

1876
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1876 / A.I. 2406

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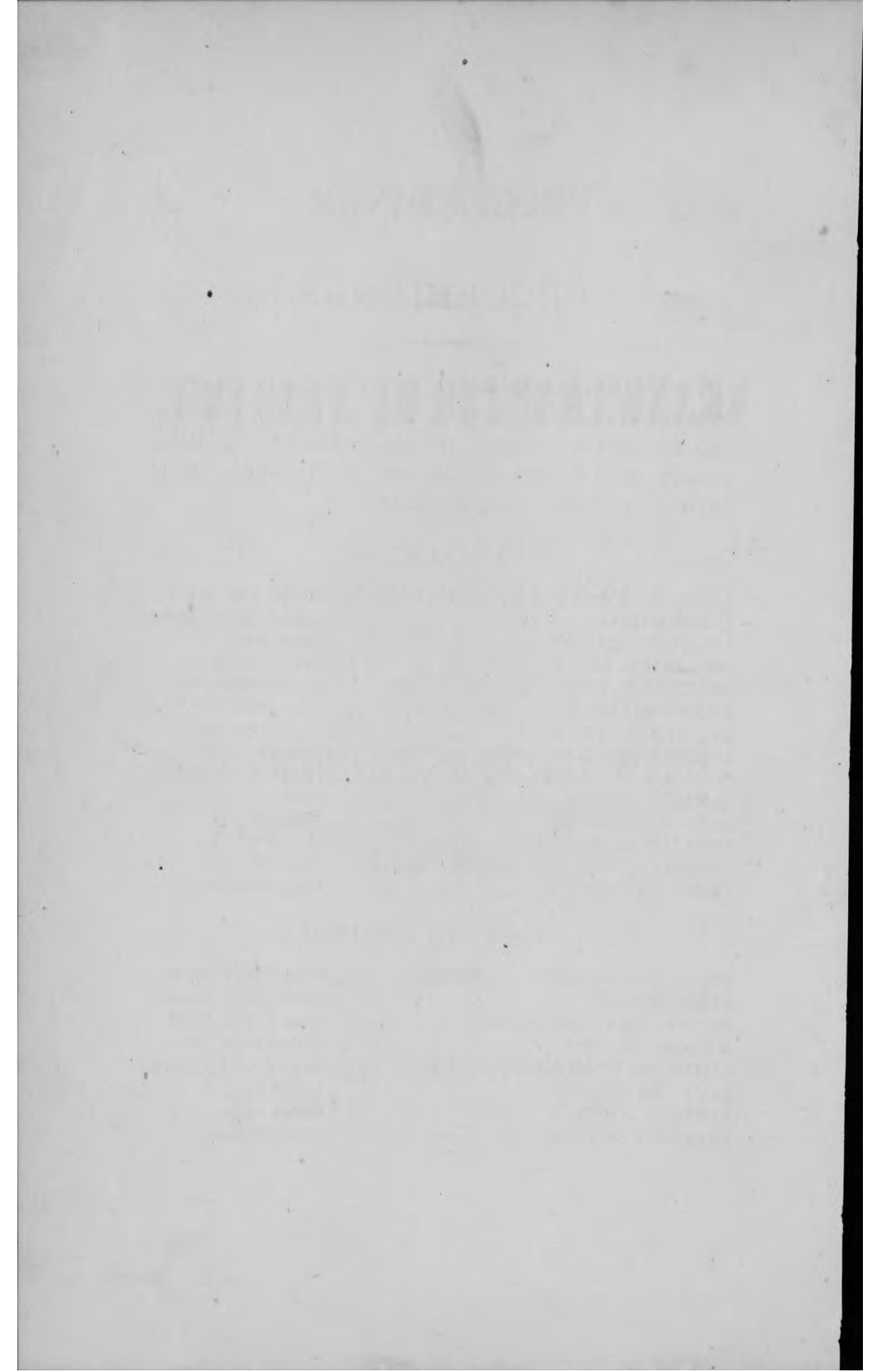
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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,
AT THE
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
HELD IN THE
CITY OF MONTGOMERY,
1876.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
JAS. P. ARMSTRONG & CO., PRINTERS.

1876.



PROCEEDINGS.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama held its Fiftieth Annual Grand Convocation at the New Masonic Temple, in the City of Montgomery, on Tuesday, the 5th day of December, A. D. 1876, A. L. 5876, Anno Inv. 2406.

PRESENT :

JAMES E. COBB.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES MILTON.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
LUCKY W. JENKINS.....	Grand King.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER, <i>pro tem</i>	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Grand Secretary.
REV. JAMES K. HAZEN.....	Grand Chaplain.
MYLES J. GREENE, <i>pro tem</i>	Grand C. of H.
WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH.....	Grand P. Sojourner.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Grand R. A. C.
JOHN W. GARRISON.....	Grand M. 3 V.
WILLIAM W. McCOLLUM, <i>pro tem</i>	Grand M. 2 V.
GEORGE F. SEDBURY, <i>pro tem</i>	Grand M. 1 V.
JAMES DAVIDSON.....	Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

FELIX G. NORMAN.....	Grand High Priest.
PELEG BROWN.....	Grand High Priest.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Grand High Priest.
MYLES J. GREENE.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES McCALEB WILEY.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
JAMES M. BRUNDIDGE.....	Grand King.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Grand King.
PALMER J. PILLANS.....	Grand Scribe.

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

No.	1 Tuscaloosa	{ Henry H. Brown*.....H. P.
"	5 Eunomia.....	{ Samuel T. Palmer.....S.
"	9 Clinton.....	{ Robert W. Coltart*.....H. P.
"	10 Tuscumbia.....	{ Brice M. Townsend.....S.
"	17 Wetumpka.....	{ Felix G. Norman.....H. P.
"	20 Livingston.....	{ George F. Sedbury*....."
"	21 Mobile.....	{ John Gideon Harris*....."
"	22 Montgomery.....	{ Theodore L. Eastburn*....."
"	23 Talladega.....	{ William S. Foster*.....K.
"	24 Eufaula.....	{ Stephen H. Beasley.....H. P.
"	26 Union.....	{ John Gindrat Winter.....K.
"	27 Saint Johns.....	{ Archibald L. R. Thompson.....S.
"	82 Fulton.....	{ James H. Joiner.....H. P.
"	24 Eufaula.....	{ Joseph H. Johnson*.....K.
"	26 Union.....	{ James Milton.....H. P.
"	27 Saint Johns.....	{ John W. Bush*....."
"	82 Fulton.....	{ William W. McCollum....."
"	37 Concord.....	{ James A. McKinnon.....S.
"	40 Camden.....	{ William E. Beaird.....H. P.
"	43 Tuskegee.....	{ Joseph A. Groves.....K.
"	64 Central.....	{ Alonzo F. G. Campbell*.....S.
"	65 Russell.....	{ Oliver D. Towles.....K.
"	66 Alabama.....	{ Robert J. Kellum*.....S.
"	67 Farriortville.....	{ Lucky W. Jenkins.....H. P.
"	71 Landmark.....	{ Neill McArthur*.....K.
"	76 Elyton.....	{ Felix Tait*.....S.
"	80 Loachapoka.....	{ Henry Clay Armstrong.....H. P.
"	81 Jefferson.....	{ Jesse L. Adams*.....S.
"	83 Bell.....	{ William M. McMath.....H. P.
"	85 Gaston.....	{ Thomas Boyd Foster.....K.
"	87 Moulton.....	{ Oliver S. Beers*.....H. P.
"	91 George D. Norris.....	{ Peleg Brown*.....K.
"	93 Columbus.....	{ Aaron W. Bean*.....H. P.
		{ James M. Bridges....."
		{ Sam Thompson....."
		{ Myles J. Greene....."
		{ John W. Jones*....."
		{ John W. Garrison....."
		{ William R. Horn....."
		{ William B. Gere*.....K.
		{ DeWitt C. White.....H. P.
		{ Morris K. Taylor....."
		{ Joseph A. Adams....."

*Proxies.

No. 96 Daniel Pratt.....	(Samuel P. Smith.....H. P.
	Merrill E. Pratt.....K.
" 100 Rock Mills.....	(James K. Hazen.....S.
	Thomas J. Thomason*.....H. P.
" 102 Cross Plains.....	(Andrew J. Sitton....."
	Amos F. Tomlin.....K.
	(Alexander McCollister*.....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 John W. Garrison, it was referred to a special

COMMITTEE ON G. H. P. ADDRESS.

PELEG BROWN, of Alabama No. 66.

HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG, of Tuskegee No. 43.

JOHN W. GARRISON, of Bell No. 83.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Companions of the Grand Chapter:

The duties and responsibilities of another Annual Convocation are upon us; and notwithstanding the distracting nature of current events, and the anxiety which possesses us all, we assemble, I trust, mindful of the interests which we are here to conserve. We meet as Brethren indeed, and the warmth of greeting extended by Companions, each to the other—the sincerity of devotion rendered by us, around this altar, to the Great I Am, is an earnest of the harmony which should characterize our labors, and which has ever marked the deliberations of this Grand Chapter.

A half century of eventful years belongs to our annals, to which we may recur with just pride and satisfaction.

Their fruits have been garnered, and are to us a rich heritage. They are illustrated by the virtuous lives and deeds of men to whom the principles of Masonry were inspiration, and who were ever guided by its precepts.

One by one they have passed to their reward, but their examples live, signalling to us the path of duty and honor.

Through these years the course of Capitular Masonry has been progressive—its altars have multiplied—and its light, once feeble, has become a beacon blaze, ascending with the steady glow of assured permanency.

