolina.....	1875
Delaware.....	1875	Nebraska.....	1873-75
District of Columbia.....	1874	New Jersey.....	1875
Florida	1875	New York.....	1875
Georgia	1875	Nova Scotia.....	1873-74
Illinois.....	1874	Ohio.....	1874-75
Iowa	1874	Oregon.....	1875
Kansas.....	1874	Pennsylvania	1874
Kentucky.....	1874	South Carolina.....	1875
Louisiana	1875	Tennessee.....	1874
Maine.....	1875	Vermont.....	1874
Maryland	1874	Virginia.....	1875
Massachusetts.....	1875	Wisconsin.....	1875

Thirty-three in all. We however miss Canada, New Hampshire, Texas and West Virginia.

ARKANSAS.

The 25th Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 22d of October, 1874, upon a call of the M. E. G. H. Priest, S. W. Williams, it having failed to meet at the regular time, the 8th, from causes not apparent in the proceedings.

Comp Williams, in his address reviewed the condition of the Grand Chapter after an existence of a quarter of a century, and argues well

for the future. He properly says that "Masonry means right living, right acting."

From the address we infer that capitular Masonry in Arkansas is a living institution, and that the political and pecuniary difficulties which have surrounded our companions there have only purified and exalted them :

Companions, in conclusion, let us return thanks to the beneficent creator, the Great I am, for his many mercies. While he has visited us with drought and given us a stinted harvest, He has withheld the pestilence, and we have been blessed with a year of almost unparalleled health. None of our officers, past or present, have been called from us, and for the first time in many years our death roll in this and other Grand Bodies is a blank. We were, at one time, threatened with an internecine war of the most bloody and disastrous character, wide as the limits of our State, yet the cloud so lowering was big with mercies, and speedily broke with its high blessings of peace and good will between men of all races, and its political and social enfranchisement, with all that this means.

We don't think Comp. W. altogether free from error in some of his enunciations, which however we don't quote, for we have always been taught that the "previous condition" of a candidate, is one of the main questions for the consideration of the Lodge.

The Grand Chapter ordered the Grand Treasurer to balance his account by paying such balance to the support of St. Johns College.

We find no report on correspondence. Comp. Sam W. Williams re-elected M. E. G. H. P. and Comp. L. E. Barber, Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

The Twenty-first convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on April 13th, 1875, Comp. William Alex. January being the M. Ex. G. High Priest. Upon attaining majority, the G. H. P. dictates in this wise :

We have abundant reason to give thanks to Him who rules the destinies of men, for the manifold blessings He has graciously bestowed upon us, as a fraternity, since the organization of the Grand Chapter. During the twenty-one years, our Grand Chapter has escaped the dangers incident to infancy, passed safely and discreetly through the difficulties consequent upon the impulsiveness and inexperience of youth, and, with sturdy vigor, unflagging zeal and a lofty ambition, has arrived at the age and stature of manhood, prepared and fully qualified to perform its part in the great and glorious work of disseminating the heaven-born principles of Royal Arch Masonry.

In the business transactions we find nothing of general interest, yet there appears to be general harmony and proper Masonic feeling among the craft on this part of the Pacific slope.

Comp. Wiggin again speaks, and as usual speaks well, for the Correspondence Committee, giving Alabama sufficient attention. When

writing our report we always scan closely the pages of all proceedings that reach us. Sometimes we miss many which do not reach us. Why this should be, we know not, but we never omit any that do reach us, and we know those of California give us too great pleasure to be readily overlooked.

Alluding to the death of Comp. Richard F. Knott, Comp. Wiggin says:

Comp. Knott was long a resident of this State, and occupied several responsible positions in Masonry. His zeal and energy in all that pertained to the welfare of the Craft are well known and appreciated by the older Masons in San Francisco. His genial humor, his kind and affable demeanor to all who approached him, his generous and frank disposition, and his readiness to aid all who were in distress, had endeared him to a large circle of warm and sincere friends. He was the representative of this Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Alabama at the time of his death, and took a deep interest in all that concerned the Craft of California. We most deeply and sincerely sympathize with our companions of Alabama in the loss they have sustained; and, although our hearts are saddened at the thought that we shall see him no more on earth, let us hope we may meet him within the veils of the great tabernacle on high, where there shall be no more parting, no more sorrow, no more death.

On the subject of burial service for a R. A. M., he says:

We are opposed, on general principles, to any other Masonic funeral service than that used at the burial of a Master Mason. All others are innovations, which until within the last fifteen or twenty years were never heard of. All the old Masonic works, English and American, provide no place in a funeral procession for any but Master Masons; while on occasions of festivity, such as laying of corner-stones, etc., all Masonic grades are assigned their respective positions.

Death places all upon the same level; he respects neither rank nor wealth; high-sounding titles with him avail nothing; he places the Sovereign Inspector General, the Knight Templar and the Royal Arch, side by side with the Master Mason, and together they mingle with their "kindred dust."

If a brother is to be buried as a Knight Templar, or as a Royal Arch Mason, Master Masons would, of course, be debarred from participating, as such, in the funeral ceremony; while if the funeral is conducted under the auspices of the Lodge, all grades may participate for all are Master Masons.

If we recollect rightly, the first attempt at innovation in this direction was made by the Grand Commandery of New York, who adopted a burial service to be used at the funeral of a Knight Templar, which was afterwards adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States, and its use enjoined upon the Commanderies when one of their members is to be buried *as a Knight Templar*.

There may be a shadow of an excuse in this case, as Knights Templar are supposed to be Christians, and a brother might desire to have his remains receive Christian burial; but even this might be, and often is, accomplished without the intervention of a separate Masonic Ceremony, by uniting the services of the church with those of the Lodge, or by holding the church service first and the Masonic afterwards.

We can see no possible excuse for a separate ceremony for the Royal Arch, except a morbid desire to exhibit to the world our pretty scarlet clothes, and publish the fact that we are *Royal Arch* Masons.

Comp. Wm. Thos. Reynolds was elected M. E. G. H. P. and Comp. Louis Wiggin, again made Grand Secretary.

No. of Chapters.....	45
No. of Members.....	2,475
No. Exalted.....	263

COLORADO.

We have before us a pamphlet containing the proceedings of a convention of five Chapters in this State held on 11th May, 1875, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Chapter. After the adoption of a constitution, etc., and the election of officers the convention adjourned *sine die*. Whereupon, the Grand Chapter of Colorado was opened in due form and the officers elect installed, and the Grand Chapter constituted by the proxy of the M. Ex. G. G. H. P., and Comp. William N. Byers became M. Ex. G. H. P., and Francis E. Everett, Grand Secretary.

Thus, Companions, we have another star in the constellation. We have another co-laborer in the good work; let us welcome her into the family, greeting her and bidding her God speed. We see that they have provided for correspondence, so we will hear from her when next we meet.

CONNECTICUT.

The seventy-seventh Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 11th of May, 1875, Comp. Edmund Tweedy, M. E. G. H. Priest. We admire the boldness and firmness of the G. H. Priest in refusing dispensations for balloting on candidates, "within the time prescribed by law" and he thus reasons thereon:

I have received several applications for dispensations to permit balloting upon petitions and conferring the degrees within the time prescribed by law. These applications have been uniformly refused. I believe that the dispensing power invested in the Grand High Priest should be exercised with great caution and discretion, and only when it is apparent that a great good is to be gained or a positive evil or injustice averted by its use. The regulations in relation to petitions and the ballot are, in my opinion, among the greatest safeguards of Masonry, and should not be set aside except in cases of great emergency, involving, not the convenience of the candidate, but the welfare of the Chapter. None of the cases presented came within my limitations of a "great emergency," and in some instances the reasons assigned were quite trivial.

His opinion of the nature of the General Grand Chapter strikes us

as the best we have seen, and because the question of a return to the protecting wing of this parent is still before this Grand Chapter, we give his views almost in full, for the benefit of our companions:

This question of allegiance to the General Grand Chapter is one that has troubled the minds of many Companions—some in this jurisdiction. I trust the time is not far distant when it may be set at rest by a general submission to its very mild authority. The tendency is in that direction. Several of the Grand Chapters which, for various reasons, assumed to sever their relations with the General Grand Chapter, have renewed their allegiance to it; and those which still hold aloof will probably yield to the influence of these examples, supported as it is by the earnest invitation and appeal of the General Grand Chapter itself.

Questions as to the utility of the General Grand Chapter are out of place. It is indeed doubtful if such a Body would be created now if it did not already exist. But it does exist, and by virtue of an authority which we have no right to dispute, and to-day shows signs of more vigorous life than ever. It was the natural outgrowth of the weak condition of Royal Arch Masonry at the time of its organization, when the closest union was necessary to the life and welfare of the struggling Chapters. This and the other Grand Chapters are its creatures: it is the common parent of us all. It gave us our existence, and guided and controlled us during our earlier years. That would be an unnatural child, indeed, who would attempt the life of his parent because he had outgrown the need of his assistance, guidance and discipline. Should we, as Royal Arch Masons, be any less unnatural to seek to destroy our parent because we are so strong that we no longer need assistance and support, and so self-sufficient that we are impatient of control, even the mildest? The right of revolution, inherent in the people under every form of political government, has no place in the Masonic system. Submission to properly constituted authority is a duty from which no Mason can be absolved. The General Grand Chapter can only be dissolved by its own act. The probability of such an event is rendered doubly doubtful by the late amendments to the constitution conferring life-membership upon all Past Grand High Priests, and all past members of the General Grand Council, who, not being representatives of any State Grand Chapter, are independent of their dictation.

Conceding then the right of existence and the probability of a long life to the General Grand Chapter, ought we not to direct our efforts towards making it worthy of its position as the exponent and acknowledged head of Royal Arch Masonry, not only in this country but in the whole world? And to this end it is not necessary that its powers should be enlarged. They are amply sufficient for the maintenance of such authority as is needful for it to exercise, and it did wisely in surrendering to its constituents some of the very absolute rights with which it was first endowed, among them that of appellate jurisdiction over all their proceedings, with power to disaffirm and disannul them." Not by the exercise of arbitrary power, but through the mighty influence of its exalted character and intelligence, should it make its authority felt; and we should strive to make that influence more powerful and enduring by throwing aside all jealous doubts and fears, and yielding to it cheerfully and entirely our love, respect and obedience. Composed, as it is, of those whom the Companions of every jurisdiction delight to honor by entrusting them

with the government of their own immediate affairs, all should have entire confidence that the rights of every Grand and Subordinate Chapter, as well as of every Royal Arch Mason, are safe in its keeping; while the well-known character, reputation and intelligence of its members should make its decisions on all points of Masonic law, usage and custom unquestioned.

Its hold upon the confidence and affections of the Craft would be much strengthened if some of its members could restrain their desire for constitutional amendments. Five amendments were proposed at the last convocation, and a committee of seven was appointed to revise the constitution. It is to be hoped that this committee will not propose any radical changes, especially in the direction of reassuming any of the powers of control and discipline over the State Grand Chapters which have been heretofore surrendered. This Grand Chapter has on more than one occasion expressed its disapproval of any such attempt, and from our knowledge of the views of P. G. H. P. Lockwood, who is a member of the committee, we may be sure that a proposition of that nature will meet with one earnest opponent. Changes in the fundamental law are only to be justified by necessity or the general welfare. The present constitution meets with general approval. It has been the means of bringing the several Grand Chapters into closer bonds of sympathy, and removing doubts and jealousies from between them. It should remain substantially unchanged.

One of the proposed amendments contemplates the admission of Past High Priests to membership in the several Grand Chapters. This proposition I look upon with particular disfavor. Its adoption would tend to destroy the representative character of the Grand Chapters, which is the true source of their power and influence.

He regards the reports of the Committees on correspondence as perhaps the cream of the proceedings, and at any rate as tending to produce uniformity in legislation and usage, and deprecates the idea of abandoning them on the score of economy.

M. E. Comp. Tweedy evidently has no use for the representative system, and laughs at the folly of the whole plan.

Comp. John N. Lewis, notwithstanding his declension of the honor last year, was re-appointed Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and made the report. He thinks the work a noble one, and only tried to avoid it because "there are relations in life nearer and dearer than those of Companions and Brethren, and the *first* duty of man is to provide for those whom the Supreme Grand Master has placed under his peculiar and individual protection."

For the illumination of the minds of our Companions in Alabama we copy from this report so much of the history of the G. Grand Chapter as he has copied from the address of M. E. G. G. H. Priest Drummond. We do not get the proceedings of the G. G. Chapter and must be indebted to some of the reporters—why not to Comp. Lewis.

There is so much misapprehension concerning the historical and legal relations of the General Grand Chapter to the State Grand

Chapters, that I beg your indulgence a few moments while I give a summary of the history of their organization.

This Body is the oldest Sovereign Grand Chapter in the world. The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania was organized earlier, but it was attached to, and under the authority of, the Grand Lodge, and did not become independent for several years.

This Body was organized in January, 1798, as the Grand Chapter of the States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, under the name of the "Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Northern States of America." It was provided in its original Constitution, that there should be in each State a Deputy Grand Chapter, of which the Grand Chapter should have the superintendence, "with the right of the appellate jurisdiction over all their proceedings and determinations, with the power to disaffirm and disannul them." It provided the time and place for the formation of the Deputy Grand Chapters of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, but retained Vermont and New Hampshire under its own jurisdiction. At the several times and places thus fixed, and by the authority thus given, Deputy Grand Chapters were formed in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York.

In 1799, the Grand Chapter changed its name to General Grand Chapter, but confined its jurisdiction to the same States. It changed the name of the Deputy Grand Chapters to State Grand Chapters. Vermont was then placed under the jurisdiction of New York, and New Hampshire under that of Massachusetts, until Grand Chapters should be formed in those States. In 1804, a Grand Chapter was formed in Vermont, without the consent of New York; but in 1806 the General Grand Chapter confirmed the action, and recognized the new Grand Chapter, and admitted it to representation.

In 1806, the General Grand Chapter changed its name to the "General Grand Chapter of the United States of America," and assumed corresponding jurisdiction. Let it be observed that at that time the Grand Chapters which had been created by it were the only ones in the country, except the one subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and probably another which was subordinate in the same manner to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the General Grand Chapter was the only sovereign and supreme body of Royal Arch Masons in the country. It limited the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapters to the States in which they were located, reserving to itself exclusive jurisdiction to grant dispensations and charters in the other States, but provided for the formation of new Grand Chapters upon the warrant of one of the General Grand Officers. This provision for the formation of Grand Chapters has ever since been retained in the constitution.

In accordance with this provision, the Grand Chapters of Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin were formed by authority of a warrant of a General Grand Officer, which warrant in terms, or substantially, provided that the Grand Chapter to be formed should be "*subject to the constitution and laws of the General Grand Chapter.*" The re-organization of the Grand Chapter of Vermont in 1849 was by virtue of a similar warrant. The clause providing for retaining the authority of the General Grand Chapter in some of the warrants was very specific: In the case of

Texas it was "always provided, however, that such Grand Chapter shall conform to and abide by the constitution, rules and edicts of the General Grand Chapter of the United States." The preamble of the original constitution of the Grand Chapter of Georgia (which was also adopted at its re-organization in 1841) is as follows: "We, the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Georgia, created and established by authority of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America, by and with the consent of the said General Grand Chapter, have agreed to form a Grand Chapter for the State of Georgia; and being duly represented by our respective High Priests * * * * * convened * * * pursuant to public notice, and the powers vested in us by the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America * * * do ordain and declare," etc. All the Chapters which took part in forming all these Grand Chapters were created by the General Grand Chapter, except those in Maine, which was created by the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts while Maine was a part of that commonwealth.

In Alabama, in 1823, a Grand Chapter was formed by Chapters chartered by the General Grand Chapter; no previous warrant was obtained, but the proceedings were ratified by the General Grand High Priest. On investigation, however, by the General Grand Chapter in 1826, it was decided that the proceedings were irregular, and the Grand Chapter not legally formed; and it was recommended that a new Grand Chapter be formed. This decision was acquiesced in, the old organization abandoned, and a new Grand Chapter was formed under the warrant of the General Grand High Priest. It became dormant in 1831, and in 1837 the representatives of the several Chapters met and proceeded "to form a Grand Royal Arch Chapter according to the provisions of the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States."

A Grand Chapter was formed in the District of Columbia in 1824 by virtue of a warrant from the General Grand High Priest, and his action was confirmed, and the Grand Chapter recognized by the General Grand Chapter in 1826, and received under its jurisdiction. In 1841 this Grand Chapter had ceased to work, and the Chapters were placed under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland. In 1867, a new Grand Chapter was formed, and became a constituent of the General Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter of Florida was formed by two Chapters chartered by the Grand Chapter of Virginia, and one chartered by the Grand Chapter of South Carolina. As the latter was at the time a constituent of this body, this grant of a charter was unauthorized, and gave just cause of complaint; and the grant of the charters by the Grand Chapter of Virginia was, by the terms of our Constitution, an invasion of our jurisdiction; but all irregularity has been waived for many years, and the Grand Chapter of Florida has been recognized; and all questions have been set at rest forever, by her uniting with her sister Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapters of Kentucky and Missouri were each formed by three Chapters chartered by the General Grand Chapter, but without any warrant from a General Grand Officer; the proceedings in Kentucky were approved by two General Grand Officers (Clinton and Webb), and the action in both cases, upon application, was ratified and confirmed by the General Grand Chapter.

As before stated, a Grand Chapter probably existed in Maryland before 1806, but the records have not been preserved; references are made to it in the proceedings of the present Grand Chapter as "a former Grand Royal Arch Chapter." The present Grand Chapter was formed in 1814, and by mutual action of the General Grand Chapter and itself was "admitted under the jurisdiction" of this body "on an equality with the other Grand Chapters," and "subject to the Constitution and regulations of said General Grand Chapter."

The Grand Chapter of North Carolina was formed by six Chapters, at least three of which were chartered by the General Grand Chapter, under whose jurisdiction it assumed that it belonged. At its re-organization in 1847, it applied for recognition, which was granted upon condition that it amended its Constitution to conform to that of the General Grand Chapter; this was at once done, and its obligations to the General Grand Chapter fully recognized.

The Grand Chapter of Ohio was formed by two Chapters which had existed before 1798 — one Chapter chartered by the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and there was another Chapter in the State chartered by the General Grand Chapter. The proceedings were conducted under the advice of Thomas Smith Webb, who, as Deputy General Grand High Priest, approved the formation of the Grand Chapter, and installed its officers; and his action was ratified by the General Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter of South Carolina was formed by two Chapters chartered by the General Grand Chapter, and one chartered by the Grand Chapter of New York in 1803, before the jurisdiction of State Grand Chapters was limited to their States. No warrant was obtained in advance, but the proceedings were formally approved by Thomas Smith Webb, General Grand King, and the Grand Chapter was represented in the General Grand Chapter at its next convocation.

Thus it appears that *all the Grand Chapters, except Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, were either created by the General Grand Chapter, or formed by Chapters chartered by it and authorized to form a Grand Chapter solely upon the condition of obedience to the constitution and laws of the General Grand Chapter.*

The Grand Chapter of Virginia was formed in 1808, after the General Grand Chapter had undertaken to exercise exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. Consistency would have required it to ignore the Grand Chapter of Virginia, as it did Chapters chartered in other States by the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, but it saw fit not to do so, and practically recognized that Grand Chapter for many years.

It needs no more, it seems to me, than this historical statement to show that a constituent of this General Grand Chapter has no more right, legal or moral, to throw off its allegiance, than any subordinate Chapter has to throw off its allegiance to its Grand Chapter.

DELAWARE.

We have the proceedings of the Seventh Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter held on January 25th, 1875, George W. Stone, Grand High Priest.

Of the condition of Capitular Masonry, the G. H. P. says:

The record of the past year has no very attractive features, the

general stagnation and depression of business has had its effect upon even Masonic bodies, and ours has not proved to be an exception. There has never been a year during the existence of this Grand Chapter, in which so little work has been done as during the one just closed. Our Companions have evidently had their time fully occupied with their every day concerns and duties, and have not been able to devote themselves to the building up of the interests of our venerable institution. In this, there is no occasion for either surprise or discouragement, the darkest night must be succeeded by the light of day, and the affections of our Companions for our ancient craft are too deep to be lost, although they may slumber for a time.

It has been a year of great calm, the jurisdiction is peaceful to the last degree, and harmonious entirely. Either the Subordinate Chapters have been sweetly sleeping, or working so smoothly and quietly as not to need any attention from the Grand High Priest.

A work was exemplified and adopted; an appropriation made for next annual supper, and the election held for officers, wherein Comp. Willis Holden was elected G. H. P., and Comp. J. P. Allmond, Grand Secretary.

In this jurisdiction are six Chapters, with a membership of 299.

No report on correspondence.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

There was a semi-annual convocation held on the 12th of May, at which but little business was transacted, and an Annual Convocation on the 20th of November, 1874, at both of which Comp. N. D. Larner, M. Ex. G. High Priest, presided. The G. H. Priest in his address congratulates the Companions upon the growth of Masonry in this branch since the organization of the Grand Chapter, the number of Chapters being 8, and the membership 1099. He then says:

But while it is our right as well as our duty to congratulate ourselves upon our prosperity as an organization, it is also our duty to bear in mind that as an institution we cannot make our status what it should be by numbers only, but by the manner in which we conduct ourselves as Masons and as citizens in all the active duties of life. Let not our prosperity make us lose sight of the great work assigned to our craft, but, on the contrary, let it stimulate us with a unity of purpose to promote each others welfare and happiness, and preserve intact the teachings of Masonry as they have been handed down to us from our forefathers. Without such a purpose on our part, Companions, and unless we are actuated by a true Masonic spirit in all our actions, no healthy prosperity can exist, and all our efforts to advance the interests of the Craft must fail.

Same officers re-elected.

Comp. E. B. MacGrotty presented the report on correspondence covering a multitude of pages and being a most thorough review of the proceedings of sister jurisdictions. We are glad to find that he, with *very* few others agrees with us in our estimate of the inutility and folly of the representative system.

FLORIDA.

The Grand Chapter of Florida was opened on 12th of January, 1875, by Comp. H. H. Berry as G. H. P., and other *pro tem* officers, there being present but three officers not temporary. On the following day we find another acting as G. H. P., with four regular officers.

Nothing of moment appears on the minutes except the report of the Committee on Grievances, which authorizes a Companion to be affiliated as in good standing without dimit.

Comp. H. W. Long was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. De Witt C. Dawkins, Grand Secretary.

No report on Correspondence.

GEORGIA.

Annual Convocation held on the 28th of April, 1875, Comp. Luther J. Glenn, M. Ex. G. H. P.

From the address we learn that R. A. Masonry "has not during the past twelve months enjoyed a season of high prosperity, yet it is in a healthy and progressive condition." He recommends the appointment of Committee on Correspondence, which was adopted, and Comp. Sam Lawrence made the Chairman. We may hereafter then look for a report. His recommendation is made quite gracefully and flatteringly to the reporters.

On non-affiliation, he says :

Non-affiliation and forced membership. On this subject I am gratified to find that common sense, and a return to the first principles and practice of Masonry, are beginning to prevail. Non-affiliation is confessedly an evil. Every Mason *ought* to belong to a Lodge, Chapter, etc. But a *forced* membership is a much greater evil, and would, if persisted in, work a much greater injury to our Institution, because utterly inconsistent with and repugnant to its first principles. Ours in its very Constitution is a *Free* Institution. It does not and cannot recognize a principle of slavery. But what is *forced* membership but a *quasi* slavery. No! Let him who freely comes, as freely go, if he will. When he has lost his interest in us, he will do us less harm outside than if forced to remain inside.

Comp. Glenn was again elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. Blackshear, Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS.

The twenty-fifth Convocation was held on the 29th of October, 1874, Comp. George E. Lounsbury, M. Ex. G. H. Priest, presiding. Five dispensations for new Chapters were granted—three of which were subsequently chartered. The G. H. Priest made a few decisions, as follows :

I have been called upon to make several decisions, but the most of

them having a precedent in those formerly made, or being but an enforcement of Grand Chapter law, I have made record of but few. I will note but three.

First—That a non-affiliated M. M., having received the degrees in a Chapter, is eligible to the office of H. P.

Second—That a R. A. Mason, under sentence of suspension or expulsion in the Blue Lodge, having taken an appeal, remains suspended or expelled in the Chapter until action is had upon his appeal by the Grand Lodge, his status in Chapter being same as in Lodge.

Third—That the Tiler of a Chapter has a right to vote.

In making this last decision I am aware that I was deciding adversely to the decisions of eminent Masons of our State; and although I entertained but little doubt on the subject, still, before making the decision, I consulted with some of the best Masonic jurists in the United States, and as they concurred with me in the opinion that the acceptance of an office or position in any Masonic Body could not act as a disfranchisement, I feel fully authorized in so deciding.

We are at a loss to imagine on what grounds he could have decided the last otherwise, and regret that the dissenting member of the Committee on Jurisprudence has not assigned his reasons for his difference.

We commend the following from the address, as applicable to this jurisdiction, also, and we suspect to every jurisdiction where the Grand Body has become very large.

I desire to make a suggestion in this connection relative to what I term too hasty legislation. We have been too apt to meet here, and in the almost universal desire to expedite business, too little time is given to the consideration of questions that come before us; and our past records will show that some of my predecessors have been obliged to make decisions directly in the face of resolutions in force, which resolutions, under a careful consideration, were shown to be clearly unconstitutional. Companions, "what is worth doing is worth doing well." If we meet here to legislate for the Craft, let us see to it that our action be not too hasty. Let us give full consideration to all motions or resolutions entertained, and not place ourselves in the mortifying position of having to reverse at one session of our Grand Body that which by hasty action and undue reflection has been done at a former one.

Comp. Miles made a lengthy and judicious report on Correspondence.

Number of Chapters	160
" Members.....	9,823

Comp. Wm. A. J. Delancey was made M. Ex. G. H. Priest, and
Comp. J. H. Miles, re-elected Grand Secretary.

INDIANA.

M. Ex. Comp. Alex. Thomas, G. H. Priest, opened the twenty-ninth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter on the 21st of October, 1874, and we extract from his address, as follows :

Here let us strive more and more as we advance in life, to raise the moral standard of our Order, until we can claim for it what its merits deserve; that there are none of its members who are not "moral and upright before God, and of good repute before the world."

Capitular Masonry never occupied a more exalted position than at the present time; we hear good news from all quarters—from the East, the West, the North and the South come tidings of prosperity and a high moral standard.

Let us strive for the time when we can say, that the profane swearer, the gambler, the drunkard, *and the man who makes drunkards*, has no part or lot in the household of Masonry.

He recommends the use of the word Convocation instead of Communication, which was adopted, though the Committee to whom this portion of the Address was referred, evidently think that Meeting would have been better and not quite "so far-fetched an absurdity."

We give below the report of Committee on Jurisprudence, on decisions of the G. H. Priest, without giving the decisions, because the report explains itself sufficiently.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred so much of the M. Ex. Grand High Priest's address as relates to his decisions as reported, having considered the subject referred to them, submit the following report:

The several decisions of our M. Ex. Grand High Priest, as reported all being governed somewhat by surrounding local circumstances, were doubtless, in the main, correct.

The Committee, however, think that it is not strictly legal for a High Priest, under ordinary circumstances, to remove the place of meeting of his Chapter from one room or hall, to another, even in the same town or city, without the consent of his Chapter first being had. But under the extraordinary circumstances this special case seems to present, it perhaps was the best that could have been done at the time.

Your Committee also disagree with the M. E. Grand High Priest in another decision. As a general rule we think that an objection interposed after a clear ballot has been had is but a negative vote, and can have no more power or influence than the black ball, and upon the objection being made the High Priest should have declared the applicant rejected. This would have placed him only back into the position he occupied before his petition was presented to the Chapter. Were we to place a different construction upon our laws we think vast evil might ensue in consequence. A turbulent member might let the ballot pass, as in this case, even make a favorable report, as the Committee to whom the petition had been referred, then interpose his objection, and thus preclude indefinitely the petitioner from advancing further or again petitioning that or any other Chapter for the degrees, however unworthy the objections might be.

Respectfully submitted,

H. G. HAZELRIGG,
WILLIAM HACKER,
THOMAS PATTISON,
Committee.

Which were severally concurred in.

We are obliged to the M. Ex. G. H. Priest for having our name so printed in this copy as to be sufficiently clear as to remind us of our own identity. He reports on thirty-eight proceedings in extenso.

In reviewing Canada he suggests that that Grand Chapter change the nomenclature of its officers to make them correspond with ours, naively remarking:

Now, it would be asking too much to say that so great number of Grand Chapters as in the United States should change their titles in order to become uniform with *one*; but to ask that *one* should change in order to be uniform with a great many, would be but reasonable.

Alluding to suspension for non-payment of dues, he says:

It is possible that we have a weakness for our own laws, but have endeavored to look on the subject with candor and without prejudice, and firmly believe that our rules, which provide that no member shall be deprived of any of his Masonic rights without charges, trial and a *vote of the body*, is the best we have seen, and when once deprived of *membership* we hold it to be a landmark that he can only regain *membership* by "*unanimity*," a clear ballot.

Our sentiments precisely.

Companion Geo. H. Fish was elected M. Ex. G. H. P.

Companion Jno. M. Branwell re-elected Grand Secretary.

No. Chartered Chapters.....	89
" Members.....	4,567
" Exalted	441

IOWA.

The twenty-first convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 20th October, 1874, Companion Robert F. Bower, M. Ex. G. H. Priest, presiding.

The G. H. Priest in his address says:

Another Capitular year has gone, and we are again assembled at our regular Convocation to legislate for the interests of our noble craft. But few disturbances have occurred within our jurisdiction during the interval that has elapsed, and at present peace and harmony dwell within our borders. Our order has been eminently prosperous, and our Companions zealous and untiring in propagating the Royal Art. Grateful for the many favors that we have enjoyed this past year, we approach the throne of "the Great I Am," and beseech the continuance of His heavenly blessings.

Many decisions were made by the M. Ex. G. H. Priest with which we generally agree, but the Committee on Jurisprudence differed with him in some particulars, and they were partially sustained by the Grand Chapter, and for your instruction we give their reports:

REPORT ON JURISPRUDENCE.

Companion Eastman, from the Committee on Jurisprudence, presented the report of that committee, covering various subjects, as follows:

To the Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa:

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the "Decisions of the Grand High Priest," respectfully report:

That they believe the decision of the Grand High Priest is correct, "That a Companion can object to the conferring of the degrees at any time after ballot, and the candidate cannot proceed any further till the objection is removed; and the Companion is not required to give any reason for objecting." The writer of this however, holds that if the Companion does, voluntarily, give his reason, then the Chapter may consider that reason as it would any charge preferred, and if the Chapter find the reason, *as a charge*, not good, it may proceed with the degrees.

To the question, "Is it necessary for a Companion to sign the By-Laws of the Chapter to become a member of the Chapter," we answer, "No."

We think the requirement to sign the By-Laws simply directory. We think a legitimate child is actually a son of his mother, and a member of the family, without his name being written in the bible, though the law may require it to be written there.

But we think the ruling correct that a ballot *may* be required in each degree.

To the question, "How long must a rejected petitioner wait before he can send in a new petition?" we think the answer is correct that this Grand Chapter has no regulation on the subject. But the recommendation to "adopt the ruling of our Grand Lodge, which makes six months intervention necessary," we think should be addressed to the Grand Chapter and *not* to the Subordinate Chapter. Until the Grand Chapter adopts some regulation on the subject, we think the ancient usage is in force, which we believe is, that the petitioner may apply at any *stated* meeting of the Chapter.

To the question submitted by Dubuque Chapter, No. 3, "A Companion was suspended eleven years ago for non-payment of Chapter dues. He now wishes to be reinstated on payment of Chapter dues. He is not affiliated with any lodge. Is he eligible to be reinstated without affiliating with some Lodge in Iowa?"

The Grand High Priest says, "Yes." He may come in under the regulation as it was when he was suspended. But by a regulation adopted in 1872, at Oskaloosa, Iowa, he is not required to be an affiliate.

E. W. EASTMAN,

For the Committee.

The officers of the Grand Chapter were publicly installed and Companion Guilbert on that occasion delivered an interesting oration on the origin and purposes of our Order from which we make the follow-

ing extract, as its purpose chimes with our own wishes in regard to Masonry in this State.

Our mission, brother Masons, is to preserve it (Masonry), as well as *ourselves*, "unspotted by the world," and

"Guided by the plummet's law
To keep th' unerring rule divine."

laid down in that faith, the duty of whose exemplification was "once delivered to" us by "the saints." Looking upon life from a masonic standpoint and observing how much of reason there is in the masonic lesson of the bee-hive, which requires him who dares to wear the Mason-blue to be an ACTIVE instead of a *passive* embodiment of the verb to do, we should learn that we are recreant to our covenants if we content ourselves with the history, symbolism and fraternal sociability of the institution, and aim simply to live for ourselves alone, instead of as incessant WORK-DOERS and true representatives of an order which is first spotless and then aggressively charitable and loyal to obligations.

We should not be unmindful of the fact that while the heyday of prosperity brings with it increasing power, it likewise imposes upon us great responsibilities. It is well for us to pay "tithes of mint, anise and cummin," in the way of obedience to the abstract and spiritual teachings of Masonry, if we do not "forget the weightier matters of the law,—judgment, mercy, and faith." That is, JUDGMENT with reference to devising the ways and securing the means whereby we may fulfill our obligations on behalf, not only of the distressed brother, but also of his widow and orphans. MERCY, which only will be shown to us in the hereafter as we show it those who are the legitimate subjects of our care. And FAITH, that as we fully exemplify in our lives masonic teachings, so shall we be prospered in all our humanitarian endeavors.

To this end, while a new impetus has been given in many States of this Union to the hitherto slow outflow of masonic charity, let us of Iowa not lag supinely in the rear. Our "lines have fallen to us in pleasant places," brethren of the Hawk-Eye State. The "Lord of the harvest" showers upon us unnumbered benedictions. They are ours but in trust for others, and as we wisely or illy employ them, so will be our reward in the great day of Assize; a day which will be a "sweet by-and-by," to the FARMER, but a drear *Dies Ire* to the *unfaithful* steward. Would to Heaven my voice could reach every Mason in Iowa, that I might urge it upon him to heed the monitions of his noble Grand Lodge, which has recently offered the craft the opportunity of doing something eminently practicable and worthy of the name we bear, in the proposition to found a home for indigent brethren and their widows and orphans. We have ample means wherewith to accomplish this gracious end. God grant that ere long we may put our profession into splendid deeds, and do that which shall cause posterity "to rise up and call us BLESSED."

The examples set us by the craft of Kentucky, Tennessee, and New York should stimulate us to that "noble emulation" to see who best can *work* in the shining pathway which stretches before us toward the goal of success in the not distant future. The doors of that goal stand widely apart in anticipation of our coming. Let us hope that

soon that pathway may be peopled by, and made vocal with, the sturdy tread of the fourteen thousand Masons of Iowa.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness for the Right, as God gives us to see the Right, let us highly resolve" that masonry in Iowa *shall* have a new birth of EFFORT: that the humanitarian promises of the order shall no longer be 'kept to the ear and broken to the hope,' but, on the contrary, shall here receive a newer and a holier consecration. *So mote it be!*

Having read the proceedings, witnessed the installation of Companion Bower, and listened to Companion Guilbert's happy address, we were about to look for the appendix when we were startled by an "afterwards,"—afterwards? How! what! and indeed we wished we had been there "afterwards," a most delicious spread and hop, Companions—"only this and nothing more."

Companion Parvin comes again to the front with the report on correspondence, noticing the proceedings from Alabama for 1873. We give his views on

JEWELS.

"Jewels" were presented to two of the *Past* Grand High Priests, like the degree of *Master of Arts* in our colleges, "in course," we suppose. We are opposed to the wholesale and indiscriminate bestowal of honors as practiced in some jurisdictions, and finding an entrance into this. Where the honor is *earned* by extraordinary service, its bestowal is alike creditable to the body giving it and its recipient; but to vote a jewel to a retiring officer, simply because he has held for a single or even a dual term the chiefest seat in the synagogue (secured, oftentimes, as we know, by electioneering worthy of a politician), is only a prostitution of the funds and the virtue of the Grand Body granting it. We know of one Grand Body that for a series of years did not publish its proceeding, but bankrupted its treasury by these silly gifts.

We will state that we visited N. O., last December, mainly to see and make the acquaintance of Comps. Corson and Drummond, the former was unhappily detained by sickness, and the latter we could not meet until on his return, so we failed to get that degree.

Number of Chapters.....	75
" Members.....	3,587
Exaltations.....	470

KANSAS.

Comp. John M. Price, M. Ex. G. High Priest opened in ample form the Grand Chapter of this State on 20th of October, 1874.

His address is a concise statement of his acts and decisions during the year. In it we find no recommendations but an announcement that Capitular Masonry is growing and harmonious there. His de-

cisions are in harmony with those of this jurisdiction and were all approved by the Grand Chapter.

This Grand Chapter, by resolution, prohibits the exaltation of a candidate until after "he shall have selected his Mark and caused the same to be properly recorded in the Lodge-book of Marks.

We think some such provision necessary to compel such selection in this jurisdiction. Our ancient brethren each had his Mark, which he was used to place upon "his work when promiscuously carried up for inspection," but we fear that this injunction of our Grand Chapter is little heeded here.

Number of Chapters.....	26
" Members	912
" Exalted.....	69

Comp. Carr made a report on Correspondence, reviewing Alabama for 1873, fraternally.

Comps. John M. Price and Erasmus T. Carr were severally re-elected M. Ex. G. High Priest and Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

The fifty-ninth Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 19th of October, 1874. M. Ex. David P. Robb, G. H. P., who in his address urged most pressing a liberal contribution by the Grand Chapter to the endowment fund for the "Masonic Widows and Orphans Home." We know of no movement more noble than this. We have seen the building and though it may not be "more durable than brass" in its component parts, yet its good works will last so long as our language, and the good it will do cannot be calculated.

Kentucky has set an example which we may all well imitate. God speed them in this work in which they are engaged "without the hope of fee or reward." And it is with infinite pleasure that we chronicle the fact that the Grand Chapter did transfer \$7,000 to this end.

We see that the Grand Chapter has adopted the work of the G. G. C. What is it?

In this jurisdiction there are 3,858 R. A. M., and exalted during the year, 272.

Comp. Henderson again made the report on Correspondence reviewing the proceedings of Alabama for 1873 kindly. We regret that the proceedings of Kentucky of last year did not reach the Committee, and are only too glad to find them now on our table. We hope that this will satisfy our Companions, for of all things which we esteem disagreeable, that of *writing* an apology is probably the most so, because it is a confession of error.

Companion Henderson must have an ear for music, a very fine ear; he must be a musician himself, but we hope he has a better voice than that animal of whom the Irishman remarked, upon seeing his long ears: "Be gorry, what fine ears for music!" He expands on the subject of music in Churches, Lodges, Chapters, etc., to five pages. We wish we could find it in our heart to quote it all, but just hear him:

Music! it was born in Heaven. Upon the finishing day of creation the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted together for joy. We reckon that Haydn's grand oratorio, "The Creation," is but as a fairy hymn to that first, full and free hallelujah, which made the stars roll to its measure.

And so the stars caught the key-note of song from Angel choristers and still chime, "the music of the spheres."

Earth, air, and sea are full of music. The wind makes Æolian harps of the leaves of forest trees, and every twig is a string in a lyre. The pines play the dirges, and, summer and winter through, we can hear the spirit of the wind wailing his requiem through their evergreen boughs. The zephyr serenades the flower with its ballads of love, takes its kiss from fragrant lips, and then hurries on to the fever-cheek of the invalid.

The hurricane has an orchestra crash, and the thunder-drums roll the marches of the storm. The sea sighs refrains ever to the beach, and fills every shell with its sad and ceaseless song. The cataract plays for the waltzes of rainbows, and the minuets of the silvery spray. The mountain brook is tuneful and all its wavelets polish the pebbles to the carol of a lapidary's hymn.

The birds make the air tremulous with their operas—the wren pipes its single piccolo note, the canary runs the gamut on his life, the lark whistles weird his ascension score, and the mocking bird's very soul is set to music.

Then think of what man is capable! His to sing God's praises on earth, and his to aspire to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb on High.

Ah, music gladdens earth, and angels bend down to catch the strains that ascend from her groves and temples. Let men sing at labor and leisure, in joy's bright-day, and grief's night-session.