With increased influence and power has come increased responsibility. Our charge is no light burden; and as representatives of subordinate Chapters, standing sentinel for the time being over the interests of the Craft, it behooves us to consider well the response that we may honestly give to the solemn challenge: "Watchman, what of the night?" This response of encouragement and cheer, or the reverse, will be carried in the record

of this Annual Convocation to the limits of this jurisdiction and beyond.

From such information as I have been able to gather, without extensive official visitation—and such privilege I have not enjoyed—I regret that I cannot report of the condition of the Order as favorably as could be wished. The past decade has been a time of supreme trial to every interest of our Southern land. Its history will remain unwritten—if properly written it would not receive credence beyond our borders. Depressing influences, in shapes and power almost protean, have visited us, and have left the impress of these visitations upon communities everywhere. Masonry has not escaped these influences. The love of many has waxed cold, as evidenced by our records, bearing as they do, from year to year, the blot of a long list of suspensions. Others again have ceased to attend the convocations of their Chapters. And in this failure on the part of the existing membership, we detect an evil of no light magnitude; for I am constrained to believe that in very many of our Chapters the attendance at stated convocations is exceedingly irregular.

It is even questionable if some Chapters would not find it unsafe to submit their records to close scrutiny, to determine whether they have not forfeited their charters by failure to assemble as required by the by-laws of this Grand Chapter.

In suffering this state of things to exist, Companions grievously err, doing violence to the principles they profess. Before the world it is claimed for Masonry that it holds a high mission—that its principles are pure and ennobling.

The initiate is thus taught. He enters our portals to receive at every step in his progress through our mysteries, by precept and impressive symbolism, lessons calculated and designed to lead by their observance to higher aspirations and purer living. He is not only to curb his passions, keeping them ever in due bounds, but he is to become active in doing good to all men, and particularly to his Brethren. In the frequent and unreserved intercourse of the chapter room, the earnest Companion finds the stimulant and aid to the development of Masonic virtues; and from the sympathy of congenial spirits there interchanged, strength for con-

flict and endurance. And there, too, and there only, can he acquire thorough knowledge and appreciation of our beautiful Ritual. Its excellencies and sublime teachings are revealed alone to the thoughtful and attentive.

Companions, let me exhort you, and through you the membership throughout the jurisdiction, to a more punctual attendance upon the convocations of your Chapters. Go hence resolved to awaken and stimulate zeal in this regard. To become Masons true and tried, and to continue in the good way, you must needs frequently come within the glow of your altar fires and receive their warmth.

To arouse this zeal is desirable; and what, if anything, this Grand Chapter can do in this direction, is a matter worthy of consideration. A cause not insignificant of existing apathy, is found in the fact that so many even of the officers of the Chapter are unskilled in the Chapter work and lectures. Could this Grand Chapter, in its wisdom, adopt some practical method by which to disseminate these, it would do much toward a revival of interest.

If you can impart the instruction, many there are ready and anxious to receive it.

I refrain from suggestion, knowing the difficulties to be overcome and the efforts hitherto attempted.

I do not, in all this, speak to discourage. I can even congratulate you that, all circumstances considered, it is as well with us as it is, and that we have well-grounded hope of better days.

I have rendered decisions as follows :

The restoration of charter to a Chapter revives the Chapter in the condition, in all respects, as nearly as may be, held by it at the date of forfeiture; so that every Companion who was a member of the Chapter at the date of forfeiture, regains his right of membership by the restoration of the charter, if he has not in the meantime, become a member of another Chapter.

As a general rule, the announcement of the result of a ballot upon application for Chapter degrees, and the passing to other business, is conclusive of that application, regardless of any usage in the particular

Chapter where this action occurs, as to the number of times the ballot should be spread before announcement of the result. But after the announcement of the result unfavorable to the applicant, and before any member, present at the balloting, has left the hall, the member casting the black ball—one only having appeared—can be permitted to state that he cast the black ball under a misapprehension, and that he desired to withdraw it; and upon such request being made, it is not error for the High Priest presiding to cause the ballot to be re-spread and the applicant elected.

Any member of a Chapter has the right to interpose objection, without stating his reasons, to the reception of a candidate after his election; and when such objection is interposed the candidate cannot receive the degrees until it is withdrawn; but if the objecting member is present at the balloting, and after favorable result announced, states his objection in open Chapter, and gives his reasons for objecting, it is the province of the Chapter to determine upon the sufficiency of the reasons given, and if they appear to be frivolous to disregard the objection, and confer the degrees. In such case the High Priest has no right to decide as to the sufficiency of the reasons, but must refer the whole matter to the Chapter.

For reasons given, and deemed sufficient by me, I granted, at different times, dispensations as follows:

To Tuskegee, Loachapoka, Bell, and Thomas L. Bragg Chapters to elect officers—elections not having been held at the time fixed for that purpose.

To James L. Daniel Chapter to use substitutes in exaltation.

To Cross Plains Chapter to confer the degrees of Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch upon the same candidates at one convocation.

To Livingston Chapter to confer all the degrees on the same candidates in one month.

The dispensing power should be exercised with great caution. It has been my effort so to guard its exercise that injury would not result therefrom.

On the 25th of April last I issued a commission to Companion Frederick G. Waldbridge to represent this Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.

I call your attention to a resolution adopted as a permanent regulation by the General Grand Chapter at its last Triennial Convocation, "that the State Grand Chapters throughout the jurisdiction be requested to pay annually to the General Grand Secretary the sum of one cent for each Royal Arch Mason borne upon the rolls of their Subordinates at the date of their annual reports." It is proper that we respect this resolution, and I therefore recommend that the Grand Secretary be instructed to forward as directed, the amount of one cent for each Royal Arch Mason borne upon the rolls of Subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, as shown by their returns to this Annual Convocation.

At that Triennial Convocation a committee of Eminent Companions was appointed to revise the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

It is provided in the resolution raising this committee that when the revision is perfected the report be printed and distributed to the members of the General Grand Chapter in advance of the next Triennial Convocation, to be held in August next. I entertained the hope that I might be able to submit this report to your consideration, knowing the interest you would have in the proposed revision, and the hesitancy you would feel to have the powers of the General Grand Chapter enlarged.

From the character of the Companions composing the committee, distinguished as they are for Masonic zeal and learning, such attempt is scarcely to be expected. I presume the report has not been prepared.

Entering now upon the labors of this Convocation let us strive, in unity of purpose, to make it memorable for the good accomplished.

The present hour is for labor and for preparation, let us so meet its demands that its record can bring, in after years, no reproach to our memories.

JAMES E. COBB,
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 James Milton offered the following resolution, and it was adopted :

ADVERTISER TO PUBLISH ADDRESS.

Resolved, That the Montgomery Daily Advertiser be allowed a copy of the Grand High Priest's Address for publication.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans made his Report on Foreign Correspondence, and it was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes, and printed with the proceedings. (*See Appendix.*)

Companion William R. Horn offered the following resolution, and it was adopted :

CHOCTAW CHAPTER NO. 44.

Resolved, That Choctaw Chapter No. 44 be allowed thirty (30) days to make returns and pay dues ; and that Companion Alanson J. Gray, King of said Chapter, be allowed a seat in this Grand Chapter, as its representative.

Companion Felix G. Norman offered the following resolution, and it was adopted :

CYRUS CHAPTER NO. 6.

Resolved, That Cyrus Chapter No. 6 be allowed thirty (30) days to make returns and pay dues ; and that Companion Henry W. Sample

be permitted to take a seat in this Grand Chapter as the representative of said Chapter.

REPORT ON MARK MASTER'S DEGREE.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong, from the Committee on Work, made report on the Mark Master's Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest announced the following :

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 1.—Brice M. Townsend, Oliver D. Towles, William B. Gere.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 2.—William W. McCollum, Neill McArthur, Joseph A. Groves.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 3.—John W. Jones, Amos F. Tomlin, Archibald L. R. Thompson.

ON DISPENSATIONS.—Sam Thompson, Aaron W. Bean, Andrew J. Sitton.

ON FINANCE.—John W. Garrison, Samuel P. Smith, Morris K. Taylor.

BY-LAWS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND APPEALS.—James A. McKinnon, Merrill E. Pratt, Joseph A. Adams.

ON JURISPRUDENCE.—Peleg Brown, Palmer J. Pillans, Felix G. Norman.

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 8½ o'clock.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, December 6, 1876.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8½ o'clock, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, James E. Cobb, 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 Joseph A. Groves, from 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	Landmark.....	No. 71
Camden.....	" 40	Midway.....	" 72
Alabama.....	" 66	Gordon.....	" 73
Farriorville.....	" 67	Elyton.....	" 76
Choctaw Corner.....	" 70	Loachapoka.....	" 80

INCORRECT :

TUSKEGEE No. 43.—No seal, no recapitulation.

CHOCTAW No. 44.—Initials and abbreviations used, dues run out at 50 cents when they ought to be put down at 75 cents, not added up, no seal,

not signed by the H. P., year A. L. put down as 5877, no name or number on the back of the returns, dues not indorsed on the back, no recapitulation.

LEBANON No. 57.—Certificate of returns not dated, no seal.

CENTRAL No. 64.—Abbreviations used, no seal.

RUSSELL No. 65.—Secretary improvised a return when he ought to have written to the Grand Secretary for a blank, dues counted at 50 cents when it ought to be 75 cents, consequently \$12 short for two years.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES A. GROVES,
Chairman.

Companion Joseph H. Johnson offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

ROSLIN CHAPTER NO. 88.

Resolved, That Roslin Chapter No. 88 have sixty days to make returns to the Grand Chapter and pay dues, and that Companion James H. McLaughlin, a member of said Chapter, be allowed to represent it at this Grand Convocation.

SILVER SERVICE TO P. G. H. P. GREENE.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, a Silver Service Set was presented by the Grand Chapter through its Grand High Priest, to Past Grand High Priest, Companion Myles J. Greene. Elegant and appropriate speeches were made on the occasion.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic year, Companions Seth S. Mellen and Jesse L. Adams 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.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Mobile.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY...	Montgomery.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Montgomery.....	Grand Secretary.
REV. JAMES K. HAZEN...	Prattville.....	Grand Chaplain.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Talladega.....	Grand C. of H.

The Grand High Priest *elect* announced the following

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS.

WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH	Montgomery.....	Grand P. Sojourner
WILLIAM W. MCCOLLUM	Selma.....	Grand R. A. C.
SETH S. MELLEN.....	Butler.....	Grand M. 3 V.
NEWELL M. THORNTON...	Abbeville.....	Grand M. 2 V.
JESSE L. ADAMS.....	Tuskegee.....	Grand M. 1 V.
JAMES DAVIDSON.....	Montgomery.....	Grand Sentinel.

The Report on Work on the Royal Arch Degree was made the special order for to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Companion Stephen H. Beasley offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

JAMES PENN NO. 30 AND COOSA NO. 86.

Resolved, That James Penn Chapter No. 30 and Coosa Chapter No. 86 be allowed sixty (60) days in which to make returns and pay dues, and that their representatives be allowed to sit in this Grand Chapter.

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

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

THURSDAY MORNING, December 7, 1876.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8½ o'clock, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, James E. Cobb, 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 Peleg Brown made the following report on the Grand High Priest's Address, 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 Most Excellent Grand High Priest's Address, respectfully report that we have examined it thoroughly and have the pleasure of reporting that it is strictly in spirit and letter, in accordance with our Masonic teachings, showing that our Most Excellent Grand High Priest has devoted much time to the study of Royal Arch Masonry.

We now recommend that the recommendations set forth in the address be adopted by this Grand Chapter, especially that part which states "that the State Grand Chapters throughout the jurisdiction be requested to pay annually to the General Grand Secretary the sum of one cent for each Royal Arch Mason borne upon the rolls of their subordinates at the date of their annual reports," and recommend the adoption of the annexed resolution, and that this Grand Chapter concur in all his official acts as

contained in his address. We hope the wise counsels contained in the address may stimulate Capitular Masonry in this *jurisdiction*, and that such a fraternal spirit may be cultivated as shall characterize Royal Arch Masons as a band of friends and brothers.

Faternally submitted.

PELEG BROWN,
Chairman.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to remit to the General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the sum of one cent for each member borne upon the rolls of the Chapters making returns to this Grand Convocation.

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

Companion Brice M. Townsend, from 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:

Clinton.....	No. 9	Talladega.....	No. 23
Gainesville.....	" 13	Eufaula.....	" 24
Wetumpka.....	" 17	Courtland.....	" 25
Mount Moriah.....	" 19	Union.....	" 26
Mobile.....	" 21	Fulton.....	" 32
Montgomery.....	" 22	James L. Daniel.....	" 35

INCORRECT:

TUSCALOOSA No. 1.—Certified before the expiration of the Masonic year, no seal, no Post Office, name not indorsed on the back.

EUNOMIA No. 5.—Initials and abbreviations used, fee for the degrees, affiliation, and annual dues not set down.

TUSCUMBIA No. 10.—Dues not added up, no recapitulation.

LIVINGSTON No. 20.—No seal.

SAINT JOHNS No. 28.—Initials and abbreviations used, date A. L. not filled out.

JAMES PENN No. 30.—Seal illegible, no Post Office.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

B. M. TOWNSEND,
Chairman.

Companion Newell M. Thornton, 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. E. 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 :

Bell.....	No. 83	Daniel Pratt.....	No. 96
Gaston.....	" 85	Rock Mills.....	" 100
Columbus.....	" 93	Cross Plains.....	" 102

INCORRECT :

JEFFERSON No. 81.—Initials and abbreviations used, caption recites—"beginning on the first Monday in December, 1876," instead of 1875.

MOULTON No. 87.—Two Companions exalted whose names are not on the list of members—due the Grand Chapter \$1.50. Annual Dues payable to the Subordinate Chapter from each member are set down at \$17.25.

GEORGE D. NORRIS No. 91.—Abbreviations and initials used, no date to suspensions N. P. D., no recapitulation.

OXFORD No. 98.—Abbreviations used, returns not signed by the High Priest, and seal illegible.

THOMAS M. BRAGG No. 99.—Caption of returns not filled out; names not opposite numbers or dues, in consequence of which no dues are charged for one member, and three members exalted whose names are not on the list, therefore due the Grand Chapter \$3.00. Three exalted

and no dates given, and the names put under all the heads of Mark Masters, M. Ex. Masters, and Royal Arch, when they should have been put only under the latter head, and the dates affixed of receiving the degrees. Dues set down at \$1.50 for two years, when they should have been put at 75 cents for the year 1876, and the dues for 1875 added at the bottom. One dead and one suspended put upon the list of members.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

NEWELL W. THORNTON,

Chairman.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong, from the Committee on Work, made report on the Royal Arch Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

Companion Felix G. Norman offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

Resolved, That the representative of this Grand Chapter in the next Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, be, and he is hereby instructed to oppose any and all efforts that may be made by way of amendment to the Constitution, or otherwise, to enlarge the powers of the General Grand Chapter over the State Grand Chapter.

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

EXPENSES TO GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter send a representative to the next Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, which convenes at Buffalo, on the third Tuesday in August next (the 21st), and that the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated to pay the expenses of the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, or his proxy.

INSTALLATION.

The Grand Officers, elected and appointed, were in-

stalled in Ample Form—the M. Ex. P. G. High Priest, Myles J. Greene, officiating for that purpose, and Companion Stephen H. Beasley acting as Marshal.

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

ON WORK.

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

CUSTODIAN OF THE WORK.

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

Peleg Brown.....	Mobile.
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.
Felix G. Norman.....	Tuscumbia.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

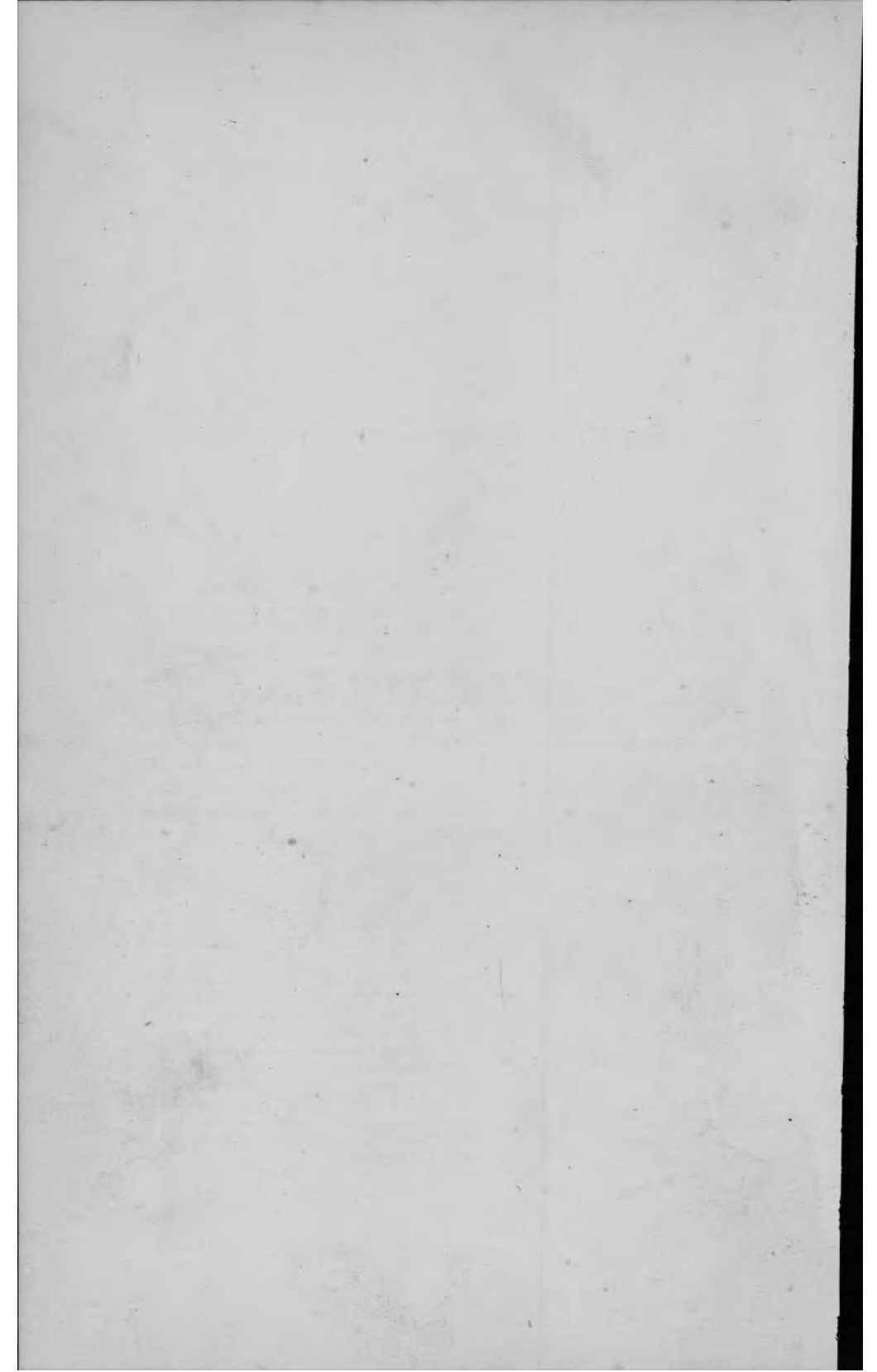
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.
DeWitt C. White.....	Moulton.
William E. Beaird.....	Orrville.
Joseph A. Adams.....	Newton.
William B. Gere.....	Gaston.