With one other extract from Companion Henderson's report we will close the proceedings of Kentucky:

We have now waded through about five thousand pages of matter, which is about as pleasant as traversing the Dismal Swamp. About two-thirds of the matter published in the proceedings of the Grand Bodies is as worthless as it is uninteresting. To walk over burning sands, long stretches, and here and there only to find a green oasis, is not the most delectable pilgrimage a man can go on. Our report is short, but the work of preparation has been tedious. We are in the same condition of the man who, having called for his third cup of coffee, the landlady satirically remarked, "You are very fond of coffee, sir." He replied, "I have to drink a great deal of water, madame, to get a little coffee." We hope none of our Companion reporters will call on us to explain that joke, for there are *grounds* for it.

Comp. Jos. P. Force was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Jno. M. S. McCorkle, Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

M. E. Companion Joseph P. Horner, M. E. G. H. P., opened this Grand Chapter in ample form on the 9th of February, 1875.

We take pleasure in copying that portion of the address which discusses the force and effect on membership in Chapter, of suspension for non-payment of dues in the Lodge under an edict of the Grand Lodge. These views in the main have been entertained by us, and pressed upon the consideration of this Grand Chapter until a resolution was passed by this G. C. enunciating the principle contained in Comp. Horner's 2d ruling. We know that our Grand Lodge like that of Louisiana declares such suspension to be such as to cut off the delinquent from all Masonic intercourse, but we have failed to see any Masonic "justice" in such declaration, nor do we think that it is incumbent upon Chapters to be governed by the construction of the Grand Lodge, when the Grand Chapter shall have expressed and promulgated her views thereon. The Grand Chapter overruled the rulings No. 1 and 2.

2nd.—I decided that a companion is not to be considered as *suspended* from either Lodge or Chapter, whose name has been stricken from the roll of his Lodge under the recent edicts of the Grand Lodge (Proceedings of Grand Lodge, 1874, p. 133); nor that his standing in his Chapter is to be in any manner affected by such action of his lodge; and that such action is not equivalent to suspension.

One of the laws of our institution is that all the rights of a Mason in the higher degrees depend upon the conditions with which he procures and holds the lower degrees, viz: the E. A., F. C. and M. M., they being at the foundation of all the others. As, if a Mason be initiated in a clandestine lodge, or is under sentence of suspension or expulsion, it is forbidden us to hold Masonic communication with him; indeed, this law may be considered as one of the landmarks of the Order, and of a dignity superior to a mere law. Of similar import is the rule that expulsion or suspension by a Lodge operates *ipso facto* an expulsion or suspension from the Chapter; indeed, this is but a corollary of the rule; we cannot hold Masonic communication with a brother under sentence of suspension, how then can we sit with him in the Chapter, when such communication would be absolutely necessary.

The foregoing, we know, is universal in its admission as a law, and it may seem a work of supererogation to notice it, but it frequently happens that it is necessary to re-state even elementary principles, and one of these necessary occasions has arisen by the presentation of the question which elicited my decision.

If such striking from the roll of a Lodge is equivalent to suspension, then such action of the Lodge suspends the brother from the Lodge and from the Chapter, *ipso facto*, and from the right to hold Masonic communication with any brother.

But is such striking from the roll equivalent to suspension? We

know the resolution of the Grand Lodge referred to, so states it, and we know that the only interpretation that can be given to the language of the resolution is that such striking from the roll is *suspension*; if we are to take the resolution as a correct expression of Masonic law, the controversy is ended, and the striking from the roll of the Lodge, under the resolution referred to, is suspension from the Lodge, and as a consequence, from the Chapter, and from any other Masonic body of a higher grade than that of Master Mason.

But is this a correct expression of Masonic law?

I unhesitatingly answer, it is not. There can, in the method proposed, be no equivalent for a Masonic trial, in which all the usual forms are followed, on charges regularly preferred and conviction had, resulting in suspension. It is a maxim of Masonic, as well as civil law, that no man is presumed to be guilty before conviction; that he must be brought before his peers in regular form, confronted with his accusers, and have his witnesses brought face to face with him, and have the opportunity of making his defence. Of course, the legislative body has the power, and it is its duty to prescribe the form and all the particulars in the proceedings, from the preliminary steps to final conviction and sentence; but still there must be forms, whatever they may be, and there must be an impartial trial, and in which the accused must have all the essential opportunities of making his defence.

A vote of the Lodge, striking a brother's name from the roll, under the resolution of the Grand Lodge referred to, lacks every element of a Masonic trial. The Chapter can consider; it is only a brother who is under sentence of expulsion or suspension with whom we can hold no Masonic communication; in this we are not under the necessity of waiting for a formal certificate of the fact; we being ourselves Master Masons may and must know it, to avoid a violation of an obligation; but a sentence necessarily presupposes a previous trial and conviction, on charges of unmasonic conduct regularly preferred. It is not good law, it is not a proper use of language, to say that a vote of a Lodge, under the resolution of the Grand Lodge, to strike a brother's name from the roll, is a trial. It is hardly worthy the designation of an abuse of language, and hence such striking from the roll is not equivalent to suspension,—is not suspension.

Indeed, had the resolution read, that the Lodge under the circumstances named in the resolution, could by vote suspend a brother—of course without the form of a trial, understood, and that is the equivalent of what the resolution does state, it would not be a legal suspension; at least it would be without the sanction of any Masonic or other law, save that of the inquisition of despotism; would be in violation of Masonic law higher in dignity than the Constitution, resolutions or edicts of the Grand Lodge, of the Ancient Landmarks, and contrary to the spirit of the laws of every country where Freemasonry flourishes, or is suffered to prevail.

I found that a contrary decision would also work great hardship with a certain class of our most respected Companions, and as to them especially would make the resolution of the Grand Lodge, one violative of their sacred and vested rights; I mean the life members of our Chapters, who have paid up their dues for a certain number of years; or who have advanced a large sum on account of dues, and for these reasons have been exempt from any further taxation; and have thus become entitled to all the privileges of membership in their Chapters during their natural lives.

But it has been objected to my decision, that Section 31, of our own Grand Constitution provides that,

"Should a Companion Royal Arch Mason, be suspended or expelled, or stricken from the roll of membership by his lodge, as soon as authentic knowledge of the fact be received by the Chapter, his name shall be stricken from the roll of his Chapter."

I do not think that this Article overrides the higher law already alluded to, or in any manner controls it; but it is unnecessary to go further into the question, because at the time of the adoption of our Grand Constitution, the resolution of the Grand Lodge in question did not exist, and the name of a Master Mason, then, could not be stricken from the roll of his Lodge, until he had been regularly and formally tried and convicted. This consideration therefore led to the following decision:

3d.—All references in the laws or constitution of the Grand Chapter, to the laws or regulations of the Grand Lodge, allude to such latter laws and regulations as were in existence at the time of the adoption of the constitution of the Grand Chapter, and its members as Royal Arch Masons, cannot be bound by edicts and resolutions of the Grand Lodge, made subsequent to the adoption of our constitution, unless the same be regularly adopted by the Grand Chapter.

4th.—A Past High Priest was stricken from the roll of his Chapter, some years since, for non-payment of dues to his Chapter; at a comparatively late date, a resolution was passed remitting his dues; I held that his membership in the Chapter was forfeited by the resolution striking him from the roll, and could only be restored upon his regular petition for affiliation; and that since the remission of his dues he had become vested with all the rights of an unaffiliated Royal Arch Mason.

From this address we learn with unfeigned regret that there was no report on correspondence. Comp. Horner was expected to prepare it, but the pressure upon his time prevented.

No. of Chapters.....	28
No. of Members.....	1,618
No. Exalted.....	96

Comp. Samuel J. Powell was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. J. C. Batchelor, G. S.

MAINE.

The fiftieth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 4th of May, 1875, Comp. Horace H. Burbank, M. Ex. G. H. Priest, presiding, who in his address says:

The incense of grateful hearts best becometh our altar, inasmuch as we are accorded another re-union in Annual Convocation. We are passing another mile-stone in life's journey. As we pause to read the record of the past, there crowd upon us questions vital to our Order, and irrepressible.

How stands that record? Have we gleaned any wholesome lessons from out our experience? Have we scattered any good seed in our

field of labor, or by the wayside, that others might glean? Have we stretched forth the helping hand to the distressed? "Hast thou considered the cause of the poor?" Have we bettered ourself, our neighbor, or race? Vain our ceremonial, barren our convocations, if our better natures be not developed by our tenets. Mere organization is husk, shell; organized principle is the kernel, the meat. Be mine the suggestion; be yours and mine the application.

The work of the Grand Chapter was entirely of local interest.

Comp. Josiah H. Drummond once more comes to the front as reporter, and with his industry, sound judgment, and extensive Masonic information, we may hope for instruction in the future as we have had it in the past from his pen. We have a notice of Alabama among the proceedings reviewed.

We give his views on dues.

The payment of dues is not so much of an innovation, as is the penalty of loss of Masonic rights in consequence of non-affiliation. The great danger is the introduction of the pecuniary *quid pro quo* system, which threatens to introduce the system of "benefits and dues," and thus utterly destroy Freemasonry.

As we never receive the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, we copy the report of Comp. Drummond on this subject entire, believing that our companions will be pleased with information from this quarter.

SCOTLAND.

We have been favored with "The Reporter" of the Grand Chapter of Scotland for the year ending March, 1875. The Chapters on its roll number up to 159, and the Mark Lodges to 29; but 29 Chapters and 16 Lodges are classed as "dormant" or as having surrendered their charters; and seven more Chapters have not made returns for several years, and are classed as "Incapable of being represented and liable to be erased from the Roll;" 27 make no returns this year; they are scattered all over the world, there being Chapters in New Brunswick (6), Nova Scotia (2), Prince Edward's Island (1), Jamaica, Barbadoes, Hindostan, India, Peru, Turkey, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Trinidad, China, British Columbia, New South Wales, Demerara, &c.

The officers of Chapters are First, Second and Third Principals, and as many "Proxy Principals," who sometimes are the same persons as the *regular* Principals: during the year two charters were restored and seven new ones granted, of which one was at Cape of Good Hope, one at Bombay, two in New Zealand, one in Hyderabad (India), and the other two in Scotland: the dues received were about £430.

The Grand Chapter met several times during the year: the business transacted was chiefly of a routine character. Representatives have been exchanged with the Grand Chapters of Canada, South Carolina, New Jersey, Tennessee and Pennsylvania.

The subject of non-payment of dues came before the Grand Chapter. By-Laws of Chapters in India came before it for approval, which contained provisions apparently suspending, by their own operation,

members three months in arrears. The matter caused considerable correspondence and discussion, and finally the following was adopted:

"In reporting the matter to the Supreme Chapter for decision, the committee were unanimously of opinion that some principles should be laid down which would guide Colonial Chapters in future in framing their By-Laws. The committee were also of the opinion that the utmost latitude, consistent with the constitutions of the Order, should be given to Colonial Chapters in framing by-laws for their own internal arrangement. Keeping this in view, the committee recommend the Supreme Chapter to declare: (1.) That Chapters holding of the Supreme Chapter are entitled to exact annual dues from their members. (2.) That members in arrear may be excluded from the Chapter while in arrear of such dues, and that Chapters may, if advised, communicate the names of members so excluded to sister Chapters, and that these, if they please, may also exclude members of other Chapters in arrear. (3.) That members in arrear paying to the Chapter the whole amount of arrears due by them are entitled to be restored to all the privileges of the Chapter without being required to pass the ballot, and (4.) That if members in arrear apply to be reponed on any terms other than full payment of arrears, the Chapter shall have power to decide whether and upon what terms they shall be restored. The committee were of opinion that such a deliverance would meet all the necessities of the case; and that the Supreme Chapter would not go farther, without not only altering the constitution, but also running the risk of creating great confusion among the Chapters. It must be kept in view that, while the exaction of annual dues is sanctioned, it is not imperative, and that many Chapters do not avail themselves of the power to levy them. It is plain, therefore, that a general rule cannot be laid down which would bind Chapters exacting dues and those which do not; and, as the constitutions stand, no one can be deprived of his privileges as a Royal Arch Mason, unless he be suspended or expelled for an offense, after due trial and conviction."

Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart is First Grand Principal, and Lindsay Mackersy, 3 North St. David Street, Grand Secretary.

Comp. Henry L. Paine was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. Ira Berry, re-elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters.....	38
" Members.....	3,922
" Exalted	294

MARYLAND.

On the 9th of November, 1874, M. Ex. G. H. Priest, James W. Bowers, opened the Grand Chapter.

Royal Arch Masonry seems to be harmonious in this jurisdiction, and we agree with the M. Ex. G. H. P. in the rule of action laid down in the following extracts:

I am not an advocate of a multiplicity of laws, having endeavored, during my Masonic life, to reduce the laws governing my intercourse with my brethren and companions to a very simple code, "whatever is right and just is Masonic—whatever is wrong and unjust is un-

masonic." Applying this code to my actions for a fourth of a century, I have avoided an unpleasant difficulty with brethren or companions, claiming from them that Charity towards my failings, that I am willing to grant to theirs, if unfortunately they have any, and in accordance with these views I have no legislation to suggest.

Number of Chapters.....	13
“ Members.....	1,291
“ Exalted.....	99

Comp. Emmons made the report on correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, including those from Alabama for 1873. He differs with us in our views of the extent to which suspension by the Lodge should operate on Chapter membership, and thinks that the *ipso facto* companion ceases to be a member of his Chapter, yet restoration by the Lodge restores to membership. We are glad that this question is agitating the minds of the companions, for it should be finally settled, and, to reach the right position, agitation is necessary. But we are glad to find him in full accord with us on the subject of suspension for non-payment of dues.

We do not believe in either suspension or expulsion for non-payment of dues, if the delinquent is unable to pay them, for both penalties involve Masonic censure. We do not believe the payment of dues strictly right, but since their payment seems an unavoidable necessity, we must take the bull by the horns, and remit dues where members are unable to pay them, and suspend or expel, after trial, where the members are able but refuse or persistently neglect to do so.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The usual quarterly convocation was held, and a special convocation. At these, necessarily, but little business appeared. The annual convocation was held on 30th of December, 1874, M. Ex. Comp. Alfred F. Chapman, M. Ex. G. H. P., presiding. In his address, the M. Ex. states that in that State one in two and three-fourths of the Master Masons of the State become Royal Arch Masons, while in this jurisdiction the ratio is as one in nearly six Master Masons.

On the recommendation of the M. Ex. G. H. P., this Grand Chapter adopted the representative system, and several companions thereupon presented their credentials and were duly received.

Comp. John W. Dadman was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. Zeph H. Thomas Jr., G. S.

Number Chapters chartered.....	64
“ Members.....	8,585
“ Exalted.....	670

Comp. Dadman made the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters, among which are those

of Alabama. The report is good and lengthy and we regret that we shall lose Comp. Dadman from the corps. His sphere of usefulness, we presume he thinks, is enlarged, and we hope he may find it pleasant.

MINNESOTA.

This Grand Royal Arch Chapter convened on 25th of June, 1874, with M. Ex. James N. Castle, G. H. P., in the East.

We think the Grand High Priest was right when he enunciated the following ruling:

Is it necessary to prefer charges regularly against delinquents for non-payment of dues before they can be stricken from the rolls or suspended?

It is. Suspension or denying a member the privilege of the order, is in the nature of a penalty for unmasonic conduct, and should never be inflicted save after due notice to the offending party, and every opportunity given for a fair and impartial hearing. *Any course looking to the ignoring of this would be manifest injustice and subversion of the highest principles of our order.*

We have italicised a portion that may be denominated a Masonic axiom, and it is because we so think that we have ever been averse to suspension in a Chapter following upon suspension in Lodge for non-payment of dues, where no trial is had.

We quote also, approvingly, another portion of his address:

There is a growing tendency in the Masonic world to captious criticism and unprofitable disputation. This should never be tolerated. Too much law is a bane to any society—an absolute curse to an institution such as ours. Wrangling over questions of a merely technical character, besides being wholly unprofitable, is necessarily subversive of that harmony that should ever reign in our councils, and without which our institution, ancient, memorable, and beneficent as it is, will in the end result in an inglorious failure. Save when the same may involve some question of immemorial custom, that had its origin in the ancient practices and usages of the Order, there is but little in capitular or symbolic Masonry that calls for the application of technical rules or subtle distinctions. In the ordinary duties of Masonic bodies, few questions arise that cannot readily be determined by a careful examination of the Constitutions, By-Laws, and decisions of our own jurisdiction. The practice of permitting the application of technical rules to the exclusion of substantial justice cannot be too strongly condemned. It has no part or lot in the institution of Freemasonry. One of the most eminent jurists of the world has recorded that a disputed question determined by the application of common sense and the obvious teachings of equity and good conscience would be found to conform to the well established principles of law.

The Grand Chapter, however, did not approve the ruling of the G. H. P., quoted above.

Comp. Pierson made the report on correspondence, and from it we make the following extract which explains itself. It is from his review of Comp. Lewis' report from Connecticut. We know Bro. Dove, and no purer Christian, more devoted Mason, or intelligent gentleman lives. His name is familiar to most of the Companions of this jurisdiction.

Bro. Dove is of the old school, both as a Mason and a gentleman; it is hardly good taste to criticise any of his writings as "imbecile attempts at scolding," or to express even the "reluctant belief" that his day of "usefulness is nearly past," or "that the Grand Council did wisely in leaving him off the Committee for the ensuing year."

Masonry has seen but few men like Bro. Dove; if there were more of them, there would be more *practice* and less theory, more reality and less preaching.

The measure of Bro. Dove's fame is full, and he only writes reports to fill up a gap — when no one else can be found to do it.

We are sorry to see what we think a blot upon our brother's excellent report, and we believe he will, on the "second sober thought," think as we do.

Neither our late Comp. Stowe nor Comp. Lockwood would have used the term "querulous old gentleman," with reference to Bro. Dove. We notice this matter with the more feeling, because of the growing prevalence of the idea that experience and age must give way to the information acquired from printed rituals and the ambition of youth. But enough.

Comp. Pierson differs with the G. H. P. of Iowa, whose views we think sound, in his declaration that Chapter jurisdiction "follows a rejected brother wherever he may go."

We rather like this:

Masonry is not on the wane; there are amply sufficient numbers knocking at the doors; it needs no arguments that it is this or that to induce petitioners; it wants no bolstering up by the proclamation that this or that great man was or is a Mason; nor does it ask any man to apologise to the world for being a member, by preaching it's this and it's that, to satisfy its opponents.

Just before closing our report the proceedings of the convocation of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota for 1875 came to hand, and from the address of M. Ex. G. H. P. S. R. Merrill, we copy the following decisions with the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence thereon, which was adopted.

First.—Is the standing of a Companion affected by reason of his having been stricken from the roll of his Lodge for non-payment of dues? and are there any decisions relative thereto?

Answer.—The decision of the G. G. H. P., agreed to by G. G. Chapter, 1874, is as follows: "The effect of the suspension of a member of a Chapter by his Lodge for non-payment of dues, must be de-

terminated by the laws of his Grand Lodge. If the suspension is from membership only, his standing in the Chapter is not affected in the absence of regulations by his Grand Chapter."

Second.—In case of absence of High Priest, would you grant a Dispensation to elect another?

Answer.—No. The King of the Chapter succeeds to his place.

Third.—Is it lawful for a Chapter to suspend a member for non-payment of dues without due trial?

Answer.—Sec. 3, Title 4, uniform code of By-Laws, reads: Any member in arrears for dues more than one year shall be subject to having his name erased from the roll of the Chapter. And Sec. 1, Title 7. If any companion shall be guilty of a Masonic misdemeanor—except for non-payment of dues—the Chapter may cause charges to be preferred, etc. Under this law, then, a Chapter may erase from its roll any such delinquent members without trial.

Fourth.—Is this in accordance with Masonic law and the landmarks of Masonry?

Answer.—In answering this leading question I can only give a personal opinion, which is in the negative. The penalty attached to non-payment of dues makes it a misdemeanor. I do not see the justice of allowing to other Masonic offenses full and impartial trial, and make an exception of this. Masonry is very much older than this modern system of pay dues or lose membership. I am of the opinion that our Chapters should be required to regularly and Masonically investigate the case of such delinquent member and ascertain if the non-payment be a Masonic offense.

To these the Committee say :

1st. Relative to the decisions referred.

As an answer to the question proposed to the Grand High Priest reported as he quotes, "the decision of the G. G. H. P., agreed to by the G. G. Chapter in 1874," which we submit *is not an answer to the question.*

Evidently the Grand High Priest regards *striking from the roll* and *suspension* as synonymous and convertible terms. Your committee are of the opinion that very much of the fog enveloping the penalty for non-payment of dues is attributable to this rather than common error.