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

And then, after solemn prayer to the Throne of Grace, by the 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 43 minutes, A. M.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

APPENDIX.



Report on Foreign Correspondence.

*To the M. E. G. High Priest, Officers and Members of the M. E. G. R.
A. Chapter of the State of Alabama :*

Once more, with our usual diffidence, we approach the huge pile of printed matter on our table, telling, doubtless, much that we wish to know of the prosperity of the Royal Craft in other Jurisdictions, but also bearing tablets that will remind us that we, too, are "passing away," and though mournful, yet instructive, admonishing us that we must "work while it is yet day, for the night cometh wherein no man can work."

We never commence this work without distrust of our ability to either do justice to the proceedings to be reviewed, or to the intelligence of the Grand Chapter of Alabama. However, with what ability we possess, we will digest and collate what we may think may be instructive or interesting to our Companions of this Jurisdiction from the printed proceedings of the following Grand Chapters :

Arkansas.....	1875	Minnesota.....	1876
California.....	1876	Mississippi.....	1876
Canada.....	1875	Nebraska.....	1875
Colorado.....	1875	New Hampshire.....	1875
District of Columbia.....	1875	New Jersey.....	1876
Delaware.....	1876	New York.....	1876
Florida.....	1876	North Carolina.....	1876
Georgia.....	1876	Nova Scotia.....	1875
Illinois.....	1875	Ohio.....	1876
Indiana.....	1875	Pennsylvania.....	1875
Kansas.....	1875	South Carolina.....	1876
Kentucky.....	1875	Tennessee.....	1875
Louisiana.....	1876	Texas.....	1875
Maine.....	1876	Vermont.....	1875
Maryland.....	1875	Virginia.....	1875
Massachusetts.....	1875	West Virginia.....	1874-75
Michigan.....	1876	Wisconsin.....	1876

First in alphabetical order comes

ARKANSAS,

whose Twenty-Sixth Annual Convocation was held on the 7th of October, A. D. 1875. It was opened in ample form by

M. E., E. H. ENGLISH, <i>as</i>	G. H. Priest.
E., J. P. KENNEDY, <i>as</i>	D. G. H. P.
E., J. H. VAN HOOSE, <i>as</i>	G. K.
E., E. R. DUVAL, <i>as</i>	G. S.

Thus, until we reach the Treasurer, all the regular officers were absent. We are not surprised then to find in the Address of the M. E. G. H. P. Sam W. Williams, read by the Grand Secretary, much about delinquent and "moribund" Chapters and that that glorious Masonic enterprise, the Saint John's College is languishing for want of funds. Yet he tells some very wholesome truths, that are as applicable to other Jurisdictions as to his own. As, for instance, that "our Chapters and Lodges have in many places gone far in advance of our population," and that "It is evident that when a Chapter ceases to work it must decline."

We find Companion Williams occupying our ground in relation to Companions in good standing, though suspended for N. P. D. in the Lodge—we extract as follows:

Companion Massey, of Searcy, asked me if suspension from the Blue Lodge by mere operation of the by-laws, on notice, would suspend in the Chapter. I referred him to the opinion I had expressed at page thirty-three of my report on correspondence, (proceedings 1868, New Jersey; and also the adverse opinion of the Grand High Priest in his address. (See Proceedings of 1868, page 6-7, and which was approved by the Grand Chapter on the report of the Committee on Law and Usage.) Really forgetting the ruling of the Grand Chapter on this point, and holding to the opinion expressed in the report above referred to, I authorized Union Chapter to admit such members as had been merely suspended by operation of the by-law for the non-payment of dues in the Blue Lodge. I hope this will present a fair occasion to review your former decision, and enable you to bring us back to what I have always considered to be the true ground—that it is only a suspension from the privileges of Masonry, which can occur alone on a trial upon regular charges, which constitutes that suspended Mason with whom we are to hold no Masonic communication. That prohibition does not extend, as I think, to those who are made non-affiliates by being suspended from membership in a Blue Lodge for non-payment of dues. It is only the class of suspended Masons which we are prohibited by the laws of Blue Masonry from communication with Masonically.

The Grand Chapter sustained this opinion by the adoption of the report of a minority of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

There is no report on correspondence.

Companion E. R. DuVal was elected Grand High Priest; Companion L. E. Barber being retained as Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters.....	70
“ “ “ Making Returns.....	38
“ “ Exaltations.....	62
“ “ Royal Arch Masons Reported.....	1,256

CALIFORNIA, THE SUNSET STATE,

Comes next, holding her Twenty-second Annual Convocation on the 11th of April, 1876, with Companion William Thomas Reynolds, M. E. G. H. P. in the East. Our Companions of California, who are called to provide over Chapters must read the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter and most probably cause them to be read to their Chapters, else the Grand High Priest could not have made the following declaration :

“The assiduous labors of my predecessors in office, and the well considered laws that have been adopted for our guidance at previous sessions of this Grand Chapter, have rendered the path of duty so plain, and established such definite landmarks to guide our subordinate Chapters, that hardly a question can possibly arise that would be difficult of solution even to the most inexperienced Mason who would take the trouble to examine our Constitution and regulations for himself; therefore, it is not to be wondered at, when we consider that almost all the officers of our Chapters are men who have had long experience in Masoury and have been for years conversant with the decisions of the various Grand Bodies—that no appeals have been made to me during the entire year, to decide upon any constitutional point, or to give advice or assistance to any officer, in the performance of his duties; consequently my official labors have been exceedingly light, and I have but little of interest to communicate.”

It is the highest compliment he could have paid to the intelligence of the High Priests and the harmony of the Craft.

We regret to learn from the Address that the edict of the Grand Chapter, requiring a High Priest elect to present a certificate of qualification before installation, should not prove adequate to producing uniformity of work, for we thought this the only provision which was calculated to effect it. The Grand High Priest recommends its repeal notwithstanding the Grand Lecturer reports :

“That in nearly all (of the Chapters he visited) the good results of the regulation as to the qualification of High Priests before installation were apparent.”

Companion Wiggin presented a very lengthy and able report on Correspondence, giving Alabama a full and courteous notice. Companion W. differs with our Past Grand High Priest in his view that a Chapter may amend its by-laws at pleasure, without submitting the amendment to the revision of the Grand Chapter, liable, however to be tested by the Grand Chapter at any time as to its constitutionality.

He differs also from the action of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas in relation to the effect of suspension for non-payment of dues, and thinks that such suspension comes fully within our O. B., on which our own opinion, which by the way is the expressed opinion of our Grand Chapter, has heretofore already been declared.

We extract his remarks, under "Canada," on the subject of these reports, heartily endorsing every word:

"The privilege of communing annually with those whose long experience in Masonic affairs have qualified them to be teachers; to interchange fraternal ideas, opinions and sentiments; to discuss with them those doctrines and principles which have been handed down to us from generation to generation; to oppose by courteous argument that which we believe to be wrong, and endeavor to impress upon the minds of others our own convictions of right; to hope to be the means of making darkness light in the pathway of some seeker after truth; in short, to receive and impart information; these are the inducements which lead many to burn the midnight gas in preparing these reports; and if, in the consumption of material, some small portion of that gas should become incorporated with the reports, it is not to be wondered at and is altogether excusable.

Number of Chapters.....	47
" " Exaltations.....	294
" " Royal Arch Masons.....	2,781

Companion Alexander Gurdon Abell was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Wiggin continued Grand Secretary.

CANADA.

We welcome the proceedings of the Eighteenth Convocation of the Grand Chapter presided over by M. E. Companion James Seymour, Grand Z., on the 11th of August, 1875.

From the Address we learn that the Craft are harmonious and zealous, and we also learn that the affairs of the Grand Chapter are conducted with economy, for he says:

"The financial affairs of the Grand Chapter are in a most healthy state, the nominal yearly contribution of twenty cents per enrolled Companion, more than sufficing to cover current expenses, leaving the fees derived

from certificates, registrations, dispensations, constitutions and warrants, to produce a respectable reserve fund for benevolence and unforeseen claims."

We commend the following decisions and heartily approve them; though we find that the Grand Chapter differed with the Grand Z. in relation to the decision numbered 3:

"3. Is a Chapter regularly assembled or legally constituted for business or work, at which a less number than nine members are present, the balance being made up of say four or five visiting Companions, who can neither vote nor perform any duty at the Convocation, except by courtesy or sufferance; and is it proper to hold any Convocation, regular or emergent, unless at least nine *bona fide* members are present?

"*Ruled*—That while custom and occasional necessity have tolerated the permitting of visitors at Chapter Convocations filling offices and otherwise aiding a less number than nine members in disposing of business and work, a strict interpretation of the Constitution (*vide* section 1 and 2 of "Subordinate Chapters.") settles it very clearly to my mind, that a Chapter is not legally constituted nor assembled if nine subscribing members be not present. Visitors of superior skill may be invited to 'assist in carrying on the Lord's work,' instead of unskilled officers; but unless so invited, they become simply spectators, without authority to do other than look on. Therefore, any ballot passed, money vote taken, or other business done, unless nine *bona fide* members attend and remain present during the Convocation, would be liable, on protest, to be quashed.

"4. When a summons has issued for a regular Convocation, containing the names of several candidates to be ballotted for, has the Z. a right, upon his own mere *ipse dixit*, to defer to another Convocation any of such ballots?

"*Ruled*—Yes. The Z. being supreme in his own Chapter, and subject only to higher authority, may, for cause which to him appears sufficient, defer any and all ballots so notified; provided that when the ballots are subsequently taken, due notice is given to every member (*vide* section 1, 'Proposing Members.') There would, of course, be a limit to deferring ballots in this way, which a superior officer would deal with, when his interference is sought, as the circumstances might require."

The reports of the several District Grand Superintendents fully confirm the Grand Z.'s estimate of the harmony of the Craft, we having noticed but one instance where the authority of the Superintendent had to be exercised to suppress irregularity.

Companion Henry Robertson presented the Report on Correspondence, giving Alabama a courteous review.

He don't like the Massachusetts Royal Arch burial service, but thinks that by death all rank is extinguished.

In defense of the peculiar titles for their Chapter officers, which were

fully explained to us by the Chairman of Committee on Correspondence some years since, he says:

"Companion Alexander Thomas notices Canada for 1873 in his Report on Correspondence. He again raises the old question of the titles of our officers, and thinks we should change so as to be uniform with the Grand Chapters of the United States. We have fully discussed this question in former reports and are glad to find that Companion Thomas does not say that they are *right* in the titles they use, but simply asks us to change because one can change more easily than so many. We would be glad to have uniformity, but we cannot consent to participate in the perpetuation of a *wrong*, and we stand by the ancient customs."

Number of Chapters on Roll.....	67
" " " Represented.....	54
" " Members.....	3,102
R. E. Companion L. H. Henderson was made G. Z.	
R. P. Stephens was made G. S. E.	

COLORADO.

The Proceedings of the First Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter are at hand. M. E. William N. Byers, Grand High Priest, and R. E. Edward C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary. It was held on the 23d of September, 1875, at Denver, with representatives from five subordinates. From the address of the M. E. Grand High Priest we make the following extract from its applicability to us as well as to our Companions in Colorado:

"I congratulate you upon the auspicious organization and bright prospects of our Grand Chapter, and the perfect harmony that prevails throughout its jurisdiction. Although the present unfavorable condition of business has checked somewhat the growth of Masonry in our Territory, the well-known zeal, earnestness and sincerity of the Brethren and Companions give ample assurance that it will be but temporary. As compared with that of other States and Territories the extension of Masonry in Colorado has, from the first been most creditable in both numbers and character. Our work is almost invariably commended by visitors from all parts of the Union and from foreign lands.

In this connection I would recommend that the Grand Chapter, at its present Convocation, make such provision as may be necessary in order to secure perfect uniformity in the work of the several Chapters within its jurisdiction. The variance is not great, but it need not exist at all.

For peculiar and obvious reasons the Masonic organizations of Colorado are called upon to apply the test, receive and welcome many visitors. Charity is often asked at their hands, and as often given freely and generously. More than once have we been victimized by imposters, which is to be regretted less for the pecuniary loss sustained than for the encouragement thereby given to such vicious persons. Counseling the most unselfish friendship and liberal charity to deserving, worthy crafts-

men, let us guard still more carefully against the impositions of those who are unworthy. Furthermore, let us be especially vigilant in guarding the portals of our sacred tabernacle, and see that none enter therein save those who will ever be a support and an honor to our Order."

The labors of the Grand Chapter were devoted to matters of local importance, mainly to perfecting Constitution and By-Laws.

The proceedings of but five Grand Chapters having been received, among which are those of our State, the Committee on Correspondence made no report.

There were two more Chapters chartered at this Convocation, making seven in all.

Companion William N. Byers was re-elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Edward C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary.

Number of Chapters.....	7
" Exalted	15
Total Membership.....	293

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Ninth Annual Convocation was held on the 19th of November, 1875, Companion Noble D. Larner, M. E. Grand High Priest.

There were several special Convocations and a semi-annual one, at the latter of which we find the following report from the Committee on Jurisprudence, adopted :

"The Committee on Jurisprudence, having carefully considered the following resolution, adopted at the May Convocation, 1874, (printed proceedings, p. 6,) of this Grand Chapter :

"*Resolved*, That the question of receiving a Companion into a Chapter after he has lost his membership by having been suspended or expelled by his Lodge, and afterwards reinstated by his Lodge or the Grand Lodge, be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report at our next Annual Convocation such standing resolution as will meet the exigencies of the case—'

"Report and recommend the adoption of the following as standing resolutions of the Grand Chapter :

"*Resolved*, That when a Companion has been expelled or indefinitely suspended from the Chapter in consequence of his having been previously expelled or indefinitely suspended from all his rights and privileges as a Master Mason, that after his reinstatement in the Lodge, it will be necessary for the Chapter to take such action as its By-Laws or the Constitution of the Grand Chapter may prescribe.

"*Resolved*, That when a Companion has been definitely suspended from the Chapter in consequence of his having been previously definitely suspended from all his rights and privileges as a Master Mason, that his name should not be stricken from the roll of the Chapter, but a minute made of said suspension, and that without action on the part of the Chapter he is restored to all his rights and privileges on the expiration of the term for which he was suspended by his Lodge."

"All of which is respectfully submitted."

We find that this Grand Chapter is opened on the 7th of May then called to refreshment until the 17th of September—and then closed—which is contrary to the rule established in this jurisdiction for the government of Subordinates.

From the address of the M. E. Grand High Priest we learn that some causes of unpleasantness exists between this Grand Chapter and that of Canada, and he refers to the report of the Committee on Correspondence. It appears that late in 1873 the Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia requested the Grand High Priest of Canada to revoke the commission of representative at the District of Columbia and that as late as the 1st of November the G. Z. of Canada declines to revoke the commission because "he finds himself placed in such position that he is asked to revoke an act of one of his predecessors by cancelling the credentials of a representative who has been received and acknowledged as such by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia without any request from the Grand Body to which he has been accredited and by which he was formally recognized." Companion Larner's reason for making the request is that "the personal relations between your Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and myself being of such a character as to prohibit intercourse between him and myself, I am therefore, etc., etc."

This is the substance of the whole matter, and we would lay the entire correspondence before the Grand Chapter but for its length. Our own opinion is first, that the reason assigned by Companion Larner is not such as should have induced him to such a step, but that if he thought it necessary to make the request the Grand Chapter of Canada ought promptly to have complied with it. We append the entire report of the Committee on Jurisprudence:

"To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia:

"Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the question of the conduct of the Grand Chapter of Canada toward this Grand Chapter, concerning the request of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest

of this Grand Chapter to have the commission of R. E. Companion J. E. Mason, Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada, revoked, beg leave to report that they have had the subject under consideration, and after a careful review of the case as presented in the papers submitted to your Committee, respectfully submit the following as the result of their deliberations :

"By the action of this Grand Chapter at its last Convocation, in adopting a resolution declaring that the Most Excellent Grand High Priest had the right to make the request to have the commission of R. E. Companion Mason revoked, it effectually disposed of all questions as to the powers of the Grand High Priest during the interim between the sessions of this Grand Body ; and the right to make the request having been established, this right must necessarily carry with it the right to a respectful consideration, and, and also puts your committee beyond the pale of inquiry as to the merits of the case.

"This relieves your committee from the consideration of what might have been a very embarrassing question ; and it is gratifying to your committee to be able to state that it appears from the correspondence submitted to us that the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada is in full accord with our Grand Chapter upon the question of the right to make this request. We quote from the letter of the G. S. E. of the Grand Chapter of Canada under date of March 4th, 1874, in reply to the letter of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest of November 26th, 1873, as follows : 'Under ordinary circumstances he (meaning the Grand Z.) would feel himself warranted in exercising the prerogative of his office by at once cancelling the commission of our representative,' thereby admitting that he has the right, but under what he thinks extraordinary circumstances he declines to exercise it ; thus, as it seems to us, making himself not only the judge of the merits of the controversy, but acting upon what he deems to be the justice of the case.

"Both Grand Bodies therefore being in full accord as to the right to request that this representative be recalled, it only remains to be seen whether the circumstances of this case are of that extraordinary character to justify the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada in denying this request.

"What are the circumstances of this case ? From the papers submitted to your committee (and from these we gather all the information we have on the subject upon which we can act), it appears that on the 26th of November, 1873, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia addressed a letter to the Most Excellent Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, preferring a request in the following language : 'The personal relations existing between your Grand Representative near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia and myself, being of such a character as to prohibit intercourse between him and myself, I am therefore, much to my regret, compelled to request that his commission be revoked.'

"It will be seen by referring to another portion of this letter that this request was not made until after consultation with the Deputy Grand High Priest and the members of the Grand Council and other prominent Royal Arch Masons. We quote as follows :

"I have, after consultation with our Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, and other Companions, concluded to make official request of you for the revocation of his commission as your Grand Representative."

"Now, laying aside all that portion of this letter relating to the fact that Companion Mason has never held a higher position in a Chapter than Secretary, and that he is not a member of this Grand Chapter (for all these things were known to this Grand Body when it confirmed his appointment)—we say, laying aside all these general objections, yet there remains sufficient ground set forth in this letter, in the opinion of your committee, to call for prompt and immediate action on the part of the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada; for, as we have before stated, we lay aside entirely the merits of the controversy between the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and the representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada as a subject with which neither our Grand Chapter nor the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada had anything to do, so far as the making or granting of this request was concerned. It was enough that the personal relations existing between the Executive of this Grand Body and the Representative were such as to prevent official intercourse, as stated in the letter above referred to. The particular acts complained of are not set forth either in this letter or in the papers submitted to your committee; and if they were we could not enter into the merits of the difficulty which has arisen between the parties to make it necessary for the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter to make this request. That is not within the province of your committee. We have to do with principles, not with individuals; that is a subject of inquiry which belongs exclusively to the Grand Chapter of Canada, after the request had been complied with. R. E. Companion Mason is their representative and not ours, and he is responsible to the body whose representative he is for his official conduct. We speak now of his official conduct in his representative capacity; not that Companion Mason might not be subject to discipline by the Chapter to which he belongs in this jurisdiction for a Masonic offence, the same as though he were not a representative of a foreign Grand Body, but the complaint is made against him in his representative capacity, and it is enough for the home government to know that their representative is distasteful and obnoxious to the Executive of the body or government to which he is sent, and it is not the duty of this Grand Body to prefer charges against the representative and examine into the merits of the controversy; but the moment that the fact that this representative had become obnoxious to the Executive of this Grand Body, he should have been recalled and the causes inquired into, if at all, by the Grand Body who sent him here. Companion Mason stands here in the same position precisely as though he was a citizen of Canada, and a member of a Royal Arch Chapter in Canada, and sent here to represent the Grand Body of that Dominion and to look after her interests here. And what interests has the Grand Chapter of Canada here that can be promoted or protected by having a representative resident here?"