Striking from the roll deprives the party of certain privileges attending membership in a particular Chapter, but does not deprive him of his privileges as a Royal Arch Mason.

Suspension, on the contrary, throws him—during its continuance—entirely outside the pale of Masonry; for the time being Masonic death. In this jurisdiction membership in a Chapter is not dependent upon membership in a Blue Lodge, and hence, in the opinion of your committee, the standing of a Royal Arch Mason is *not* affected by reason of his having been stricken from the roll of his Lodge.

2d. The answer of the G. H. P. to a supposable case, meets the approbation of your committee.

3d. Your committee concur in the conclusion of the G. H. P. as being in accord with the laws in this jurisdiction; but the decision is *not an answer to the question reported by him.*

"Erase from the roll" is not "suspension." The quotations from the "Uniform Code of By-Laws" are not applicable to the question submitted. Your committee are of the opinion that *it is not* "lawful

for a Chapter to *suspend* a man for non-payment of dues without due trial," or for any other cause.

He thinks only "young America" undervalues the report of committees on Correspondence. Comp. Silas R. Merrill was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. F. D. B. Porter, G. S.

Number of Chapters.....	30
" Members.....	1,471
" Exalted.....	201

The report of the Committee on Correspondence for 1875 is by Comp. Pierson, and we are tempted to make a few extracts from it, even though our successor may thereby be forestalled somewhat. Under Alabama, Comp. Pierson hails the omen of a brighter day to those of us who have so long dwelt in a sort of business twilight. Masonry has felt the depression as well as all other institutions have, and we hail these omens with perhaps profounder hopes than those who have at all times been able to gaze upon the full sunlight of prosperity.

On second thought, we will refrain from comment on the "white men," and unite with him in rejoicing that "the gloomy past is gone—forever;" the "dawn of a brighter day" is now to be seen all over our common country; and every succeeding day is developing that the long vaunted cry that Masonry knows no East, no West, no North, no South, no nationality, no race, no sectarianism, no politics, is no empty boast, but a demonstrable fact. *Laus Deo.*

The following quotation is so vivid a picture of the characteristics of many Masons to be found in every jurisdiction (and we feel ashamed while we confess it, yet truth claims our allegiance,) that we cannot refrain from copying it.

Dues grew out of the necessity to provide for the expenses attending the meetings of a Lodge, in cases where the fees for initiation were insufficient to meet them and other expenses incident to the organization.

We do not advocate non-affiliation. But we claim that one may not "be a drone in the hive," and yet not a member of a particular Lodge. We know Masons who never let a request for assistance go unheeded; who visit the sick, watch over and care for the widow and the orphan, and are ever prompt in attendance upon the remains of a deceased brother to his long home; faithful in all Masonic duties but that of belonging to a particular Lodge. Again, we know of others who promptly pay dues to a particular Lodge, but never attend; when assistance is asked the applicant is referred to the Lodge; is sickness to be soothed, the Lodge will attend to that; does the widow or the orphan present a claim, that is a matter for the Lodge; does a brother die, the Lodge will attend his funeral; I pay my dues regularly—what more can you require? Which is the "drone in the hive?"

The following furnishes an example of the difficult problems that may arise while the Chapter remains in a *quasi* or dependent state.

If, as in some jurisdictions, the Chapter were an offshoot of the Grand Lodge, then our Companion's reasoning we think would be sound.

If suspension for non-payment of dues is not a Masonic offense, and many so think, then the Chapter should not notice it. And it is contended abstractly, that a Chapter cannot officially take cognizance of the action of a Lodge, and this seems to be the position taken by Comp. Pierson. Will it be contended by Comp. P., that a M. M., against whom there are charges, is entitled upon demand to a dimit? and if the Lodge should not grant it, how then can the Chapter do it, when his standing there must be dependent upon the result of time. Can it be said, that one against whom there are charges in the Lodge, is in good standing in the Chapter, except on the presumption of entire independence of and dis-association of the Chapter from the Lodge. While our present theory (which is, however, fast being changed) remains, the M. M. under charges in one Body, is to some extent under a cloud in all, and must in all await the result of the action of the Lodge.

A Companion has paid all dues against him, and applies for a dimit, there is nothing against him in the Chapter, "but in the Lodge he is arraigned for trial. Can a dimit be granted him?"

I decided that the dimit should not be granted him until after his acquittal in the Lodge, or if suspended or expelled by the Lodge, the dimit from the Chapter should be withheld entirely.

Charges are preferred in a Blue Lodge. Well, what of it? Conviction does not always follow the preferring of charges! But suppose the contrary was the case, what does the Chapter officially know of what is going on in the Lodge? Even supposing that a notice officially signed and sealed was transmitted to a Chapter from a Blue Lodge, stating that charges had been preferred, what of it? Even in his Lodge he has all the rights and privileges of his membership, until conviction, save only that of severing his membership, and his status in the Chapter is not affected by charges in the Blue Lodge. The Chapter has no right or power to deny him a dimit.

He gives some capital advice, we think, in the following :

We say to such of our brethren who are teetotalers, pull off your coats, roll up your sleeves, and fight the manufacturer, the seller, and the consumer; but don't endeavor to call to your aid Masonic bodies, as such. Let the old tree stand as it has of yore; its roots reaching so far, that its trunk has grown so lofty that its branches spread forth far and wide, offering the protection of its shade to the people of every clime, of every creed, and all complexions. Don't mar the harmony of this vast army by the introduction of questions that the fathers did not deem necessary to stimulate a healthy growth.

We copy Comp. P.'s views on *suspension* for non-payment of dues, because they are in accordance with our own heretofore expressed, and are the sentiments which governed our Grand Chapter when it

ruled that such suspension ought not to affect the standing in the Chapter.

It is a well settled principal that suspension in a Blue Lodge suspends from all other Masonic Bodies, but we think the Chapter should have the privilege of review in cases of its own members; a companion should not be denied intercourse and association with his Companions because of an illegal act of the Blue Lodge. Holding as we do that it is a violation of the principles upon which Masonry is founded to *suspend* for the non-payment of dues, and that neither a Lodge or a Grand Lodge has the right to make such enactments, it is a grave question with us whether a Chapter should recognize suspension, where the only charge was non-payment of Lodge dues. Deprivation of the privileges attending Lodge membership for the non-payment of dues, is right and proper, and that should be the end of the coercion business.

Below we give his view of the value of the General Grand Chapter as a directrix of work.

In our report of 1873, we made an inquiry relative to the work, and as we find in Comp. Ogden's report before us a reiteration of a former remark, we ask for light. He says:

We think it safe to say that New York has succeeded in introducing and maintaining uniformity of work, and that that work is standard, and such as is recognized by the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

In 1859 the General Grand Chapter by resolution authorized a committee to adopt a system of work. The Committee met in 1860, and after a long session, adopted a work. If our memory does not fail us, there were representatives from thirteen jurisdictions present at the meetings of the committee, among them were representatives from New York. The latter State had, but two or three years previously, at great expense, procured and introduced in that State the "Lovell work." Great efforts had been made by the friends of the "Lovell work" to induce the General Grand Chapter to adopt it; it had been the prominent topic at the sessions of 1850, 1853 and 1856.

There was one point in the "Lovell work" that both its friends and opponents deemed essential, upon which they could not harmonize, as neither would yield.

New York having adopted the "Lovell work," refused to adopt the work of the authorized committee of the General Grand Chapter.

If the General Grand Chapter has taken any action on the subject of work since 1859, it is news to us. No such action has been promulgated through its authorized proceedings.

If New York has the "standard work" recognized by the General Grand Chapter," one of two propositions is patent:

Either New York has abandoned the "Lovell work" and adopted that promulgated by the General Grand Chapter through its authorized committee in 1860,—and if so, when was it done?—or,

The General Grand Chapter has since 1860 *secretly* adopted a different work. If so, when? and how does it happen that New York alone is aware of the fact?

Please give us light.

We may say, right here, that we are not tenacious of verbal uniformity, but are of a uniformity in essentials. So long as a Royal

Arch Mason can readily make himself known as such, and can *work* his way into all Chapters where *our* degree is worked, the rituals are, in our opinion, sufficiently uniform.

In this age, when so many young Masons are coming to the front, it appears to be absolutely necessary for presiding officers, Committees on Jurisprudence and Foreign Correspondence to reiterate decisions and reproduce opinions on matters that older Masons in the Craft regard as almost worn threadbare; and yet it must be done, as comparatively few read the publications of to-day, while still less read those of the past. The necessity of "precept upon precept" is as patent in this age as it was when first enunciated in the Good Book.

What work has this our Grand Chapter got? We were told when great changes were made, that it was the old and true work. Whose work is it? We don't like change, but always think that what our fathers gave to us Masonically should by us be handed down to our sons, without change or alteration, if possible.

MISSISSIPPI.

We have the proceedings of the twenty-second Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter held on the 4th of February, 1875, before us, R. E. Comp. John Y. Murry, D. G. H. Priest as G. H. Priest.

There appears to be a very general desire on the part of G. H. Priests to enforce the selection of a mark, even to the refusal to exalt until the same is done. On this subject Comp. Murry, says:

In order that a uniform regulation may be observed requiring every candidate when advanced to a certain degree to choose and record his private mark in a Mark Book, I would recommend that the same be so amended as to require its observance in all cases as a part of the Sybolism of the degree. As it now is, it amounts to nothing more than a dead statute, not being observed, as I suppose, by one out of every twenty who take the degree.

This was referred to a Committee who reported in favor of stopping the candidate until he should have complied with the requirement, but the Grand Chapter after due deliberation indefinitely postponed the further consideration of the subject. It seems to us that there is a great deal more fuss made on this subject than is necessary, for if a companion cares not for a mark why should he be compelled to select one. It is quite certain that he is less apt to impose on others, or to violate his O. B. without than with one. Of R. A. Masonry in Mississippi, he says:

It afforded me very great pleasure in my representative character to report to the General Grand Chapter (as it does now in my official capacity to state to you) that Capitalar Masonry is in a prosperous condition in this Grand Jurisdiction. The returns from Subordinate Chapters this year may not show as many Degrees conferred as has been done some years in the past, but if such is the case it is attribu-

table to the stringent state of money matters, which has been unprecedented in your past history.

We are gratified to learn from the Grand Secretary's report that the Grand Chapter is getting in so much better condition financially.

Here we have another dissertation from a Committee on the value of the P. M. degree. We confess to being heartily tired of this contest, as well as all others that look to "innovating" upon the work, and are only induced to copy it for the gratification of those of our companions who think differently from ourself.

To the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi :

Your Committee to whom was referred the following resolution, viz: "That Chapter Past Masters, present when the Past Master's degree is conferred on the Master of a Lodge as a qualification for office, shall not assist in conferring more of that degree than is necessary for that purpose," beg leave to report :

That they cannot conceive by what right a Chapter Past Master can confer the degree of Past Master, or any part of it, on a Master elect.

By our permanent Regulations, no Chapter can confer it on any one who has not received the Mark Degree, and been elected to all the degrees of a Chapter.

The truth is, the Past Master's degree was unknown to Capitular Masonry by the Ancient Charges and Regulations, and was improperly taken from Symbolic Masonry, to which it belongs as an Honorary Degree. It is wholly unknown to the Grand Chapter of England. It is not worked by the Grand Chapter of Ireland. It was once worked by the Grand Chapter of Scotland, but it has by it been returned to the Grand Lodge as a Chair Degree, and the Chapters of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Colonies and Shanghai, working under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, are only permitted to confer the degree as a Side-Degree, so long as the work remains as it now is in America.

The Past Master's Degree is a new one, and is worked only in America, and our Chapters must continue to work it until some general change is made. Your committee believe that it should then be surrendered to the Grand Lodges, as a Chair or Honorary Degree, to be communicated alone to Masters elect. The Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, which has not accepted, and is not bound to work the Ritual prescribed by the General Grand Chapter of the United States, has suggested, in an able Report, that the Degree shall not be conferred, but communicated.

Your Committee can only express the hope that some Grand Convocation of the Representatives of all Grand Chapters may meet at no distant day, and may, in a spirit of mutual concession, adopt some Ritual for Chapter Degrees that will enable Capitular Masonry to work the same work and speak the same Masonic language in every nation. Your Committee can see no impropriety in a Chapter Past Master being present at the conferring of the Past Master's Degree on a Master elect as a qualification degree, but no further.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution as a substitute for the one submitted to your Committee, viz:

Resolved, That no Chapter Past Master, as such, has any power to confer the Past Master's Degree, or any part of it, on the Master of a Lodge as a qualifying Degree.

H. W. WALTER,
J. M. HOWRY,
CHAS. T. MURPHY.

At this convocation a motion was made to abolish the Committee on Correspondence, which, however, we are glad to state, was lost, and we have a report from Companion H. W. Walter reviewing a goodly number of Grand Chapter proceedings, among which we find those of Alabama. His reviews are curt for the reason assigned by himself that "under a wise rule of our Grand Chapter, we are directed to condense our work, and report nothing, except of general interest requiring its attention. This is the rule we established for ourself, not because we were restricted by our Grand Chapter, but because we did not want any one to exclaim "what a long tail our cat's got."

Companion Jno. Y. Murry was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion J. L. Power Grand Secretary.

No. of Chapters	82
" of Members	2,450
" Exalted	133

MISSOURI.

M. E. Comp. Rufus E. Anderson, G. H. Priest, opened this Grand Chapter on the 7th of October, 1875, and within less than one month we have a large and well printed volume on our table. This speaks well for the industry of Comp. Gouley, but one usually so thorough is apt to be expeditious.

As we have given the views of several others on the question of the Jurisdiction of a Chapter over a rejected candidate, we copy from the G. H. Priests address. This question has been somewhat mooted of late and was settled for the present by a decree of the G. G. Chapter in accordance with the views entertained within the Jurisdiction of Alabama.

4. At the late Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, held November 24, 1874, the following, reported by the Committee on Jurisprudence, was adopted:

"Doubts having arisen in reference to the question as to the right of any Chapter to confer the Capitular Degrees upon a candidate previously rejected by any other Chapter, it is declared, by this General Grand Chapter, as the true law upon such subject, that no Chapter under this jurisdiction shall confer the Capitular Degrees on any candidate previously regularly rejected by any other Chapter, without first procuring the consent of such rejecting Chapter, provided that such Chapter be in existence."

In June, a case was presented calling for an interpretation of this decision of the General Grand Chapter, and we were asked, "Does it require a vote by ballot to give consent, and, if so, does it require a unanimous ballot?"

Our Constitution declares that "The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Missouri is the supreme head of Royal Arch Masonry in Missouri," and Section 17 of Article 3 declares "any candidate rejected for the degrees may renew his petition in the nearest Chapter to his residence, after the lapse of six months."

Now here is a direct conflict, and we regard the decision of the General Grand Chapter as so utterly at variance with the well settled principles of Masonic Jurisprudence, and furnishing so powerful an engine of oppression to the bigoted Ishmaelite who now and then, despite every precaution, creeps into our Chapters, that we were at first disposed to invoke the doctrine of *States-rights* and instruct St. Joseph Chapter to disregard it. But, not wishing to rest under the charge of "disloyalty," we felt constrained to give it a *liberal* construction, and decided that a majority vote, manifested by the "usual show of hands," was all that was necessary. Any other interpretation of it would afford an opportunity to "nail a candidate to the counter for life by the vindictive hammer of one man."

The editor of *The Freemason*, in commenting on this decision, properly characterizes it as "a strange and strong decision," and well says:

"Rejection has, heretofore, always been limited by time (generally twelve months,) and we never before supposed that we had to get some Chapter in London to reverse its ballot, cast fifty years ago, on a candidate who has stood well in our Lodge here for nearly all that space of time. The General Grand Chapter, Grand Chapters and subordinate Chapters never get outside of the well-established usages of Blue Masonry but they always 'put their foot in it,' and this last performance is no exception."

We had never dreamed that anywhere in this so lately prosperous land that any Chapter or other mystic society ever improvised to the extent hereafter mentioned, the very "implements" of their associations. We knew that the American people were an ingenious one, but could hardly have presumed that an attempt would ever be made to palm off trade marks for Hebrew until seriously told so by the G. H. Priest himself, who also informs us that he lent himself to the trickery. Hear, nevertheless, how he "goes for" that Chapter:

GRAND VISITATION.

I have found it convenient to visit officially but few of the Chapters during the year. I have seen and heard enough, however, to convince me that some measures should be adopted by this Grand Body to compel all the Subordinate Chapters to supply themselves with the *necessary* "tools and implements" to exemplify the work of the degrees. The "furniture" of some of our Chapters, I am satisfied, is sadly deficient, and it requires a wonderful stretch of the imagination, upon the part of the candidate, to see the connection between the symbol used and the lesson intended to be explained. It was my province to be present in one of our *old* Chapters of the kind alluded to, a short time since, at the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree. The Masters of the Vails were without any of the necessary implements of their office—not even so much as a banner. Upon "repairing to the scene of their labors," the third time, the "sojourners" observed,

preserved and brought up "from the ruins of the temple" what proved to be a veritable axe box, with the name of one of the merchants of the place (*still living*) inscribed upon the top of it, and that of a firm now engaged in the manufacture of "IXL" axes in a neighboring State engraved upon the sides and end of it. Recognizing "the eternal fitness of things," we expected to find in it a copy of "Wells' Form Book," a pone of corn-bread, a "big sun-flower, and a smoke-house key; but, to our astonishment, it contained a Bible, and a straight, flat stick, which we took to be the side of the frame of one of the urchins' slates. If it ever "blossomed and bore fruit," it must have been of a relative kind, such as we gathered in one of our school-boy days, when, after figuring over the whole side of the slate, we failed to get the answer and received a vigorous application of birch. No "key" was deemed necessary, as it was presumed all the candidates "knew their letters," and the characters upon the "top and sides" of the box were in plain English. What the astonished discoverer took to be "pure gold" overlaying the top as the "sun's rays fell upon it," we were satisfied was nothing but a new axe laid out on top of the box for a sign. We were acting High Priest, and, having some experience in discussing and harmonizing conflicting testimony, we essayed the task of proving to the satisfaction of those faithful workmen that our "three Ancient Grand Masters" had something to do with that axe box—that that merchant's name on the top was a "tetragrammaton," and that there would have been a triangle around had there been room after putting on the name of the town and State. We insisted that IXL stood for "3,000," and that the word "Pittsburg" was the name of a Jewish town; and the contents of the box was intended for the benefit of wood-choppers in general and "the Jewish nation in particular." We did not wait to hear the "verdict" of the "three," but would have been perfectly satisfied with a "hung jury."

Now, my Companions, is it any wonder that we have too many "daubers," and that to so many our beautiful ceremonies appear only a series of unmeaning rites? Is it not a burlesque, if not an insult, to their intelligence, with such an "outfit" as we have described, to say to a candidate: "I trust you have entered into the spirit of these solemn ceremonies and understand the full import of these interesting symbols?"

I suggest that you adopt a law forbidding the organization of any Chapter hereafter in this Grand Jurisdiction until it shall provide itself with the *necessary* implements for symbolizing the degrees, and that some coercive measures be adopted to compel the delinquent ones already organized to furnish themselves with them. To our mind it is as necessary as a "suitable place" to meet.

And the Committee on the Address endorsed both the G. H. Priest's position in relation to jurisdiction, and the "implements," urging all the Grand Chapters to unite in repealing the decree, and introducing resolutions on the "implements," but we know not what was done with them, no action being had as we could see.

Comp. Gouley reviewed thirty-six proceedings, Alabama heading the list, and we copy his views on the above action of the General Grand Chapter, as published in the "Freemason," given by him in reply to our statement of the usage in this jurisdiction:

A STRANGE AND STRONG DECISION.

At the last triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the Committee on Jurisprudence decided that any candidate for the capitular degrees, who had been previously rejected, could not be admitted into any Chapter in the United States without first obtaining the consent of the rejecting Chapter. In other words, in 1845, John Smith was rejected by John Jones, in Missouri Chapter No. 1, and Smith removed that year to San Francisco, where he still resides, and Companion Jones still remains a member of the Chapter here, and still objects to consent being given out of personal pique. The decision does not say whether the consent shall be unanimous or by majority, but as a vote for a consent is a mere farce by a majority, we presume it is meant to be unanimous. Such a decision, which nails a candidate to the counter for life by the vindictive hammer of one man, is without a precedent (to our knowledge) in Masonic jurisprudence.

Rejection has heretofore always been limited by time (generally by twelve months), and we never before supposed that we had to get some Chapter in London to reverse its ballot cast fifty years ago on a candidate who has stood well in our Lodge here for nearly all that space of time. The General Grand Chapter, Grand Chapters and subordinate Chapters never get outside of the well established usages of Blue Masonry, but they always "put their foot in it," and this last performance is no exception.

Under District of Columbia, on masonic burial services, he says:

The American system of the York Rite can now give the Scotch Rite two in the game, so far as planting human bodies is concerned, for with thirty-three degrees they have only one ceremony, while we, with only twelve degrees, have three, so that if one of our members is buried by the *blue* of the Lodge, the *scarlet* of the Chapter, and the *black* of the Commandery, his friends on resurrection morning will think he died of spotted fever, and if the Bay State will only invent the *purple* ceremony of the Cryptic degrees, then every fellow with wings will swear that the man surfeited himself to death on speckled trout: and if they had ever lived in the Northwestern States, they would not blame him for it, either. "Please do not crowd the mourners."

If any other Grand Chapter has some chronic pall-bearer who is chuck full of burial performances, we beg it to expel him, or put him on a committee to borrow the one from Massachusetts, else we will have two forms in the Chapter, and then the General Grand Chapter will be drawn into the vortex to decide which is right, and that might be the death of that dignified body, whose principle function at present is to solemnly elect officers and shake hands like the elders at a Quaker meeting. For mercy's sake don't stir up any more.

In reply to Comp. Corson, who bangs away at any one thinking an objection ought to stop a candidate after election, and whose strokes are generally ingenious and strong, he says:

You are still pegging away at the "objection" business. Now, we told you several years ago that it was no use. The right of objection to advancement after election must always remain, without the neces-

sity of preferring charges. Suppose you were the partner of John Smith, and a difficulty between you and him would be your financial ruin. Smith has received the Mark Degree, and in the meantime you have found out that he is a bad man, and that you cannot prefer charges without dragging in some respectable ladies and stirring up a muss generally, and putting yourself in his power before you can extricate yourself from his business clutches—and all for the purpose of keeping him from advancing! How much better for the H. P. to simply stop him until the objections are withdrawn? There is no use stirring up a sea to drown a sucker, and at the same time endanger valuable lives afloat.

Number of Chapters.....	87
“ Members.....	4,331
“ Exalted.....	306

Comp. Charles F. Leavitt, M. Ex. G. H. P.; Comp. George Frank Gouley, Grand Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 7th of June, 1875. Comp. Horace H. Munson, M. Ex. G. H. P., who, in his address says:

I take pleasure in again calling your attention to the healthful growth of our Orphan Asylum, and bespeak for it your continued efforts, prayers and offerings. During the past year it has extended its labors, and now boasts of an outgrowth, located in the western part of our State. Through the industry and perseverance of its capable and energetic Superintendent, its influence for good is gradually but surely widening, and its permanency is no longer a matter of doubt. Although yet in its infancy, it is entwining itself around the sympathetic chords of our natures, in a manner which evidences no falling off of that material aid so necessary for the full accomplishment of its purposes and designs. Let our efforts not relax. Let our offerings be increased. Let our prayers and alms go up together, and He, “who doth not slumber or sleep,” will, in his own good time, grant the fruition of our fondest hopes.

Which shows that though our Companions of the old North State have been sorely tried, and tho’ their altar fires paled before the distresses under which they labored, yet the fire of Masonic Charity still warmed their hearts and the fruits are shown above. “By their fruits shall ye know them.”

Again he says:

The past year has in a measure been a prosperous one, the harmony of our Chapters has been undisturbed, the opening up of a new one, the reviving of three decaying ones, and the increased interest manifest in ail, encourage us to look forward to still greater results in the future. The paralyzed condition of our country worked a corresponding paralyzation in Royal Arch Masonry, but from out the gloom of the past, the light of the future breaks, presaging greater zeal, with

more commendable efficiency and happier results in the advancement of the Royal art. With wise legislation and a hearty carrying out of the principles which should govern the conduct of every Royal Arch Mason, North Carolina Capitular Masonry will yet gain and maintain a proud position among her sisters.

Comp. James Southgate made the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, among which we find Alabama.

Under California he advocates the representation system.

Under Iowa, he says:

Where should the Charter be? Certainly the room where the Chapter meets is the most appropriate place, but it is, in our judgment, not absolutely necessary that it should be actually present to legalize the ordinary business of the Lodge any more than a clergyman's credentials are absolutely necessary to be in his pocket to make his sermon orthodox. The charter is only a commission to do certain things according to specified rules and regulations, and that commission should be in some safe place *convenient* to the Lodge or Chapter, only because it may be demanded by a visitor and can be reached without trouble.

We know that we are getting old, perhaps we are old foggyish, but we can still recollect that we were once taught that without the charter *present*, we were not a lodge. If this be true of the Lodge, it is also true of the Chapter. But it is barely possible, that in the various changes which the degrees have undergone and are still undergoing, (notably the P. M. degree) that this doctrine is no longer taught, and a charter having once issued, and been read, might be destroyed and still the Lodge go on. We think that it is necessary that the Master should have his "warrant" at all times present, as well as his "great lights," else there would be no "constituted" Lodge.

Comp. Thomas W. Dewey was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. Donald W. Bain, Grand Secretary.

NEBRASKA.

We have the proceedings of the seventh and eight Grand Convocations of this Grand Chapter in one pamphlet. The seventh was held on the 11th of November, 1873, M. Ex. G. H. P. Robert R. Livingston presiding. In his address our Companion congratulates his Companions "upon the healthful and vigorous condition of our noble Order."

He states that he refused several applications to "confer degrees out of time," believing that these dispensations should not be granted unless the circumstances "imperatively demand the interference of the presiding Grand Officer. The less we have of them, the healthier will be our noble order."

He removed the Grand Master of 3 Veil because he had been expelled by his Lodge for "having transgressed Masonic law."

At this convocation Comp. Robert W. Furnas was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary.

No report on correspondence.

1875.

The eighth convocation was held on the 5th of January, opening with Comp. Charles F. Goodman, D. G. H. P., as G. H. P.

The address of G. H. P. Furnas was read by the Grand Secretary and is very short and entirely local in its character.

Business local; no report on correspondence.

There are 11 chartered Chapters, and one U. D. Number members, 479; number exalted, 70.

Comp. Charles F. Goodman was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. William R. Bowen, G. S.

NEW JERSEY.

We have before us the proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of this State, held on the 9th of September, 1875.

M. Ex. Comp. John Woolverton, G. H. P.

The Grand High Priest rendered the following decisions, which, with the report of the Committee on Constitutions, and the subsequent action of the Grand Chapter thereon, we give. We are inclined to agree entirely with the M. Ex. G. H. P., and believe that he was right in his opinions.

DECISIONS.—No. 1.

No. 1. The reinstatement of an expelled member, in his Lodge, does not restore him to membership in the Chapter.

No. 2. The petition of a candidate for initiation to the Capitular Degree of Masonry must be recommended by at least two members of the Chapter to which he applies for admission.

No. 3. An expelled Companion can only be restored by petition and ballot, which ballot must be unanimous.

I am aware that honest differences of opinion exist among some of our best Masonic minds in regard to one or more of the above decisions, but they were rendered in the belief that they were good Masonic law, and it will now rest with the Grand Chapter to approve or reject them.

No. 2.

No. 1. Your committee concur in this decision, and base the concurrence on the action of the General Grand Chapter at the last Triennial Convocation, it being the higher law to which they bow, but your committee cannot, in justice to themselves, pass from the subject without expressing their views, which they find endorsed by

eminent authority, that the law, as laid down, is unmasonic in its degree of charity, and unfounded in justice.

No. 2.—Your committee approve this decision, and recommend its adoption.

No. 3. Your committee are pleased to find that the Grand High Priest, in his address refers to the fact of "differences of opinion existing among some of our best Masonic minds regarding Masonic law," touching these decisions, and therefore approach the consideration of the 3d decision with the utmost freedom.

Your committee regret that they must necessarily differ with the Grand High Priest in regard to the vote necessary to restore an expelled Companion. Their opinion is that the vote which inflicts the penalty is the only competent vote to restore after petition and ballott.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. EDWARDS,
W. W. GOODWIN,
W. H. McILHANNEY,

TRENTON, September 8, 1875.

The report of the committee was adopted as presented, except so much as relates to Decision No. 3, of the Grand High Priest, which was rejected, and the decision of the Grand High Priest was confirmed by the Grand Chapter.

Comp. Corson comes forward and after making his bow as reporter speaks the following "piece," and as he introduces himself much better than we can, we give it to you :

To the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey :

In presenting his tenth annual review, your Reporter takes pleasure in announcing that throughout the world our institution is in the very zenith of prosperity. From every quarter come tidings of great joy, and the Mystic Temple resounds with the alleluias of devoted worshippers. The Craftsmen are active and zealous, and the Royal Arch, which now spans our continent, shines with a brilliancy and splendor unprecedented in the history of the world.

Your Reporter does not intend to make any apology or excuse for the manner in which his work has been done. It will probably be considered fit work to be presented by one who is not in "good standing" in the Masonic Fraternity, which is the condition in which the writer is at present placed. In fact, it's very little "standing" that he does at all, and he certainly doesn't "rise to explain" nearly so frequently as he was wont to do in former years. There seems to be considerable diversity of opinion among the members of his Lodge as to whether he should be considered a "fixed light" or an "immovable jewel;" while some who are inclined to be irreverent, set him down as an "ancient landmark," which opinions all seem to be based on the fact of his fondness for remaining in one place. He can very appropriately adopt the language of the valiant Falstaff, "eight yards of uneven ground is threescore and ten miles afoot with me."

Well, although he has "suffered many things of many physicians," with no other effect than to confirm the belief that

"All the Doctors in the land,
Can't make Humpty-Dumpty stand,"

still he is not going to permit himself to be converted into a growling grumbler. And albeit he is rather shaky as to legs, still his heart has lost none of its love for Freemasonry, nor does he feel any less interest in the good cause; and he will be happy while he has sufficient strength and energy left to enable him to work with and for his companions, for such labor sweetens sorrow and assuages grief.

Once more greeting you, Companions, and congratulating you upon the peace, harmony, and abundant prosperity which bless us as a Fraternity, we proceed to our labor of love.

We would state to Comp. Carson, that we find the "butter" provided by others so much better than our own that we prefer giving that.

We find him like ourselves objecting to the Massachusetts R. A. burial service in the following language:

When the time shall arrive for our body to be committed to its last resting-place, let such religious services as our family may wish be performed, and then let the beautiful and impressive Lodge service be read, and *nothing more*. We hope to be in good standing as a Knight Templar, at the time of our death, and also in other and higher grades still of Masonry, but we want no other Masonic ceremonies than those of the Lodge performed at our grave. And this we ask because we would not have the humblest Brother prevented from participating therein. If anywhere in this world, then surely at the grave should all meet upon the level—there, at least, should all be equal.

From his comments on Florida we extract his views on uniformity of work, endorsing them in toto, because under what we were please to style "tinkering," we have seen the Chapter so "disintegrated" that a meeting could with difficulty be had, notwithstanding there were members and officers too who could fully appreciate the beauty of the lessons taught, and who felt an inspiration while working, and teaching adoration of the Great I Am.

Comp. Driggs declares that "the want of uniformity in the esoteric work is the bane of Masonry in any jurisdiction." We utterly repudiate this apothegm. In the first place absolute uniformity in language is utterly unattainable. No two men can tell the same story in the same words. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all give the same history of the Master's life, but they do not use the same language. For twenty years we have heard enthusiasts, honest but crazy, advocate the necessity of absolute uniformity of "work;" we have heard it repeated over and over again that uniformity was the vital strength to Masonry; we have known Grand Lecturers who have been almost paralyzed with horror, if they heard an "if," "and," "but," "to," or "or," misplaced, as if the whole fabric of Masonry would be shattered thereby. We have some knowledge of "Mnemonics," "Custodians of the Work," "Keys," "Ciphers," &c.; and yet we never knew, we never heard of, any jurisdiction where this will-o-the-wisp was secured. It is right and proper that a certain amount of uniformity should be observed; but when you insist that absolutely the same words, the same phrases, the same gesticulations, the same mod-

ulations of voice should be used everywhere and by every one who does the work, you make mere automatons, chattering Poll Parrots, of the officers, and crush the very life out of Masonry. In presenting our tithes of mint, anise and cumin in such minor and unimportant matters, we neglect the weightier matters of the law. In wasting our energies in studying words, words, words, we have no time to devote to the history, symbolism and real signification of Masonry. Let us see how this devotion to "uniformity," this close observance of minor details, succeeded in bringing the benighted denizens of Africa, under the instruction of a skilful Grand Lecturer, to a realizing sense of their ignorance, until they were eventually led to

A CHRISTIAN FRAME OF MIND.

There was once a colonial Bishop, whose see was on the coast of Africa. He was an energetic Bishop, who labored nobly, according to his own views, and no man gainsayed him.

In his immediate neighborhood resided a barbarous tribe—the tribe of the Canoodle-drummers. You have heard of them. They were idolators. They were a simple race, with a primitive religion. They were a mild and peaceable people, and lived in perfect harmony with one another.

The Bishop said (and very properly) "I will convert these poor, benighted heathens."

He entered among them, and they received him hospitably. He is indebted to them for teaching him the flavor of the ape, which to this day, is always served in various forms at banquets. There are few pleasanter dishes than ape stewed in oysters and port-wine. But, on the other hand, he found them but little prepared to listen to the beauties of the religion he was about to unfold to them.

He began by entering into conversation with their chum, or high priest—the head of the Canoodle-drummers' faith. He found that at sunrise they were summoned to prayer by the beating of a tom-tom or the blowing of a horn—"it does not matter which," said the chum.

"How is this?" said the Bishop. "It does not matter which?"

"It does not in the least matter whether it is a tom-tom or a horn," said the chum. "Why should it?"

"Oh!" said the bishop, "this is a terrible state of things." And he thought to himself: "It is useless, just at the present, to endeavor to inculcate the beauties of Christianity among this ignorant, and unsophisticated people. In their present state of mind they will not appreciate what I have to tell them. I will begin by endeavoring to instill a healthier moral tone, so they will more readily apprehend the doctrine that I shall lay before them."

With the permission of their chief he summoned the tribe. They came like lambs.

"Oh! Canoodle-drummers," said he, "I am pained to find that you are indifferent as to whether a tom-tom or a horn is used to summon you to your devotions."

"We are quite indifferent," said they, with one voice, "so we are summoned."

"But," said the Bishop, "observe; if a horn is right, a tom-tom must be wrong. So, likewise, if a tom-tom is right, a horn is out of the question."

"But, why?" said the Canoodle-drummers.

"Why?" echoed the Bishop, indignantly—"why, of course!"

"I see!" said each Canoodle-drummer, thoughtfully; and the members of the tribe looked askance at each other, and each edged away from his neighbor. And the next day the tribe was divided into two mighty religious factions—those who stood up for the horn, and those who stood up for the tom-tom.

The chum, or high priest, endeavored, but in vain, to reconcile them. "Why," said the chum, "should you quarrel on such a point? You are all good men. You are all amiable, sufficiently virtuous, tolerably sober, charitable, and generally well conducted. You agree on all vital points of your religion, why divide on matters of unimportant details?"

"Why, indeed?" said the tribe; and the two factions embraced.

"Stop!" said the Bishop. "I am pained beyond measure to see this. What are the ingredients of a plum-pudding to the shape of the mold in which it is boiled?"

"Nothing at all!" said the tribe; and they were again finally divided.

The Bishop persevered. He addressed the horn party and said:

"I notice with pain that some of your horns are long, and some are short. This should not be."

"Which is right?" said the horn party.

"I am not of your religion," said the Bishop; "so I cannot undertake to offer an opinion. But one thing is certain, if one is right, the other is wrong."

So the horn-party was divided into two sects—the "long horns" and the "short horns." And the long horns hated the short horns even more than the horn party hated the tom-tom party, and the short horns returned the compliment.

The Bishop then addressed the tom-tom party, and said:

"I am grieved to see that some of your tom-toms are long and narrow, while others are short and stout. If it is right that a tom-tom should be long and narrow, it is a sin to use those that are of diametrically opposite form."

And the tom-tom party was accordingly divided into two sects—the long-and-narrow tom-toms and the short-and-stout tom-toms.

And the feud that existed between the horn party and the tom-tom was as nothing compared to that which raged between the long and narrow tom-tom party and the short and stout tom-tom party. The Bishop still persevered. He pointed out to the long horn party that some of the long horns were very sharp and some flat. So the long horn party was subdivided, and became the sharp long horns and the flat long horns. He pointed out to the short horn party that some of the short horns were cow's horns and some were ram's horn. So the short horn party was subdivided, and became the short cow horns and the short ram horns.

The Bishop still persevered. He pointed out to the long and narrow tom-tom party that some of their long and narrow tom-toms were headed with the skin of sheep and some with the skin of pigs. So the long and narrow tom-tom party was subdivided, and became the long and narrow sheep-headed tom-tom party and the long and narrow pig-headed tom-tom party. He pointed out to the short and stout tom-tom party that some of their short and stout tom-toms were boxed in with wood and some with iron. So the short and stout tom-tom party was subdivided into the short and stout wooden-boxed tom-tom party and the short and stout iron-boxed tom-tom party.

And here the Bishop took breath and rested—for by this time there was only one man to each sub-division, and the process of disintegration could be carried on no further.

Let us hope, however, that he was as successful in converting them to Christianity as he was in bringing them to a Christian frame of mind.

We have read this report with peculiar pleasure, and we hope with some profit, for there is throughout, amid the jests and jibes and railery which it contains, such a confident reliance upon the goodness of the Great One, that we feel that our own faith has been strengthened. We extract the closing paragraph of his conclusion, hoping the exhortation may be read and heeded by our Companions :

Let us remember, Companions, that each of us has solemn duties to perform, and let us perform those duties with all our heart and soul, our mind, body and strength, for such service only will be accepted by our Master. Each has his burdens to bear, his sorrows to endure, and "the heart knoweth his own bitterness;" but how light and and trifling are they when compared to the reward which will follow well-doing. Let each of us, then, bearing with patience and resignation such trials as may fall to our lot, be constant in duty, and let us and all times be ready to obey the Master's call, "Follow me."

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 2d February, 1875, M. E. Comp. Thos. C. Cassidy, G. H. P.

We extract the conclusion of the M. Ex. G. H. Priest's address :

Companions :—Royal Arch Masonry was never in so flourishing a condition as to the number of its Chapters and members, and at no period was there ever such a general diffusion of Masonic knowledge among the Craft as now prevails. One of the dangers of the hour, which has prevailed in some jurisdictions, is *experimental* legislation. We should not, indeed, be opposed to progress in the right direction, but exceedingly cautious to weigh well the merits of the progress proposed before embarking our Royal Craft upon an unknown main.

But the greatest present danger is the *popularity* of our institution. When the enemy was at the gate our sentinels were ever watchful and guarded. There is no open enemy now; let us see to it that our guards are still set and vigilant, and our camp-fires brightly burning, lest unawares, treachery under the garb of friendship enters our sacred precincts and works confusion among us. Let every Companion feel and act as though the safety and honor of Royal Arch Masonry depended upon his actions, and that he alone is responsible for any disaster. Then will our Chapter be securely guarded, and good men and true alone will be found within our citadel.

Under the Great Architect of the Universe, to whom be all the glory, we are indebted to the wisdom and virtue of our forefathers for the rich inheritance we have so freely received; they have passed away from their labors, and are in peaceful rest. It is ours to preserve this glorious legacy, and hand it unchanged and untarnished to those who shall come after us. Let us all see to it that we act well our parts, and are not found unworthy of this high and responsible trust.

The business of the Grand Chapter was almost exclusively of local interest.

The report on Correspondence appears to be the joint work of Comps. D. A. Ogden, W. B. Church and L. G. Hoffman, though we presume we may safely attribute the product to Comp. Ogden, as Chairman. Among others, Alabama for 1873 is reviewed, in which he quotes liberally from the address of the G. H. P. Comp. Ogden fully realizes the difficulties under which the Craft has labored since the war, and like ourselves hopes for "the better day coming."