"We answer, she has the interests and welfare of the institution throughout the world committed to her care and keeping, and it is to preserve that harmony and that fraternal feeling which should character-

ize sister Grand Bodies throughout the world, and upon which the usefulness and existence of the institution depends, that one Grand Body accredits to another some person clothed with authority to speak and act for them in all matters which may affect the interests or friendly relations of the two bodies or governments. The same objects are to be accomplished and the same purposes and interests are to be subserved as in the appointment of ambassadors between two nations, and it is the invariable rule whenever a representative makes himself obnoxious to the Executive of the government or nation to whom he is accredited, and that fact is made known to his government officially, to withdraw him at once without inquiry into the causes which lie at the bottom of the difficulty. We might cite numerous cases within our own knowledge which have transpired where our own government have been a party, but we do not deem it necessary. Every intelligent Mason must at once see that where the personal relations of the representative and the Executive are such as to prohibit official intercourse between them, that no good can be accomplished by his stay, and the purpose and object of his mission is at an end, hence, the fact stated by the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, that no charges had been preferred against their representative did not make the request of our Grand High Priest an extraordinary one, so as to take the case out of the operation of the rule requiring him to exercise the prerogative of his office, which he admits he has, to immediately recall his representative.

"In conclusion, your committee are frank to say that they find no precedent in the history of Capitular Masonry to enlighten or aid them in their deliberations on this subject; but they believe that the system of accrediting representatives to Masonic Grand Bodies has taken its rise from the custom among civilized nations from the earliest ages of the world, and we see no reason why the universal custom which governs nations in their intercourse with each other should not be applied to Masonic Grand Bodies, so far as the cases are analogous, and we are unable to see that in the case before us the analogy is not complete.

"Your committee are therefore of the opinion that the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, in refusing to exercise the prerogative of his office in cancelling the commission of their representative upon the request of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, in letter under date of November 26th, 1873, and especially after the Grand Body over whom he presided had adopted a resolution and recommending that it be done, did not treat the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia with that respect and consideration due from one Grand Masonic Body to another.

J. E. F. HOLMEAD,
JOHN LOCKIE,
J. DANIELS."

Companion Mac Grotty made the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Chapters, and among them we find Alabama. He enunciates our views exactly in relation to suspensions, and how they should be affected:

"We hold that no Master Mason or Royal Arch Mason should be suspended from *any* of his rights or privileges, except upon charges regularly preferred, due trial being had and an opportunity given to be heard in his defense. A member of either Lodge or Chapter who neglects or refuses to pay his dues, violates his solemn obligation as such member, and should be proceeded against accordingly."

We have found many things which proved almost engrossingly interesting in this report, but we can afford no more space to it, and leave it with regret.

Number of Chapters.....	8
" " Exaltations.....	64
" " Members.....	1,103

Companion George B. Clark was made M. E. Grand High Priest and L. G. Stephens, Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.

The proceedings of the Eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter for 1876 is before us, held on the 19th of January, Companion Willis Holden M. E. Grand High Priest. From his address we learn that peace and harmony prevail.

He decided that a member of a Chapter could not be suspended for non-payment of dues without trial, and the Committee on the Address say they "respectfully dissent from the decision of the M. Grand High Priest in regard to the suspension of a member of a subordinate Chapter for non-payment of dues, believing that a member can be suspended for non-payment of dues by the by-laws of each Chapter and reinstated upon payment of the same without form of trial;" which was accepted, and a motion to this effect was adopted.

Number of Chapters.....	6
" " Exaltations.....	13
" " Members.....	304

Companion W. Holden was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and J. P. Allmond Grand Secretary.

No report on Correspondence.

FLORIDA.

The Thirtieth Annual Convocation was held on the 11th of January, 1876, with M. E. Henry W. Long, Grand High Priest.

We are pleased to learn that the Craft is harmonious, and though not very prosperous, yet the Grand Chapter is not in debt.

Eleven Chapters only made returns, showing a Membership of only 358, with 21 Exaltations.

No report on Correspondence.

Companion John S. Driggs was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion DeWitt C. Dawkins, Grand Secretary.

GEORGIA,

Whose Annual Convocation, held on the 26th of April, 1876, comes next in order, with Companion Luther J. Glenn, M. E. Grand High Priest, in the East.

We are tempted beyond the power of resistance to give two extracts from the admirable address of the Grand High Priest :

"It may not be unprofitable for us, who survive, and are here assembled this morning in our Annual Grand Convocation, to pause for a moment, and propound to ourselves a few pertinent questions. Has the work wrought by each one of us in the quarries of life, during the past year been good work, true work, such work as will stand the test of the Great Overseer's square? Have we, in our respective Chapters, while firm and decided, yet, in a kind, conciliatory and fraternal spirit, presided; ever using our best efforts to preserve and promote peace, harmony and good will among the Brotherhood? Have we, at all times, and to the extent of our capacity, dispensed the light and truth; which it is the privilege of some to ask, and the duty of others to bestow? Have our diligence and industry and fidelity in the discharge of our several duties to God and our fellow-men, been such as will merit for us, at the completion and dedication of that spiritual building beyond the skies, not made with hands, our reception and acknowledgement as Most Excellent Masters? Have we, in our daily walk and conversation, been governed and directed by the principles of justice, morality and brotherly love? Have we, in our intercourse with our Companions, so acted as to establish the character of one to whom distress may prefer its suit, to whom the burthened heart may pour out its sorrows, with full and perfect assurance of relief to the extent of our ability? Have we, at all times, ministered to the wants and relieved the necessities of distressed Worthy Companions? Have we extended the hand of assistance to the Companion, who has fallen by the wayside, under the influence, it may be, of some secret cause to the world unknown? Have we lifted him up, cared for him, and by kindly words and friendly counsel inspired him with new hope and fresh courage to renew the battle of life? Have we, when occasion required, brought aid and comfort to the suffering widow and the helpless orphan? Have we, in fine, met the demands and performed the duties voluntarily assumed, before we were permitted to enter into the presence of the Grand Council, and to engage in the glorious work of bringing to light the secrets and mysteries hidden beneath the rubbish of ages?"

The above questions it would be well for all of us, at all times, to keep before us, and the following should be heeded by all Grand Bodies :

"In your legislative action, let me enjoin it upon you 'to make haste slowly.' A spirit of innovation is abroad in the land. It pervades all classes of society—Legislative bodies, civil, religious and benevolent, feel its influence and are subject to its control. A feverish impatience possesses the public mind. Men are not content to follow the beaten paths, the fathers trod. New ways are blazed out. Old things are thrown aside. New things are eagerly sought after and as eagerly adopted. Old-fashioned honesty itself, both in public and private life, seems to be at a discount, while its opposite commands a premium. In the discharge of your duties here, as legislators, heed not the syren voice of the tempter—*Progress!* In the impressive language of the inspired king of Israel, I charge you, 'Remove not the landmarks which your fathers have set.'"

The report on Correspondence was made by Companion Samuel Lawrence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Chapters, many of them for two years, among which we find Alabama, which is courteously and pleasantly reviewed.

To the following we heartily subscribe :

"We believe 'twould be better for Freemasonry, that all such as will should so depart. The Institution is suffering more to-day from a plethora of members—not Masons—than any other cause. Depletion is the only remedy for the disease. We speak as a fool, perhaps, not being a physician, as Corson is, but if all who feel so little interest in the cause, as wilfully and persistently to neglect their duties would withdraw, it would add greatly to the moral power of the Institution. It would be infinitely healthier, stronger and better without them. If such will square their accounts and go—let them go. By no means seek to *force* them back. But if they will insist upon remaining without paying their dues, when able, cut them off."

We have not the proceedings of Connecticut yet to hand, but if we had Companion Lewis here, we would—we think we would—attempt to punish him for styling us "Fillians," by heaping coals of brotherly fire upon his head.

We part with Companion Lawrence with regret, but before doing so we give his conclusion of his report :

"And now, as our step quickens adown the slope of years, this world's outlook grows darker and darker before us; but as the mariner aloft, when the tempest is at its highest, and the ship is driven and tossed by the waves is said to maintain his hold on the mast by looking upward, so we strive to hold fast to our faith by looking up through the darkness to the GREAT HIGH PRIEST on high, through whom we have access to the Throne of Grace, and the hope of Life Everlasting.

"His blessings we invoke on all Royal Arch Masons."

Number of Chapters.....	66
" " Exaltations.....	129
" " Members.....	1,869

Companion Luther J. Glenn was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion J. Emmett Blackshear Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 28th of October, 1875, Companion William A. J. Delancey M. E. Grand High Priest.

The address of the Grand High Priest discloses the fact that Chapters are being rapidly added to the already great number, there being no less than seven dispensations granted during the year for this purpose. We find also that the Grand High Priest issued no less than eleven dispensations for conferring the degrees out of time. This we earnestly deplore, for the doors of our Chapters ordinarily swing too easily upon their hinges, and Masons and Companions are made without due enquiry into their merits. Hence the large lists of suspensions and expulsions to be found in every copy of proceedings. "*Festina lente*" is a good maxim in weighty matters and peculiarly applicable to Masonry.