We copy his comments on our opinions in relation to the action of the G. G. Chapter in the matter of the G. O. W. With his conclusions we agree, yet we confess to a horror of novelty and innovation in things Masonic:

Over twelve pages are devoted to the reports made to the Massachusetts Grand Chapter, on the recommendation of the General Grand Chapter of the U. S., in reference to the Grand Omnific Word. It is quite apparent that Comp. Pillans is in full sympathy on this subject with the leading minds of the Grand Chapter of the old Bay State, and neither he nor they seem well pleased with the action of the General Grand Chapter. While we regard the subject as one full of interest, yet we cannot see its transcendent importance, and feel disposed to acquiesce in the action of the General Grand Chapter. Standing in trusting confidence, or bowing in humble adoration and in confiding faith before the Great I Am, it is not so much matter, whether the language or the name be Egyptian in pronunciation, or Syriac or Chaldaic in form. We seek after God in our devotion, and if we find Him and reverently speak his name it will suffice us, and we shall not be disturbed about the form of word in which his name is given, or the tongue in which it is spoken. We would not say there is no significance in the word, no interest in the right idiom, or pronunciation; but this we would say: God is God, by whatsoever name, and it is to him we bow and worship in spirit and in truth, and not in name and form only—if the substance be right the shadow is of little worth.

In his review of New Hampshire he advocates the propriety of a Lodge being called off when it has business yet unfinished, and which should be completed as soon as possible. This used to be the practice, and it is quite recently that Grand Bodies are ruling that a Lodge must always be closed from one day to another. We have never yet been satisfied with the reasons given for this ruling, though we have meekly submitted to the "edict."

Comp. Joseph B. Chaffee was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Christopher G. Fox, was elected Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters.....	—
" Members.....	18,894
Exaltations.....	1,428

NOVA SCOTIA.

The pamphlet before us contains the proceedings of a special Convocation of this Grand Chapter, for the purpose of consecrating a Chapter and installing the officers thereof, as well as those of the Fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter held on 2d June, 1874, over which M. E. Comp. S. R. Sircom, G. H. Priest, presided.

The Grand Chapter was in session one day, during which it completed its labors—the business being peculiarly local in its character. It seems to be in a prosperous condition, and its subordinates working well. God speed them.

Comp. Gossip, Grand Secretary, made the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of Alabama among others. Under Michigan for 1873, he gives his views on the effect of suspension from the Lodge on Chapter membership. If these were to pertain, then the common bond which is theoretically said to unite the building, would be broken, or as some other has said, the second story would be expected to remain after the first had been removed from the building. We give his words:

Our individual opinion is that suspension from a Blue Lodge should not affect the standing of a member of a Chapter until he has been tried and convicted on the charges regularly preferred against him under the laws guiding *Capitular* Masonry. If such is not the case, then, we fail to see the necessity for a Constitution and Laws for Capitular Masonry at all, and why the enactments of Grand Lodges on *all* matters should not have full force in the Chapter; but we hardly think the Companions promulgating these views would, at present, at all events, with their several Constitutions in force, argue for such a state of things which certainly would entirely revolutionize Royal Arch Masonry on this Continent.

We can understand why such enactments might answer in England, but the question assumes quite a different aspect when applied to R. A. Masonry on this side of the Atlantic.

Comp. Sircom was again elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. Gossip, Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters.....	6
“ Members	250
“ Exalted.....	44

OHIO

Held its Fifty-eighth Annual Convocation on 9th September, 1874, M. E. Comp. J. Kelly O'Neill, G. H. Priest, and from his address we quote:

The history of Royal Arch Masonry in Ohio during the past year has been characterized by no unusual event. The Craft have pursued their labors with zeal, and while as citizens they have participated in the exciting questions of the day, as Masons they have wisely adhered

to that "temperance and prudence" which should be "the constant practice of every Mason," and by which their lives should be characterized: and while honestly entertaining their own views, liberally tolerant to the opinions of others, they have enjoyed the blessings of substantial peace, and the erection of our mystic temple on the broad foundation of charity and virtue, so wisely and firmly laid by our fathers, has steadily progressed. Differences of opinion have occurred, but they have been the manifestations of an earnest desire to promote the general welfare, protect individual rights and remove every obstacle to the general harmony and purity of our beloved Institution.

Comp. S. M. Sullivan submitted the report on Correspondence, including the proceedings of Alabama for 1872-'73.

Under Mississippi we find some comments on a sentence from the G. H. Priest's address that have a smack of politics in them, and which look as if the "bloody chasm" was never to be filled, never to be obliterated, but, as occasion allows, some taunt or sneer is to be uttered which shall bruise the covering which we had hoped would have been allowed to grow over that sore, and irritate it again. Mississippi has produced some very able intellects, statesmen, soldiers and masons, and to-day, amid her poverty and humiliation, she is striving against corruption imported, imported! nay, thrust upon her, to rekindle her altar fires and by self denial to place herself where she belongs in the Masonic circle. For the information of the Companions of our Jurisdiction, we quote the passage, that they may see the fire that smoulders among the members elsewhere. Poor Mississippi! Don't kick one when he is down:

"If I had the power I would consolidate symbolic, capitular, and cryptic Masonry under one Grand Lodge and Grand Master."

And then follows a declaration, that no good results from subordination to the General Grand Chapter, and he recommends that steps be taken to dissolve their connection therewith.

This *inconsistency* can only be accounted for, in my mind, that Mississippi malaria has always impregnated the minds of the greatest and wisest men with secession, and then follows the wildest schemes.

My earliest recollections of this State was the Mississippi scheme and repudiation, which I had hoped had passed away with the former generation of men, and am sorry to find any seeds of it in Royal Arch Masonry.

Comp. O'Neal was again elected M. E. G. H. Priest, and Comp. Nesbitt, Grand Secretary.

Number of Members.....	8,298
" Exalted.....	603

OHIO.

At the very last moment we have from the post-boy the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of this State for 1875. The Grand Convocation being held on 8th September, 1875, Comp. J. Kelly O'Neal, M. E. G. H. P., who in his address forcibly reminds presiding officers of their

duties and responsibilities when placed in those prominent positions, in the following manner :

The principles of the Order on the subject of all intemperance and excess are clearly defined and well understood. No one can violate the moral laws, disregard his duty to society, or debase in his own person, the dignity and beauty of the temple, erected by the Supreme Architect for the indwelling of a human soul, and not violate the Masonic laws. Yet such offenses are even habitually committed by Masons. The facts known and regretted by officers and members ; but our laws not enforced ; the Fraternity suffers, but the offender remains a member and publishes our disgrace, and his own, by appearing as a Mason on all public occasions. To the officers of our subordinates especially, is intrusted the reputation and well being of our Order. They are to guard the morals and correct the irregularities of their members ; and it is only through them, that the authority of the Grand Chapter and its officers can efficiently act : and should they neglect or disregard their obligations, it is upon them that the authority of the Grand officer must fall. The necessity for a more vigilant and effectual supervision of the conduct of their members by the officers of your subordinates was painfully manifest when recently I saw a member, and until the present year the High Priest of one of your subordinates, grossly intoxicated while attending court and in the attempted discharge of his professional duties, and being credibly informed that such manifestations were not unfrequent, I again felt compelled to exercise unusual authority, and directed his successor to cause the removal of so evil an example by either the reformation of the companion or his exclusion from membership.

The Committee on Grievances have nothing to report, which shows an harmonious condition of the Order.

Comp. Wm. L. Buechner presented the report on Correspondence, which proves him equally well skilled in the use of the pen as the scalpel. He reviewed the proceedings of thirty-nine Grand Chapters, and some for two and three years, among which we find Alabama.

Under Indiana he expresses sound views on the subject of intemperance :

While we do not agree with Comp. Pierson on total abstinence, nor the terrible effects of liquor on the human system, we fully concur with him when he opposes the introduction of the liquor question in our Masonic bodies. While we despise intemperance, while we despise a drunkard, we deny the right to anybody to tell us what to eat or drink ; and would it not be well for some of our brethren to use a little Masonic charity in this matter, and not call everybody wrong who does not support their fanatical views.

We quote his views on the subject of objection, as it is a question which has been agitating the Craft of late, and the advocates of both views have written earnestly on it. We have given from year to year the opinions and arguments of Corson and others, both for and against, and continue to inform the companions of this jurisdiction,

until a settlement which shall be generally acceptable, shall be attained:

This objection question has been a point of very much difference of opinion among the reportorial staff; we are strongly in favor of the right of simple objection, without being compelled to state the objections, or to prefer charges, as that would require sometimes the objector to divulge secrets that are confided to him. We speak in this matter from personal experience; a gentleman applied to our Lodge; his reputation was good; his standing in society excellent; he was elected; we received afterward the first information of the application, and objected to him being initiated; because *we knew as his physician* that he was an immoral man.

Was it our duty as a Mason to object? We say it was.

Would it have been right of us to state our objections and betray the confidence that he had placed in us? We would have degraded our noble profession by so doing.

If any of the companions, who are in favor of stating objections, or preferring charges, can tell us how to get out of a scrape of that kind we would be glad to hear it.

No. of Chapters	—
" of Members.....	8,475
" Exalted	589

Comp. Reuben C. Lemmon was made M. E. G. H. P., and James Nesbitt, Grand Secretary.

OREGON.

We have the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of this State at its convocation, held on the 11th of June, 1875, M. Ex. James R. Bayley, presiding.

The G. H. Prest, in his address, congratulates his Companions on the condition of the craft, "for, indeed, we have been blessed as a peculiar people, in our beautiful State, having had all the comforts and favors most could expect, and none of the trials and troubles of our less favored companions."

We find that he is annoyed at the diversity of work within the jurisdiction and recommends that some method for the proper dissemination of the true work be adopted, and the Grand Chapter determined to, and did, elect a Grand Lecturer at this convocation.

We give his closing paragraph.

Finally, my Companions, let me admonish you not to be weary in well doing, but to continue our beloved work while permitted here on earth, and so to live with a sure and steadfast eye on the future, when the time may come when the Gavel sounded here shall wake us no more to assemble around our Masonic Altar, that we make sure of hearing the welcome sound of the Gavel from that other shore, calling us to gather around the altar of God's eternal love, never more to part, where none but the good and the true may hope to gather, and where the High Priest is the only true and living God, the source of all light and the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

Comps. J. R. Bayley and R. P. Earhart were re-elected to the several positions of M. Ex. G. H. P. and G. S.

Comp. T. M. Patton, the same whom the Grand Chapter "*canceled*," in token of their appreciation of his services, comes forward again with the report on Correspondence, reviewing, very handsomely, the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, including ours for 1874.

Under Alabama he answered a question put by us because we thought of the inconvenience and difficulty of taking the record of each Chapter and their examination by the Grand Chapter. This may be now while there are no great number, but hardly after the subordinates shall have become numerous. The practice, we doubt not, is productive of good, and to let our Companions in Alabama see how those of Oregon do things, we copy:

Are our Companions in Oregon to carry to every Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter their record or minute books, as would seem to be indicated in the following?

To which we answer. Yes, such was the design, and it will be done. The custom has prevailed in our Grand Lodge for many years, and has been complied with. Not only produced, but carefully examined by the most experienced craftsmen. The result is that our records are a credit to any jurisdiction.

We give his views on the effect on Chapter membership by restoration in the Lodge.

Comp. Emmons doubts the justice of the rule requiring a Companion, to pass the ordeal of a ballot in a Chapter after restoration by his Lodge. Comp. Pillans of Alabama contends that restoration by his Lodge, restores him only to the position of an unaffiliated Companion. We agree with Companion E. and think the weight of authority is on his side.

As we continually see something on the subject of Landmarks, we give what he says on this subject under New York. This we do because we know that the question of the validity of objection after election is at present agitating the Craft, and doubtless some G. H. of this Jurisdiction will soon be called upon to rule on it.

We hear a great deal said about the landmarks, and even our worthy Companion in the case before us, takes occasion to say "by strict logic and observing the *landmarks*, there is no other rule but to stay progress, hold the candidate *in statu quo* until the objection is withdrawn." Now, as an individual, we ask Companion Ogden to please point out among the landmarks as defined by any jurist recognized among the Craft, where a single reference is had to "*objection*" after a unanimous ballot. Comp. A. G. Mackey enumerates as landmarks twenty-five, Comp. Lockwood nineteen, and Comp. Simons fifteen; from these we learn "That no candidate can be received except by *unanimous ballot*, after due notice of his application, and due enquiry as to his qualifications."

This is the test required, and only one that we have found that has the semblance of justice about it. Objections without assigning cause and perpetual balloting, create more discord, confusion and ill-

feeling than any other thing, and are the last things we would resort to to produce harmony.

Our Companions will notice that Comp. Ogden speaks of demanding a ballot, when he objects. Now we ask for information if it is not good law, *that the ballot is invariably secret*? If this is true, a Brother objecting, places himself in a position where the character of his ballot is known.

We have penned the foregoing on our own individual responsibility. Our Grand Chapter has never had occasion to give expression on this question; but as the membership is composed largely of active members of our Grand Lodge, it is fair to presume that should an occasion present itself, that the same judgment would be rendered as was given by the Grand Lodge, viz: That a Brother can object at any stage without assigning reasons therefor; and as a good Mason we are bound by this ruling until reversed.

We think the position of the Grand Lodge is the correct one.

We have before often intimated to our Companions what is stated in the annexed quotation from Companion Patton, and we hope that Grand Chapters will devise some plan for making the High Priests examine proceedings. If they will not, then save the printing of them.

How often do we hear similar reports concerning questions of law, which have been decided time and again. If the Craft would devote as much time in the examination of authorities, and even their Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter proceedings, as they do in writing to the Grand Officers propounding the questions, there would be a marked improvement in the various subordinates, and the labors of Grand Officers materially lightened.

This is the only discouraging feature in the preparation of our reports—after laboring for months in reading, selecting and writing, to know that so few read them, simply because they are filed away and come to sight only when proceedings are printed. Every Grand Chapter should by regulation provide that these reports should be printed in advance of the annual Convocation, and distributed during the session to reading Masons who would appreciate them.

With these notices we must pass this interesting report.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The usual quarterly convocations of this Grand Chapter were held at which the usual local business was transacted and the Annual Grand Communication which was held on the 28th of December, 1874, Comp. Andrew Robeno, M. Ex. G. H. P. From the address we extract:

Ninety-seven Chapters and three Mark Lodges, in all one hundred, are the number of bodies in this jurisdiction, with membership of ten thousand, over which the Grand Chapter exercises her authority. During the year very little has transpired to call for any special remarks. I have not been called upon for any decisions, and consequently have made none. Peaceful and harmonious are the in-

fluences pervading the entire jurisdiction, and with but one or two exceptions, the Chapters are in a strong, healthy and prosperous state.

In this address we find a letter from that distinguished English searcher after Masonic antiquities, William James Hughan, from which we make a short extract, as follows :

In our new work will also be found a reprint of Dr. Dassigny's "Enquiry" of 1744, which contains the first typographical reference to Royal Arch Masonry known, and which is printed from one copy believed to be unique. The date is of importance, as it abundantly confirms the fact that the degree was worked prior to 1744, and was conferred upon *Past Masters*.

My attention of late has been especially directed to our legends, and in the *Freemason* (England) for November 21st, 1874, I have given two remarkable quotations from works or manuscripts which prove that one of our Royal Arch legends was known in the fourteenth century (for it was then that Calistus Nicéphorus flourished, who mentions the legend), and it is also to be found in print in the seventeenth century. Doubtless, Companion MacCalla will publish my communication in his valuable *Keystone*, as the matter is worthy of consideration, and as our researches are not yet ended, it is likely to be one of a series.

Comp. William J. Kelly presented the report on Correspondence having among other proceedings those of Alabama for 1873. It is a long time now since we have seen any thrusting into the reports or proceedings any of the titles of other rites. The attempt was so roughly and unsparingly handled at first that it was immediately abandoned, but Comp. Kelly goes for these titles in this way—under Canada.

Wherein he speaks of T. Douglas Harington as 330, and Arthur Fletcher as 320—to be etc., we do not understand him. We are willing to concede our ignorance as Royal Arch Masons in this quarter of the world to those hieroglyphics, if they are part of the work in your Grand Chapters we should like to be posted that we may help enlighten others; if they are not, they have no business in that address, and we are sorry to see them or any other matter not understood by the great body of those to whom these proceedings are read and for whom they are prepared.

It is from this report that we learn something of the Grand Mark Master Mason's Lodge of England and Wales, and we are free to confess that we, therein, see nothing worthy of imitation.

Below we give his concluding sentence :

We are gratified at being able to report the steady and healthful increase of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world, and if we are permitted to read the "signs of the times" aright, we are simply on the threshold of our success, and how devoutly may we aspire "so mote it be!" for, to our mind, success in our Institution means higher civilization, progress in the cause of humanity, and increased happi-

ness in many families. We hold, after many years experience, that no man can partake of the rights and ceremonies, the privileges and mysteries of our Institution and not be a better man. So let us hope the tidal-wave may set in our favor strong, and continue its rolling until the end of time.

Comp. Robeno was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Comp. John Thomson, G. S.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Comp. Augustine T. Smythe, M. Ex. G. H. P., opened the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter on the 9th of February 1875. In his address he states:

I can again most heartily congratulate you, Companions, upon the condition of the Craft throughout the jurisdiction. Since our last convocation, harmony and peace have prevailed in our midst, while prosperity has attended our steps. Ripples there have been upon the surface, but *only* ripples, tending but to give freshness to the scene, and to break the monotony, and impart a healthful life and interest. With foreign jurisdictions our intercourse has been most pleasant, nor has anything occurred to mar in any way our intimate and fraternal relations.

The Grand Chapter, at its last convocation, suspecting that cypher or other books were being used resolved that the same should be called in, which the High Priest proceed to do, and he says that he was "astonished at the magnitude of the evil, although I had reason to believe it widespread." He then, in view of the necessity for some means of teaching the ritual suggests a plan quite similar to ours, but under a different name. Instead of there being a Committee on Work selected from various portions of the jurisdiction, some one of whom can readily be reached by the officers of Chapters needing instruction, he suggests the same thing under the denomination of "Custodians of the Work."

Comp. J. E. Burke presented the report on Correspondence, curtly noticing the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters. Among these we find Alabama for 1873.

Thirty Chapters made returns showing a membership of 910 and 143 exalted.

Comp. Smythe, was again made G. H. P., and Comp. Moses, Grand Secretary.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Convocation was held on the 4th of November, 1874, M. E. Comp. Joseph M. Anderson, G. H. Priest. From his address we take:

It will be observed that the record I have presented you of business

done, shows that no great amount of labor has fallen to me, and yet a sound growth of the Order is seen in the establishment of new Chapters. I do not know that too rapid a growth of Chapters and members is desirable. Great care should be had for the material selected, and the greatest circumspection should be exercised in the founding of Chapters, and in the election of Companions. It is a lamentable fact that all men are not fitted and worthy to be advanced in Masonry, and it is a matter of regret that very many of us who have been advanced, fall short of our duty and obligations.

The past year has been a hard one in all the land. The money panic, the drouth and the general destruction of and stagnation in business matters, have forced need, gloom and suffering throughout the country, and it is fitting that Brothers of "the Mystic Tie" should engage actively in the grand mission and work of love, in ministering with the afflicted, relieving the distressed, and making glad the hearts of those bowed down in grief.

He wishes some change in our Masonic chronology, what change we cannot well gather from the address, but in speaking of it he makes some very beautiful remarks on Masonry, which we give:

The grand principles of Masonry, founded as they are, on eternal truth and justice, are invariable and unchanging, and must forever so remain. Only in the light and glory of that upper and better world, to which all Masonic teachings direct us, will we be able to comprehend and enjoy the full and unrestricted beauty and glory of the principles we attempt to follow and expound on earth. In the presence of the "Great I Am that I Am," we will comprehend all goodness, and all greatness. We do not mean to teach that Masonry shall take, or does take the place of religion, an element which comes from on high, and is in the grand communion of spirits. But Masonry is, and ever has been, the handmaid of true and undefiled religion, whether found in this or that sect, or in this or that religious persuasion. Beyond the recognition of a Great All Wise and Omnipotent and ever merciful God, who administers not only the earth, but all Creation, we do not seek to go for light and principle. It is enough. Beyond the duties and obligations which flow from such a principle, accepted by all, we do not seek to advance. Principles so discovered and practiced are grand. They are established in that immortal hour when He who rules all, commanded: "Let there be light, and there was light."