The proceedings of the Grand Chapter are of local interest only.

Companion Miles again made the report on Correspondence, reviewing thirty-four volumes of proceedings; and furnishing to the Companions of Illinois much valuable information of the acts and opinions of other jurisdictions.

There are 171 Chapters on roll, including 8 U. D.; Exaltations 902; Membership 10,487.

Companion Haswell C. Clarke was elected Grand High Priest, Companion James H. Miles Grand Secretary.

INDIANA

Held its Thirtieth Annual Convocation on the 20th of October, 1875, presided over by George H. Smith, M. E. Grand High Priest.

There is only one thing in the truly admirable address of the Grand High Priest not in full harmony with the rest, and that is that he should, while visiting a Chapter, have set still and see the officers make a "farce" of conferring the degrees, and so "restrained himself and saw it through to the bitter end." This course gave a sanction to the whole proceeding, and reasonably produced in the officers of the Chapter, "the thought that they had excelled themselves before one of their Grand officers."

His course in other cases was bold and spirited, and well calculated to arrest irregularities. In one instance he ordered the Chapter to set aside its illegal acts, and in another arrested the Charter for misconduct, and seems generally to have administered "strong tonic" to those whose diseases needed such course. His concluding advice is a reiteration of our own, given a few years since to our own Grand Chapter. It is as follows:

"Companions, organize a system of visitation and inspection. If necessary, pay the expenses of your Grand officers, for this special work, from our exchequer. Assure the Companion you select to fill my place, that you will approve all needed discipline, and rest assured that in two years you will have all Chapters with returns promptly made, dues paid, and representatives here happy in the consciousness of their well doing."

The Grand High Priest in this jurisdiction makes the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, and some for two or three years avoiding comment, however, "considering it as an official communication."

Number of Chapters on Roll.....	160
" " making Returns.....	145
" " Exaltations.....	762
" " Members.....	9,739

Companion Lucien A. Foote was elected M. E. Grand High Priest,
Companion John M. Bramwell Grand Secretary.

IOWA.

Companion Robert F. Bower, M. E. Grand High Priest, whose portrait adorns this volume, opened this grand Chapter, in ample form, on the 21st of October, 1875.

We regret to see that here also the Grand High Priest says: "I have issued a number of dispensations for electing and installing officers and receiving and balloting upon petitions out of time."

We extract the following, with only this comment, that a little discipline, energetically administered to the Secretary mentioned, would have tended to preserve "peace" for all subsequent time:

"I regret to be compelled again to trouble you with the affairs of Fremont county, but it seems as though the Companions there will not agree, and are bent on trouble. When Shekinah Chapter was disorganized and Hebron Chapter started, we thought that the troubles would cease, but ever since there has been much quarrelling and bickering among them. I regret to say that I have received several discourtesies at the hands of some of the members, to which I have quietly submitted for the sake of

peace. Drunkenness, so far as I can learn, has been the cause of much trouble, and I am glad to be able to inform you that the Chapter has already commenced purging itself of such unworthy members. Charges were preferred against R. N. Buckham and W. A. Putney by their Lodge (Jerusalem, No. 253), and both were suspended; and the matter having been brought to the notice of Hebron Chapter, the same course was taken there. The said W. A. Putney was, at the time, the Secretary of said Chapter, and a demand was made on him for the books and papers of his office, which he refused to give up. Upon their appealing the case to me, I sent an imperative order to said Putney to deliver up all of the records of said Chapter to D. W. Swiggart, then King, which he refused positively to do, and holds possession of them to this day, as I am credibly informed, thus not only setting the order of your Grand High Priest at defiance, but withholding the records of the Chapter from its members. I suggest that some prompt attention should be given by you to this matter, not only to uphold the dignity of this Grand Body, but to show others that they cannot create insubordination with impunity.

"The correspondence relating to this case will be found in the letter-book and among the papers herewith submitted."

A past defaulting Grand Treasurer I. L. Chase was, by resolution, ordered to be summoned before the next Convocation to answer to charges, unless he settles his indebtedness before that time.

Companion Horace S. Winslow was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, with Companion W. B. Langridge Grand Secretary.

The Installation was in public, when Companion Parvin delivered an eloquent address, rejecting the foolish theories of dreamers of the origin and design of Masonry, and showing that it took its rise in the necessities of the times, and has demonstrated that it is a "progressive science," moulding itself as circumstances should require, yet never forgetting to teach Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love.

The report on Correspondence is by Companion Guilbert, written with spirit. He objects to the use of the scissors, and therefore uses them very sparingly.

Number of Chapters.....	78
" " Exaltations.....	408
" " Members.....	3,935

KANSAS.

Eleventh annual convocation held on 19th October, 1875, Companion John M. Price, M. E. Grand High Priest.

Six dispensations for new chapters were granted, five of which were chartered at this Convocation.

In relation to the action of the Grand Chapter of Kansas toward the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, the Grand High Priest in his address says:

"At its session in 1873, this Grand Body refused to recognize the Grand Chapter of West Virginia. This action was based upon the assumption that inasmuch as the Grand Chapter of West Virginia denied the authority of, and refused allegiance to, the General Grand Chapter of the United States, it was inconsistent and improper for the Grand Chapter of Kansas, acknowledging as it does the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter and obeying its edicts, to recognize any Grand Chapter denying this authority or refusing this allegiance. It is well known that this action on the part of this Grand Body was not taken in any hostile or unfriendly spirit toward the Companions of West Virginia or their Grand Chapter, but was the result of what we believed was our right and duty under the circumstances. However, the General Grand Chapter of the United States, at its late Convocation at Nashville, having decided that the State of West Virginia was never under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, but was a component part of old Virginia, the Grand Chapter of which has always been recognized by the General Grand Chapter, although not a constituent part thereof, the Grand Chapter of West Virginia was accordingly recognized by the General Grand Chapter."

The decisions of the Grand High Priest are in accordance with the usages of our own jurisdiction, except one, wherein he says: "To constitute a quorum or open the Chapter there must be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons, and that number must continue to be present in order to lawfully transact any business. (So far, of course, we agree.) The required nine need not all be members of the Chapter in order to open and close the Chapter and to confer degrees, *but to transact any other business there must be nine members of the Chapter present.*"

We have italicised a portion, believing that he is correct, but on this point the Grand Chapter of Alabama has given no utterance of its opinion.

We cannot agree with the resolution reported by the Committee on Jurisprudence as a substitute for this ruling and adopted by the Grand Chapter, nor do we see any consistency in it. It is as follows:

"*Resolved*, That to constitute a quorum or open a Chapter, there must be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons, and that number must continue present in order to lawfully work or transact any business. Five of the number must be members of the Chapter."

Companion E. T. Carr made the report on correspondence. On the action of Kansas refusing to recognize the Grand Chapter of West Vir-

ginia, and in consequence of which we propounded a few questions, he says :

Quoting our remarks, which we omit, then follows :

"The foregoing would seem to demand a reply by this Committee, and while we attempt to make it, we wish to be understood as expressing our individual views, and for which the Grand Chapter are not responsible.

As to the questions asked, we answer. For ourselves we are free to admit that there are Royal Arch Masons outside the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter who do not acknowledge its authority, with whom we would willingly fraternize. There are whole Jurisdictions, too, within the United States who disown all allegiance to the "General Grand Chapter of the United States of America," who have our highest regards and hearty recognition, and we would be the last to refuse them fellowship. As to the action of this Grand Chapter toward the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, we have simply to say that in raising the question as we did, we did it more to show the ridiculous side of the affair than for any ill feeling toward our West Virginia Companions, we did not anticipate the result. Knowing as we also did the temper of the General Grand Chapter on such questions, we consider our action hasty and inconsiderate, and that the question should have been deferred until after the Triennial meeting at Nashville. As to that Grand Body we must say we have never been able to discover any good reason for perpetuating it or having a General Grand Chapter, and especially when it is "general" but in name. If it was, or could be, what the name implies, there would be some hope of its becoming useful by being the instrument of giving us uniformity in the work and lectures of the Degrees, a uniform Code, and in fact, a uniformity of action on all subjects pertaining to the Royal Art. As it is, it is powerless to enforce its own edicts, or too timid to assert what power it has, as witnessed by its very accommodating way of dealing with all obstinate questions. "Anything for peace" is its motto, so the Institution is perpetuated, and for the reason apparently that a few aspiring Companions may meet together every three years at the expense of their several Jurisdictions, have a good time, and the more ambitious of their number receive the honor of an election to office in the *August and Sublime Body*. "Only this, and nothing more."

Our Grand Chapter is a firm supporter of the General Grand Chapter, and as a member will remain a faithful subject; but personally, we have no use for what is known as the "General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America."

Number of Chapters.....	31
" " Exaltations.....	128
" " Members.....	1,019

Companion Thomas J. Anderson, Grand High Priest; Companion E. T. Carr, Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

The proceedings of the Sixtieth Annual Convocation held on the 18th of October, 1875, are at hand, M. E. Joseph P. Force, Grand High Priest.

The Craft seems in all things harmonious save as to uniformity of work, and the Grand High Priest recommends as his predecessors that some course be adopted to remedy the evil.

He recommends to the care of the Grand Chapter "The Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home and Infirmary" than which no nobler charity is to be found anywhere in the United States under the care of the Fraternity. We are sure, if the Brethren and Companions of Alabama could visit this institution and witness the parental care bestowed on the poor lonely orphans of the Brethren, bringing them up to be useful and intelligent members of society, they would strive to rear some such active pronounced charity in our midst.