This Grand Chapter declared that one expelled or indefinitely suspended by a Lodge, and afterward restored by the Lodge, is also restored to membership in the Chapter to which he belonged.

No report on correspondence. Comp. Wilbur F. Foster, was made G. H. P., and Comp. John Frizzell continued Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters.....	—
“ Members.....	4,010
“ Exalted.....	207

VERMONT.

The Grand Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 12th of June, 1874, M. E. Comp. John W. Clarke, G. H. Priest.

The G. H. Priest decided that "membership followed the conferring of the degrees," and that the signing of the Constitution and By-Laws was not necessary "to complete his membership, and

To an inquiry as to whether the name of a Companion might be struck off the roll of membership of a subordinate Chapter for non-payment of dues, I made the following reply :

"If a Companion shall refuse to pay the dues to his Chapter as prescribed by the by-laws he violates his obligation ; and upon proper proof, at a regular Convocation and after a due trial, he may be indefinitely suspended at the pleasure of his Chapter.

"Striking the name of a member from the roll, without proper trial and conviction of the offense, is inadmissible."

In our jurisdiction the Grand Chapter has held that it is permissible for a subordinate to make a by-law to this effect, and some Chapters have such a provision.

Comp. J. M. Poland presented the report on Correspondence, among others reviewing the proceedings of Alabama. On these reports under Georgia, he says :

For ourselves, however, we acknowledge that we derive no little satisfaction from learning the progress of our Order in other jurisdictions than our own ; and we certainly know of no easier, cheaper, or more acceptable method of diffusing this knowledge than by this means. And this feeling, we are sure, is generally shared in among the Craft wherever dispersed, with the possible exception of those in Georgia.

The following, under Massachusetts, on Royal Arch burial service, is eminently proper.

Our Massachusetts Companions have adopted a novel proposition—novel to us at least, and we doubt not it will prove so to most of the Craft—in the preparation of a Royal Arch burial service for use in that jurisdiction. The service is very ingeniously gotten up, and might be made very beautiful and impressive. We certainly know of no law forbidding the preparation or use of a Royal Arch burial or marriage service, if the Companions chose to do so. To our mind it is simply a matter of taste, but it seems to us that better taste would have been displayed in adhering to the old practice of using the Master Mason's service, in place of adopting any innovation upon the established usages of our Order.

The report is a good one, and quite sound in the views expressed by the writer, who in conclusion modestly says that

If the many errors into which we have undoubtedly fallen are not so conspicuous as to admonish the Grand High Priest of the impropriety of committing this important charge into the hands of one of the youngest of the Craft in his jurisdiction, we shall be more than satisfied.

VIRGINIA.

Held an Annual Convocation on 17th December, 1874, with M. E. Comp. B. M. Harris, G. H. P., who in his address says:

The diversity of work among the various Subordinate Chapters within this Grand Jurisdiction has caused considerable inconvenience, and in some cases annoyance, and I cannot too strongly urge upon the officers of each Subordinate Chapter the importance of acquiring the proper work with as little delay as possible. Much has already been done in some localities to remedy the defect, through the instrumentality of the Grand Lecturer; but much remains to be done.

The business of the Grand Chapter was both little and local in interest, showing harmony in the Craft.

M. E. B. M. Harris, and E. John Dove were again placed respectively in the positions previously held by them, of G. H. Priest and Grand Secretary.

There appear to be thirty-seven Chapters having a membership in the aggregate of 1,627 members, and 106 were exalted during the year.

Comp. Isaacs again presented a sprightly report on Correspondence "mixing up" the proceedings, and making what he seems to delight in, a "muddle of it." Alabama, however, we find there.

Under Florida we find:

Whenever a Master Mason who is also a member of some Royal Arch Chapter, shall become non-affiliated, and wilfully remain so for a period of more than one year, he shall be considered suspended from his Chapter, until he shall have become affiliated with some particular Lodge.

With deference we think the Grand Chapter in error. Our organization is a voluntary one. No one should be *forced* to retain membership in either of the Orders, but like all other voluntary organizations, founded upon the immutable principles of truth and justice, he should be entitled to his own election, whether one, or all or none should claim him. All well informed Masons know the penalties for non-affiliation, and are presumed to be capable of judging and acting for themselves.

Alluding to our copying a great deal in relation to "that humbug," the Tetragrammaton, he says, "for the sake of the Craft, do for God's sake let the thing alone," and we confess that when we saw our report in print we thought so too. But in the very limited time had for its preparation we could not review, and it was sent out, and we think indiscreetly.

Comp. Isaacs wants no more funeral services, but thinks one sufficient for the dead, while the living surely don't desire any more.

We conclude this review by extracting his remarks on the legality of the formation of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, of which we never entertained a doubt, but whose recognition by Kansas was

coupled with the condition "whenever they shall place themselves under the fostering care of the G. G. Chapter."

The Grand Chapter of Virginia was organized in 1808. Previously to that year, and indeed to the present moment, the law was and is:

¶ The members of the Grand Lodge and of all warranted Lodges within their jurisdiction, so far as they have abilities and numbers, have an undoubted right to exercise all degrees of the Ancient Craft, and consequently the Royal Arch; but no Mason of any denomination can hold any Lodge without warrant for the place where held.

That law has never been repealed. It is not probable the Grand Lodge will ever assert its authority; but that does not change the *courtesy* through which the Grand Chapter controls the degrees. It is within the Masonic recollection of the present writer, when efforts were constantly and persistently made year after year by some of the most eloquent and influential members of the Grand Chapter to induce it to become a member of the General Grand Chapter, so persistently was it pressed, as to cause an annual disturbance of the peace and harmony of the deliberations of the Body. But that source of crimination and recrimination was consigned to the tomb of the Capulets in 1853, there to remain until the last trump shall sound. During the recent war efforts were made to establish a General Grand Chapter for the Confederate States. Virginia, consistently with her past history, took very decided grounds against it, and was one of the instruments in its defeat. We presume it will be conceded, without further testimony, that the General Grand Chapter was formed in 1797, as a Body for the governance of the New England States only; that it discharged its functions *as such* until 1799, when it changed the character of its organization, by resolution, to a General Grand Chapter of the United States, to meet the requirements of an application from South Carolina for a Charter, and at the same time to take concurrent jurisdiction only with Grand Chapters then in existence and over such others as might be formed, whose paternity was to such Grand Chapters. From year to year it has increased its powers; whether for good or evil, it is not our present purpose nor business to discuss. Efforts have been made by some of its associate Grand Chapters to withdraw, but the "discipline" has been applied with such an unsparing hand and tremendous power (right or wrong), that, our impression is, they have all returned to their allegiance—displaying countenances, we imagine, as radiant and cheerful as the fox had when he tried to make his friends believe a curtailed tail was fashionable. We mean no disrespect by the comparison. Our purpose being simply to present our view of the legal status of West Virginia as a lineal descendant of Virginia, and as the Lodges (Chapters), forming the Grand Chapter of Virginia long ante-date the General Grand Chapter, and all the Charters in West Virginia were derived from the parent stock, no further recognition should be deemed necessary to establish her in "the household of faith" among all the peoples of the world than the action of Virginia in the premises. Entertaining these views, we repeat, without "prejudice," but as the convictions—the honest convictions—of our hearts, the advice given by our then Most Excellent Grand High Priest to the Grand Chapter of West Virginia as "most admirable," and "full of practical wisdom and common sense," to wit: "One thing I warn you against, and that is the seduc-

tive influences which may induce you to become a member of the General Grand Chapter, for this will be to give up, in part at least, your sovereignty. It will divide your powers, interfere with your work by depriving you of the Council degrees, and render you a subordinate Body." Take heed to our advice, daughter.

WISCONSIN.

We have the proceedings of the twenty-fifth annual convocation held on 16th February, 1875, Comp. J. H. Evans, M. E. G. H. Priest.

We find nothing of general interest in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter. Companions J. H. Evans and John W. Woodhull were respectively re-elected M. E. G. H. Priest, and E. Grand Secretary.

Comp. J. P. C. Cottrill again presented the report on correspondence, and we there find ours. In this he well states the value of these reports, and we believe that from these a sounder view of masonic law, and better and more reliable information in relation to masonic history and mooted questions than can be found in the same space anywhere. We well remember the gradual changes which have been wrought in the decisions of Grand Chapters on many disputed points and the steady approach to one rule of action, all, as we think, produced by these reports. And we are satisfied that he who occupies the East in a Chapter who will constantly read these reports made to his Grand Chapter, will seldom, if ever, trouble the M. E. G. H. Priest with any of the innumerable questions annually put, and which ought to be decided by the H. P. of the Chapter without delay.

In allusion to Grand Visitations he says:

No better or more useful practice exists than that which prevails in some jurisdictions, and which ought to prevail everywhere, of having every subordinate visited officially once at least each year by some one of the Grand officers. It does not involve junketing or banqueting, but it does revive interest, stimulate exertion, incite ambition and increase Masonic zeal.

CONCLUSION.

Thus Companions have we discharged the duties devolving upon us, whether it shall prove acceptable to you, whether you will derive as much instruction from our labors as we have from the labors of others depends greatly upon the spirit in which you approach the perusal as well as upon the skill and judgment displayed by us. We have conscientiously attempted to discharge our duty.

While almost in conversation with our confreres, we have been forcibly reminded, that life is unstable, fleeting as a shadow. Every where along this journey in other jurisdictions have we seen monuments to departed worth, everywhere have we been reminded that we must hasten to seek a place in that "Temple not made with hands eternal in the heavens," for this is not our abiding place. Peace be to

the ashes of our departed companions and may their virtues be emulated by us.

Comp. Lewis, of Connecticut has well said that "truer talents and circumstances" must be in conjunction to make a good reporter, and Comp. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, says that although we deprecate changing of reporters, we think the proper way is to elect some companion with the ability necessary to prepare the reports; the time to spare to devote to it; and the disposition to feel honored by the privilege, and then hold on to him, hoping that he won't resign, and may never die. These qualifications we also think requisite, and as we feel that we do not possess them, and that the interest of the Grand Chapter of Alabama may be enhanced by a change, we hope that the incoming G. H. Priest will find some more suitable person to serve you for the future.

During the years that we have served this Grand Chapter we are not aware of having said aught that should grieve. We know that it has been our desire to express firmly, but Masonically our opinions, and we hope that none have been aggrieved. If there be any, to them we make the amende Masonique, and hope that should we meet, we may meet and part as brothers. We would urge upon the High Priests of our Chapters particularly a careful perusal of these reports, knowing full well that they would be instructed as well as interesting, and that the M. E. G. H. Priest would be saved the necessity of constantly ruling on questions previously decided.

To the M. E. G. Chapter of Alabama our thanks are due for their continued confidence in us, and for their charity towards our repeated short comings.

Respectfully submitted,

P. J. PILLANS,
Chairman.

Whereas, A sufficient number of Chapters in the State of Colorado, did on the 11th of May, 1875, "organize" and "constitute" in a legal and proper manner a Grand Chapter for the State, therefore:

Resolved, That the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama, most cordially extends the right hand of fellowship to the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of Colorado, and heartily welcomes her to the Grand constellation of sisters, and prays that her career may be long and useful among men.

Grand Secretary's Annual Report.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 7, 1875.

To the M. Ec. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

My account for the expiring Masonic year is herewith submitted. The unexpended balance of the contingent fund, and the amounts received for back-dues have been paid over to the Grand Treasurer, and his receipts are herewith inclosed.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA.

In account with DANIEL SAYRE.

Grand Secretary.

1874.

CR.

Dec. 8.	By dues at this Grand Convocation.....	\$1,133 00
Dec. 23.	" amount of Contingent Fund.....	600 00
1875.		
Feb. 22.	By Jefferson, No. 81 for dues.....\$	28 50
Mar. 1.	" " "	21 00
		49 50
		\$1,782 50

1874.

DR.

Dec. 23. 1875.	To paid Grand Treasurer.....	No. 1.....	1,133 00	
Apl. 16.	To paid Barrett & Brown.....	" 2.....	184 00	
Apl. 15.	" " Postage.....	" 3.....	30 00	
Jun. 14.	" " Central Chapter, No. 64.....	" 4.....	9 75	
Aug. 11.	" " D. B. Howell & Co.....	" 5.....	128 35	
Aug. 22.	" " C. Paravicini.....	" 6.....	21 50	
Sep. 25.	" " A. M. Kennedy.....	" 7.....	5 00	
Sep. 28.	" " D. B. Howell & Co.....	" 8.....	18 10	
Sep. 28.	" " Warner & Son.....	" 9.....	1 50	
Oct. 1.	" " Barrett & Brown.....	" 10.....	9 00	
Nov. 10.	" " Expressage.....		1 00	
Nov. 10.	" " Grand Treasurer.....		241 30	1,782 50

MONTGOMERY, December 7, 1875.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

Grand Treasurer's Annual Report.

WILLIAM H. DINGLEY, GRAND TREASURER,

In account with the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

1874.		DR.	
Dec. 8.	To Balance.....	\$	633 90
Dec. 23.	" received of Grand Secretary.....		1,133 00
1875.			
Nov. 10.	To received of Grand Secretary.....	241 30	2,008 20
1874.		CR.	
Dec. 10.	By Committee on Work, L. W. Jenkins..	42 00	
Dec. 10.	" " " J. H. Johnson...	35 00	
Dec. 10.	" Committee on For. Cor., P. J. Pillans..	150 00	
Dec. 11.	" Grand Sentinel.....	15 00	
Dec. 11.	" Grand Treasurer.....	100 00	
Dec. 23.	" Grand Recorder, Salary.....	400 00	
Dec. 23.	" Grand Recorder, Contingent.....	600 00	
	" Balance.....	666 20	2,008 20

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 7th, 1875.

WILLIAM H. DINGLEY,

Grand Treasurer.

Report on Finance.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Finance have examined the reports and vouchers of the R. Ex. Grand Treasurer, and the R. Ex. Grand Secretary, and beg leave to report that they find the same correct. The balance in the Treasury of the Grand Chapter on the

7th day of December, 1875, is.....	\$ 636 20
Amount of dues from Sub-Chapters.....	1,182 50

Total.....	\$1,848 70
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Your Committee recommend the following appropriations to meet the necessary annual expenses of the Grand Chapter, to wit:

To Companion William H. Dingley for salary as R. Ex. Grand Treasurer for the past Masonic year.....	\$ 100 00
To Companion Daniel Sayre for salary as R. Ex. Grand Secretary.....	400 00
To Companion Palmer J. Pillans for services and expenses as Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.....	150 00
As a contingent fund in the hands of the Grand Secretary for printing, incidental expenses, etc.....	500 00

Total.....	\$ 1,150 00
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All of which is fraternally submitted.

JOHN W. GARRISON,
Chairman.

Names and Numbers of Chapters,

With the number of members, amount of dues paid to the Grand Chapter, and the number of those advanced, presided, received and acknowledged, exalted, affiliated, rejected, and dimitted, since last return.

Number	Names of Chapters.	No. Members.....	Amount of Dues.	Advanced	Presided.....	Rec'd and Ack'd.	Exalted	Affiliated.....	Rejected.....	Dimitted.....
1	Tuscaloosa.....	41	\$57 00	2	2	4	3	3	.....	.....
5	Eunomia	34	25 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
6	Cyrus.....	30	22 50	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	Tuscumbia	41	30 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
13	Gainesville	20	15 00	3	3	4	4	.....	.....	1
17	Wetumpka.....	19	14 25	4	4	4	4	.....	.....	2
19	Mount Moriah.....	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
20	Livingston.....	30	41 25	3	3	3	3	3	.....	.....
21	Mobile	46	34 50	9	9	9	9	.....	.....	11
22	Montgomery.....	56	42 00	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	3
23	Talladega.....	27	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24	Eufaula.....	31	23 25	4	4	5	8	2	.....	1
25	Courtland	43	32 25	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
26	Union	16	12 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
28	Saint John's.....	48	36 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	4
30	James Penn.....	29	21 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
32	Fulton.....	10	7 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
35	James L. Daniel.....	15	11 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
37	Concord	22	16 50	3	3	3	3	.....	.....	1
40	Camden	21	15 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
44	Choctaw.....	37	27 75	3	3	3	3	2	.....	.....
63	Clayton.....	31	21 75	1	1	2	2	.....	.....	.....
64	Central.....	13	9 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
65	Russell.....	23	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
66	Alabama	34	25 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
67	Farriorville	14	10 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
70	Choctaw Corner	12	9 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
71	Landmark.....	45	33 75	3	3	2	3	2	.....	1
72	Midway	16	12 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
76	Elyton.....	21	15 75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
78	Danville.....	26	41 50	3	3	3	3	.....	.....	1

NAMES AND NUMBERS OF CHAPTERS—CONTINUED.

Number.....	Names of Chapter.	No. Members.....	Amount of Dues.	Advanced.....	Presided.....	Rec'd and Ack'd.	Exalted.....	Affiliated	Rejected.....	Dimitted.....
80	Loachapoka	14	\$10 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
81	Jefferson.....	31	23 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
83	Bell.....	19	14 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
84	Carrollton	16	26 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
85	Gaston.....	18	13 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
87	Moulton.....	25	16 50	3	3	3	3	.....	.....	.....
90	Greenville.....	22	33 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
91	George D. Norris.....	18	13 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
93	Columbus	17	12 75	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
94	Cowikee	9	20 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
96	Daniel Pratt.....	23	17 50	2	2	2	3	.....	.....	1
98	Oxford.....	19	14 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....
100	Rock Mills.....	32	24 00	4	4	2	2	.....	.....	1
102	Cross Plains.....	21	15 75	2	1	1	.....	3	.....	1
103	Warrior	15	.....	3	3	3	3	.....	.....	.....

AT REST.

Richard C. Parrish, July 21.....	Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1
Lemuel A. Ezell, —.....	Cyrus.....	“ 6
Fred. D. Hodgkins, Nov, 22, '74.. }	Tuscumbia.....	“ 10
Samuel D. Randle, Aug. 16..... }	Wetumpka.....	“ 17
Robert C. Clark, June —..... }	Mount Moriah.....	“ 19
Edward S. Ready, June 30..... }	Montgomery.....	“ 22
John Hall, Jr —.....	Courtland.....	“ 25
Solomon Isaacs, Oct. 16.....	Saint John's.....	“ 28
George K. Clopper, May 5.....	Fulton.....	“ 32
Henry C. Young, Dec. 5, '74..... }	Camden.....	“ 40
Seaborn J. Saffold, June 13..... }	Clayton.....	“ 63
Adolph Elkan, July 4..... }	Russell.....	“ 65
Archibald W. Berry, —.....	Midway.....	“ 72
Robert H. Ervin, Jan. 11.....	Elyton.....	“ 76
Whitfield Clark, Feb. 13.....	Danville.....	“ 78
William A. Austin, Jan. 12.....	Loachapoka.....	“ 80
Frederick L. Walker, Jan. 7.....	Carrollton.....	“ 84
Bartholomew Boyle, June 25.....	Cowikee.....	“ 94
Harvey L. Cowan, April, 1874..... }	Cross Plains.....	“ 102
John W. Harvey, Aug. 6..... }		
Andrew J. Baggett, June 23.....		
M. N. Thomas, —.....		
Levi R. Wilson, —, 1873.....		
William W. Little, March 8.....		

Suspended for Non-Payment of Dues.

EUNOMIA No. 5.—Thomas B. Trotman, John M. Humphrey, Thomas J. Humphrey, Churchwell G. Spilman, William H. Jarvis.—5.

CYRUS No. 6.—Moses Adler, Richard N. Coffee, William C. Cross, James M. Crow, William L. Douglas, James A. Douglas, Thomas B. Gookin, Presly W. Hardin, Joab G. Hines, Oliver S. Kennedy, Robert T. Lanier, William C. Murdock, William E. Parker, Zachariah A. Parker, Neander H. Rice, George W. Waters, Samuel D. Weakley, David C. Williams.—18.

WETUMPKA No 17.—Francis M. Mann, Allen V. Robinson, George L. Zimmerman.—3.

MOBILE No. 21.—Peter Z. Calsson, William P. Hutchinson, William Krouse, Numa P. Boulet, Alexander P. Hall, Alexander N. Spear, Garrett Van Ant.—7.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—George L. Jones.—1.

TALLADEGA No. 23.—Thomas C. Gassaway, Thomas J. Kent, James Vessels, Thomas M. Riser.—4.

EUFAULA No. 24.—Maximilian B. Welborn.—1.

COURTLAND No 25.—Yateman C. Wright, Wesley J. Gibson, Stephen F. Ferry, John H. Houston.—4.

UNION No. 26.—Thomas Hudson, W. H. Hungerford.—2.

SAINT JOHN'S No. 28.—Columbus C. Gayle, Reuben L. Kay, Henry L. Smith, Augustus G. Thompson, Addison Thompson, John H. Vestal.—6.

JAMES L. DANIEL No. 35.—Daniel Bradley, John W. Sheeley.—2.

CONCORD No. 37.—Allen D. Sturdivant, Robert T. Smith, Phillip L. Henderson, James M. Oliver.—4.

CAMDEN No. 40.—William G. Fail, Joseph B. Holloman, Malcolm McNeil, James A. Monk, David McIntosh.—3.

CENTRAL No. 64.—Willis Rhodes, John W. Jones, Mark Tatum.—3.

ALABAMA No. 66.—Charles Kay.—1.

FARRIORVILLE No. 67.—Gideon G. Nobles.—1.

LANDMARK, No. 71.—Hugh T. Gamble, Joseph Hough, Neil Mann, Henry Metcalf.—4.

MIDWAY, No. 72.—James M. Turman.—1.

ELYTON No. 76.—Isaac W. Sadler, George W. Smith, A. Wright Goodwin, Alfred Griffin, John Acton, Samuel W. Acton, Moses Fields, William F. Nabors, Goldsmith W. Hewitt.—9.

DANVILLE No 78.—Robert M. Johnson, John T. Hendon, Eddison D. Stephenson, Arthur F. Basham, Robert E. C. Pucket, Stephen Simpson, Thomas J. Simpson, Simeon P. Lovelady.—8.

LOACHAPOKA No. 80.—Robert B. Bedell.—1.

CARROLLTON No. 84.—John Sigman, Joseph M. Davis.—2.

COWKEE No. 94.—Dozier Cade, Christenbury Stréater, Theophilus C. King, Sylvester Martin, James A Wylie, Braxton B. Comer.—6.

DANIEL PRATT No. 93.—Charles A. Edwards, Andrew W. McNeil.—2.

REINSTATED.

- EUNOMIA No. 5.—John R. Slaughter, Burrell C. Lanier, John C. Logeman, Davis W. Humphrey, Lawrence H. Scruggs.
EUPAULA No. 24.—Edward B. Brannon, John F. Treutlen.
CONCORD No. 37.—Thomas J. Martin.
CENTRAL No. 64.—Jacob Schartz.
RUSSELL No. 65.—Henry Bunn.
MIDWAY No. 72.—Robert D. Thornton, James A. Cobb.
ELYTON No. 76.—John C. Morrow.
DANVILLE No. 78.—Thomas Morrow.
JEFFERSON No. 81.—William W. Harder, John W. Jones.
BELL No. 83.—Lewis S. Sims, John Reaves, Jehu Orr, Henry A. Manning.
GASTON No. 85.—James Y. Pennington, Edwin H. Ward, John Wesley Johnston, John W. Taylor.
COLUMBUS No. 93.—Thomas C. Acre.
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EXPELLED.

Thomas G. Blackman.....Landmark.....No. 71

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that were represented.....	32
Members reported at this Convocation.....	1180
Estimated membership not reported.....	261— 1441
Dues received at this Grand Convocation.....	\$908 00

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced.....	58
Presided	56
Received and Acknowledged.....	54
Exalted	56
Affiliated.....	19
Rejected.....	0
Dimitted.....	45
Died.....	24
Expelled.....	1
Suspended for unmasonic conduct.....	0
Suspended N. P. D.	101
Reinstated	25

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

Chapters square upon the Books.....	34
Chapters under Dispensation.....	0
Chapters delinquent	23
Charters forfeited.....	46

Whole number at the end of the year.....	103
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NOTICE TO SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

Officers of Subordinate Chapters, and especially High Priests and Secretaries, are requested to take particular notice of the following :

“ Any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter failing to assemble once in any year, (at *least* once in any year, is the meaning,) or being represented in this Grand Chapter for three years successively, or fail for two successive years to make their returns, and pay the dues required by the third section of this article, the charter of said Chapter shall be forfeited.” (*See Section 2, Article III, of the By-Laws of the Grand Chapter.*)

CHAPTERS DELINQUENT IN 1875.

DELINQUENT IN DUES.

Clinton.....	No. 9	Gordon.....	No. 73
Phenix.....	“ 11	Opelika.....	“ 74
Talladega.....	“ 23	Roslin.....	“ 83
Courtland for 1874.....	“ 25	Shelby.....	“ 97
James Penn for 1874.....	“ 30	Thomas M. Bragg.....	“ 99
Russell.....	“ 65	Mineral City.....	“ 101
Lower Peach Tree.....	“ 69		

DELINQUENT IN REPRESENTATIVES.

Eunomia.....	No. 5	Tuskegee.....	No. 43
Cyrus.....	“ 6	Russell.....	“ 65
Clinton.....	“ 9	Lower Peach Tree.....	“ 69
Tuscumbia.....	“ 10	Gordon.....	“ 73
Phenix.....	“ 11	Opelika.....	“ 74
Mount Moriah.....	“ 19	Carrollton.....	“ 84
Livingston.....	“ 20	Roslin.....	“ 88
Talladega.....	“ 23	George D. Norris.....	“ 91
Courtland.....	“ 25	Shelby.....	“ 97
Union.....	“ 26	Thomas M. Bragg.....	“ 99
Concord.....	“ 37	Mineral City.....	“ 101

CHARTERS FORFEITED.

Numbers 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 68, 75, 77, 79, 82, 86, 89, 92, 95.

MEMORANDA.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS NEAR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA.

George D. Norris, M. D.....	New Market.....	District of Columbia.
Peleg Brown.....	Mobile.....	Indiana.
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.....	Louisiana.
James E. Cobb.....	Tuskegee.....	Minnesota.
David Clopton.....	Montgomery.....	Mississippi.
Peleg Brown.....	Mobile.....	Missouri.
Wiley W. Bloodworth, M. D....	Loachapoka.....	Nebraska.
James H. Joiner.....	Talladega.....	New Jersey.
H. Clay Armstrong.....	Notasulga.....	Nova Scotia.
Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.....	Oregon.
George D. Norris, M. D.	New Market.....	South Carolina.
Peleg Brown.....	Mobile.....	Tennessee.
George P. Harrison Jr.....	Auburn.....	Wisconsin.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA NEAR OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS.

Charles W. Hancock.....	Washington City.....	District of Columbia.
Harvey G. Hazelrigg.....	Indianapolis.....	Indiana
Moses W. Getchell.....	Minneapolis.....	Minnesota.
Robert L. Saunders.....	Jackson.....	Mississippi.
Thomas E. Garrett.....	St. Louis.....	Missouri.
William E. Hill.....	Nebraska City.....	Nebraska.
Frederick G. Wiese.....	Bordentown.....	New Jersey.
John W. Simons.....	New York.....	New York.
Richard P. Earhart.....	Salem.....	Oregon.
Augustine T. Smythe.....	Charleston.....	South Carolina.
Jonathan S. Davis.....	Paris.....	Tennessee.
William C. Swain.....	Milwaukee.....	Wisconsin.

REGISTER OF CHAPTERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA.

NO	NAME.	LOCATION.	COUNTY.	POST OFFICE.	HIGH PRIEST.	SECRETARY.	CONVOCAT'N.
1	Tuscaloosa.....	"	"	"	John M. Martin.....	Luther S. Skinner.	2 Thurs.
5	Eunomia.....	Huntsville.....	Madison.....	Huntsville.....	Bernard F. Ludwig.....	William H. Tancere.	1 Tues.
6	Cyrus.....	Florence.....	Lauderdale..	"	Thomas R. Povers.....	James R. Price.....	w of or b f m
10	Tuscumbia.....	"	Colbert.....	Tuscumbia.....	Felix G. Norman.....	Benjamin Pybas.....	Mon af 2 Sat.
13	Gainesville.....	"	Sumter.....	"	Edward N. Kring.....	Joseph Seligman.....	Thurs af f m
17	Wetumpka.....	"	Elmore.....	Wetumpka.....	Isaac W. Suttle.....	William S. Penick.	F of or b f m
19	Mount Moriah.....	Eutaw.....	Greene.....	Eutaw.....	Charles Coleman.....	James T. Smith.....	3 Fri.
20	Livingston.....	"	Sumter.....	Livingstone.....	Robert D. Webb.....	Isiah C. Brown.....	3 Fri.
21	Mobile.....	"	"	"	Wright O. Smith.....	Jos. H. Hampshire	1 and 3 Thur
22	Montgomery.....	"	"	"	Wm D. Wadsworth.....	Calvin W. Sayre.....	2 Sat.
23	Talladega.....	"	"	"	William H. Burr.....	Henry H. Hamill.....	3 Fri.
24	Enfaula.....	"	"	"	James Milton.....	John C. Thomas.....	1 Sat.
25	Courtland.....	"	Barbour.....	Enfaula.....	Joseph C. Baker.....	Westwood J. Baker	Tues af f m
26	Union.....	Uniontown..	Lawrence.....	Courtland.....	Robert Christian.....	Bey'ly F. Harwood	1 Thurs
28	Saint John's.....	Selma.....	Perry.....	Uniontown.....	Wm. W. McCollum	Adolph Jacobson.....	4 Mon
30	James Penn.....	Jacksonville	Dallas.....	Selma.....	George I. Turnley.....	Daniel P. Forney.....	Last Mon
32	Fulton.....	Orrville.....	Cathoun.....	Jacksonville	William E. Beaird.....	Benjamin F. Ellis.....	3 Sat
35	James L. Daniel	Glennville.....	Dallas.....	Orrville.....	Malchi W. Davis.....	Sowell C. Woolfolk	2 Sat
37	Concord.....	La Fayette.....	Chambers.....	Glennville.....	William T. Brown.....	Jas. E. Scarbough.....	1 Mon
40	Camden.....	"	Wilcox.....	La Fayette.....	Lucky W. Jenkins.....	De Forest Richards	F of or b f m
44	Choctaw.....	Butler.....	"	Camden.....	Almison J. Gray.....	Oliver C. Ulmer.....	1 Mon
63	Clayton.....	"	Choctaw.....	Butler.....	Alto Velo Lee.....	James J. Winn.....	Mon af 1 Sun
64	Central.....	Montevallo..	Barbour.....	Clayton.....	George A. B. Smith	Robert D. Harris.....	M af or b f m
65	Russell.....	Stevenson.....	Shelby.....	Montevallo..	Thomas T. Cotnam	William M. Cowan	2 and 4 Fri
68	Alabama.....	Mobile.....	"	Stevenson.....	Thos. P. Brewer.....	James Tait.....	2 and 4 Fri
67	Farristville.....	"	Bullock.....	Farristville.	Abijah Haley.....	Elijah M. McClesles	1 and 3 Sat
70	Choctaw Corner	"	Clarke.....	Choctaw C'r	Horatio C. Grayson	Sie. M. Gilmore.....	1 S in all m's
71	Landmark.....	"	Dale.....	Ozark.....	James M. Bridges.	Mark A. Cooke.....	3 Sat
72	Midway.....	"	Bullock.....	Midway.....	James S. Pauldine.	Came'l'n McKinnon	1 Thurs
76	Elyton.....	"	Jefferson.....	Elyton.....	Sam Thompson.....	George M. Morrow	2 Mon

REGISTER OF CHAPTERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA.

NO.	NAME.	LOCATION.	COUNTY.	POST OFFICE.	HIGH PRIEST.	SECRETARY.	CONVOCAT'N
78	Danville.....	"	Morgan.....	Danville.....	Jonathan J. Gibson	John Y. Ferguson.....	2 Sat
80	Loachapoka	"	Lee.....	Loachapoka	Myles J. Greene.....	W. W. Bloodworth.....	1 Thes
81	Jefferson.....	Demopolis...	Marengo.....	Demopolis.....	William W. Harder	Ernst J. Well.....	4 Thurs
83	Hell.....	Lineville....	Clay.....	Lineville.....	John W. Garrison...	Alexander Beck.....	3 Sat
84	Carrollton	"	Pickens.....	"	Thos. G. Williams...	James G. Longmire.....	Sat hf 2 Sun
85	Gaston.....	"	Sumter.....	"	William R. Horn.....	Robert L. Seale.....	2 Thurs
87	Moulton.....	"	Lawrence...	Moulton.....	DeWitt C. White...	Asa M. Hodges.....	2 Sat
90	Greenville.....	"	Butler.....	Greenville...	Joseph M. Thielen	Andrew W. Metcalf...	4 Sat
91	Geo. D. Norris...	New Market	Madison.....	New Market...	Morris K. Taylor...	Wm. R. Whitman...	1 Sat
93	Columbus.....	Newton.....	Dade.....	Newton.....	Angus M. Scott.....	John R. Kelley.....	1 Sat
94	Cowikee.....	Spring Hill..	Barbour.....	Cowikee.....	James K. Barr.....	J. Wallace Comer.....	1 Fri
96	Daniel Pratt....	Prattville....	Autauga.....	Prattville.....	James K. Hazen.....	Mark Hirscher.....	Non af fin
98	Oxford.....	"	Calhoun.....	Oxford.....	Steph. C. Williams...	Thad. L. Robertson...	2 Sat
100	Rock Mills.....	"	Randolph...	Rock Mills...	George W. Taylor...	Fountain P. Randle...	1 Sat
102	Cross Plains.....	"	Calhoun.....	Cross Plains...	Andrew J. Sittom...	Francis M. Savage...	2 Sat
103	Warrior.....	"	Jefferson.....	Warrior.....	Ben. M. Sharits.....	William T. Jones...;	3 Sat

See The inverted commas (") refer to the name before, not to the one above.

Grand Secretaries and their Address.

0. Alabama.....Daniel SayreMontgomery.
1. Arkansas.....Luke E. Barber.....Little Rock.
2. California.....Charles L. Wiggin.....San Francisco
3. Canada.....John J. Mason.....Hamilton, Ont.
4. ColoradoEdward C. Parmelee.....Georgetown.
5. Connecticut.....Joseph K. Wheeler.....Hartford.
6. District of Columbia.....Lewis G. Stephens.....Washington.
7. Delaware.....John P. Allmond.....Wilmington.
8. Florida.....DeWitt C. Dawkins.....Jacksonville.
9. Georgia.....Jas. Emmett Blackshear.....Macon.
10. Illinois.....James H. Miles.....Chicago.
11. Indiana.....John M. Bramwell.....Indianapolis.
12. IowaWilliam B. Langridge.....Muscatine.
13. Kansas.....Erasmus T. Carr.....Leavenworth.
14. Kentucky.....Joseph H. Branham.....Louisville.
15. Louisiana.....James C. Batchelor.....New Orleans.
16. Maine.....Ira Berry.....Portland.
17. Maryland.....William A. Wentz.....Baltimore.
18. Massachusetts.....Zephaniah H. Thomas Jr.....Boston.
19. Michigan.....James Eastman Johnson.....Centreville.
20. Minnesota.....Amos T. C. Pierson.....Saint Paul.
21. Mississippi.....John L. Power.....Jackson.
22. Missouri.....George Frank Gouley.....Saint Louis.
23. Nebraska.....William R. Bowen.....Omaha.
24. New Hampshire.....John A. Harris.....Concord.
25. New Jersey.....Thomas J. Corson.....Trenton.
26. New York.....Christopher G. Fox.....Buffalo.
27. North Carolina.....Thomas M. Gardner.....Wilmington.
28. Nova Scotia.....James Gossip.....Halifax.
29. Ohio.....James Nesbitt.....Troy.
30. Oregon.....Richard P. Earhart.....Portland.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 31. Pennsylvania..... | John Thomson..... | Philadelphia. |
| 32. Rhode Island..... | George H. Burnham..... | Providence. |
| 33. South Carolina..... | Myer R. Moses..... | Sumter. |
| 34. Tennessee..... | John Frizzell..... | Nashville. |
| 35. Texas..... | Robert Brewster..... | Houston. |
| 36. Vermont..... | William H. S. Whitecomb..... | Burlington. |
| 37. Virginia..... | John Dove..... | Richmond. |
| 38. West Virginia..... | Odell S. Long..... | Wheeling. |
| 39. Wisconsin | John W. Woodhull..... | Milwaukee. |
| 40. United States..... | Christopher G. Fox. | Buffalo, N. Y. |

COUNCIL OF HIGH PRIESTS.

SEVENTH CONVOCATION.

MONTGOMERY, December 8, 1875.

The Council of High Priests for the State of Alabama met at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Montgomery, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

PRESENT.

PELEG BROWN.....	President.
MYLES J. GREENE, <i>as</i>	Vice President.
MARTIN G. SLAUGHTER, <i>as</i>	Chaplain.
JAMES M. BRIDGES, <i>as</i>	Treasurer.
WILLIAM W. HARDER, <i>as</i>	Recorder.
JAMES KENT, <i>as</i>	Master of C.
JAMES H. JOINER, <i>as</i>	Conductor.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Herald.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY, <i>as</i>	Steward.

A Council of High Priests was opened in Ample Form, with solemn and appropriate ceremonies.

The President made the following address, and it was ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

Companions of the Council of High Priests of the State of Alabama :

It is with no ordinary pleasure, and with grateful acknowledgements to the Great Author of our being, that I am once more permitted to assemble with you in solemn council for the performance of the duties that devolve on us as members of this order; and as your presiding officer, it is my duty to report to you my official acts since we last assembled. I therefore report that, by virtue of the power vested in me by our code of rules, Sec. 8, on the 30th day of April last, I convened a council of High Priests in the city of Mobile, for the purpose of consecrating M. Ex. Companion Thomas P. Brewer, to the order of High Priesthood, he having been elected to receive the same at our last Annual Council; and having present Companions

Palmer J. Pillans, John Cortright, William S. Föster, Dan. Harris, and Jefferson Faulkner. I opened a Council in legal form. Companion Thomas P. Brewer, was then introduced, set apart, and consecrated to the Order of High Priesthood in solemn form. The Council was then closed in legal form.

In accordance with the instructions of the Council, at our Annual Session in December 8th, 1873, I issued two Dispensations each to three Companions, to open a Council and consecrate two Companions each and report at our next Annual Council. From that issued to Companions George D. Norris, Morris K. Taylor, and another, we have no report. That to Companions H. Clay Armstrong, Myles J. Greene and James E. Cobb, was reported on at our last assembly, and not having been able to convene a Council asked for a continuance of their Dispensation, which on motion was granted, and I trust that due reports will be made at the present Council.

Now, having served you the past two years to the best of my ability and thanking you for your confidence and the distinguished honor you have conferred, I feel that the mantle of your preference should be placed upon another, and one more competent and worthy to wear the same, and with a sincere desire that we may all prove faithful to the teachings of our Order,

I remain ever Fraternally,

PELEG BROWN,

Pres't. Council H. P. State of Alabama.

On the Dispensation to Companions Armstrong, Greene, and Cobb, a report was made that they had been unable to convene a Council.

On the Dispensation to Companions Norris, Taylor, and another, no report was received.

Petitions for the Order of High Priesthood, accompanied by the proper and necessary vouchers of having been elected and installed to preside over Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, and the requisite contributions were presented from:

Companion William W. McCollum, of Saint John's Chapter No. 23.
Companion William D. Wadsworth, of Montgomery Chapter No. 22.
Companion George I. Turnley, of James Penn Chapter No. 30.
Companion James K. Hazen, of Daniel Pratt Chapter No. 96.
Companion Andrew J. Sitton, of Cross Plains Chapter No. 102.

And were referred to the Committee of the Whole, and a ballot was had, and they were elected.

The applicants were then introduced, set apart, and consecrated to the Order of High Priesthood in solemn form.

The Council proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following Companions were duly elected :

Peleg Brown.....	President.
Myles J. Greene.....	Vice President.
Martin G. Slaughter.....	Chaplain.
James Milton.....	Treasurer.
William W. Harder.....	Recorder.
William S. Foster.....	Master of C.
James H Joiner.....	Conductor.
James Kent.....	Herald.
William D. Wadsworth.....	Steward.

And there being no further business to be brought before the Council of High Priests, the minutes were read and approved.

The Council of High Priests was closed in Solemn Form until the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of Alabama.

WILLIAM W. HARDER,
Recorder.