The Committee appointed at the last Convocation of the Grand Chapter to visit the General Grand Chapter reported that *"he had visited that body, but had been unable to gain any knowledge of Capitular Masonry which would be of value to this Grand Chapter."*

Companion Henderson made the correspondence report with his usual wit and brevity.

Number of Chapters.....	124
" " Exaltations.....	286
" " Members.....	3,771

Companion James A. Beattie was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Joseph H. Branham Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA

Comes to us shorn of its proper proportions, there being no report from Horner, the bright, gifted and courteous, as of yore, nor any one else.

Companion Samuel J. Powell, Grand High Priest opened the Grand Chapter on the 15th of February, 1876.

We copy from the address, fully endorsing the sentiment in relation to Masonic drones.

"It gives me great pleasure to report that Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction is still in a healthful and vigorous condition. There has been no perceptible increase in membership; and in fact, under the new regulation of suspending delinquents, in many localities the membership has decreased. In my judgment, this is no case of alarm or regret. Masonic

obligations weigh lightly on the consciences of those who are able to pay their dues, and neglect that important duty; or if unable to pay, place such a poor estimate on the friendship and charity of their companions as to be unwilling to ask for indulgence. I regard all such, as *fungi* on the Masonic body, that eat out its substance, and retard its healthy growth. Our Order loses nothing by severing its connection with them."

The financial condition of the Grand Chapter is bad, and the difficulty is to adopt the best method of getting out of debt. We hope ere long to greet our neighbor fully recovered.

Number of Chapters.....	29
" " Exaltations.....	63
" " Members.....	1,570

Companion Samuel J. Powell, was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion James C. Batchelor M. D., Grand Secretary.

MAINE.

The fifty-first Annual Convocation was held on the 2d of May, 1876, M. E. Companion Henry L. Paine, Grand High Priest, in the Chair.

In making the following quotation from the address, we endorse the entire sentiment, but we fear that the position one occupies and from which he sees anything has a great influence over his vision and colors his conceptions. We do not doubt the return to peace, harmony, brotherly affection, if only all were "governed by the eternal principle of right." But, unfortunately, we are finite, and our interest and education both conspire to distort the view of what is the "eternal principle of right."

"In this year of our nation's jubilee, the heart of every true lover of his country must swell with gratitude and admiration as he contemplates the progress and growth developed during the past century. With just pride can we point to the heroic past, the glorious heritage we now possess, and the brilliant future which awaits us as a nation, if we, as a people, preserve and follow the ancient landmarks of our fathers, and are governed by the eternal principle of right. As members of the mystic tie, we may congratulate ourselves, that wherever o'er this land civilization and intelligence have cast their benign influence, Masonry has gained a foothold, throwing its roots deep into the soil of society, and has gone forward to bless, by precept and example, those within its fold, and through them the community wherein they dwell. Under the fostering care of the intelligent and progressive spirit of the age, its progress has been onward, its aim to bless mankind."

The address is mainly devoted to local matters. We are constrained again to express our belief that where Grand visitations are frequently made by Grand officers there will then be found the greatest display of

activity and zeal. Every Grand Body should make provision for them.

Companion Josiah H. Drummond, whose name is familiar as household words to every reading Royal Arch Mason made the report on Correspondence, which is enough to establish its value.

We know not which most to admire in the following extract, his humor or his desire to seem innocent of all such *devilish* knowledge as is alluded to in it. Reviewing California and Companion Wiggin, he says:

"In his review of Iowa, speaking of the address of Companion Bower, he says:

" 'Usually Bower is right, and when the Right Bower is turned up, we pass.'

"We have studied a *good deal* on this, but we shall have to call on Companion Wiggin in person for an explanation; he says Hebrew was omitted in the course of study 'in the old pine board school house where we graduated,' and that he had forgotten most of the Greek he ever knew; but he has obviously studied some other language, which a friend to whom we applied for information suggests (to our still deeper mystification), is 'Heathen Chinese.' As we proceed in his review of Iowa, we find many terms which we cannot find in Worcester or Webster, and upon a renewed application to our friend, he replied, 'Try Hoyle;' but on inquiry at our bookstore for 'Hoyle's Dictionary,' the clerk, with a queer look in his eyes, said, 'We don't keep it; you may find it at the Sunday School Bookstore;' but there all were as ignorant as we were as to the existence of such a work. At one store, however, we were told, 'We believe we have seen the work, but have not kept it of late; we intend to keep Schenck's, but sold our last copy yesterday to a gentleman going to California.' But to return to Companion Wiggin: The Grand High Priest of Iowa, made a decision, which the Committee on Jurisprudence reported against, but which the Grand Chapter sustained; whereupon Companion W. says: 'So the *Right Bower* took the trick.' In another place he says, 'The Committee on Jurisprudence pick up the Right Bower and 'play it alone;' we find that the committee in question consisted of *three*, and not *one*, as his language seems to indicate."

We fully agree with him in his view that Grand Masters, at the present time, issue dispensations for new Lodges not of right as a prerogative, but under and by virtue of authority given by the Constitution. We are inclined to think this idea of *prerogative* is being pushed too far by many; that their notion is that the Grand Master is able to override all constitutional limitation by it, while our view is that they are creatures of the Constitution and liable to its requirements as any other Brother.

Companion Drummond thinks that a Masonic body may call off from time to time until its business is disposed of as formerly was the usage here until recently, by edict to close on every evening and re-open perhaps on the following one, to complete what had been begun. His argument is concise and cogent, and we give it in his own words:

"We should regret to have the labors of our Grand Chapter in Annual Convocation untimely cut off at the end of the first day; for if it should be *closed*, it could meet again *legally* only by calling a special meeting. While it is utterly wrong to call off from one meeting to another, it is entirely proper (and the only *legal* method) to call off from one session to another, until the business of the meeting is finished, and *then close*. In the eagerness to cure one evil, many have gone to the other extreme, and a very foolish one also. He says that this calling off from day to day, till the meeting is finished, is a "modern innovation;" we beg his pardon, *it is not*; it is the *ancient* mode, while his method is the "modern innovation," and of a practice quite limited at that."

We again quote what he says about the retention of jurisdiction by a Chapter of the candidate rejected and the necessity of any other Chapter to which he may subsequently apply obtaining the consent of the former. This is in reply to Companion Gouley's article in "*The Freemason*" on the same subject:

"It seems to be the habit of the average human to think that what is new to him is new to everybody else, although it may have existed for centuries. And our good Companions of Missouri, including Companion Gouley, in this matter, have 'put *their* foot in it,' (as he says) and *not* the General Grand Chapter. The decision was in exact accordance with the 'well established usages of Blue Masonry,' and not 'out of' them; as it is not without hundreds of precedents, the clause, 'to our knowledge,' was wisely used by him! Let us see what the 'established usages of Blue Masonry' are upon this subject.

"The law, as decided by the General Grand Chapter, has been the law of the Grand Lodge of Maine from its formation in 1820: she received it from her mother Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in which it has existed from a date earlier than we can discover.

"We had looked into the Constitutions of a large number of the Grand Lodges, with the intention of examining them all and giving an abstract of their provisions upon the subject, but, for a reason to be given presently, we have not carried out our intention. To show, however, that the Grand Lodges generally have, or have had the 'perpetual jurisdiction' provision in their Constitutions, we give a few specimens, the figures showing the edition of the Constitution referred to:

"Alabama (1854), Georgia (1856), Louisiana (1858), Maine (1820), Massachusetts (1817 and before), New York (1872), Ohio (1843), West Virginia (1875), Wisconsin (1869), and Washington Territory (1874). These are sufficient to show that the provision in question is not confined to any section of the country or to any particular time.

"We concluded not to go through the Constitutions of all the Grand Lodges, because we found that the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of MISSOURI, formerly contained the following provision:

"'No applicant for initiation or membership, whose petition may have been rejected by any lodge, shall be *initiated* or *received* in *any other lodge*.'

"This is the doctrine of 'perpetual jurisdiction' in its severest form,

for it does not allow another lodge to receive the petition of a rejected candidate, *even with the consent of the rejecting lodge.*

"This continued to be the law of that Grand Lodge until 1866, when the present provision, continuing the jurisdiction for one year only, was first adopted.

"The provision we have quoted is taken from the edition of 1853: we notice that in the edition of 1844, the clause 'without the consent,' &c., is added.

"Thus it appears that the doctrine complained of by our Missouri Companions, was the law of their Grand Lodge for more than *twenty* years (and we do not know how much longer), while their present law has been in force but *ten*: we submit that it does not lie in their mouths to say that the action of the General Grand Chapter is 'outside of the established usages of Blue Masonry.'

"We regret to see the 'vindictive-hammer-of-one-man' argument used. So far as it has *any* force, it is equally applicable against the law requiring a unanimous ballot. If *one* old usage is to be destroyed by *such* arguments, we shall soon have the 'unanimous ballot' law assailed and ultimately overthrown on the same ground."

We cannot dwell longer on this report though there be many other things which we would like to note.

Maine has 42 Chapters with a membership of 4,033.

Companion H. L. Paine again elected M. E. Grand High Priest and Ira Berry Grand Secretary.

MARYLAND.

Companion James W. Bowers opened the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter on the 8th of November, 1875. His address treats entirely of matters of local interest.

The Grand Chapter adopted a resolution prohibiting the exaltation of any brother who has not previously recorded his particular mark in the book of marks.

Companion Hermon L. Emmons Jr., presented his report on correspondence. We owe him an apology for calling him Henry, if we did so, and, at any rate, for not making the printer call him Hermon. We are right now, however.

He deservedly compliments Companion MacGrotty for his report, and congratulates the Companion of the District of Columbia upon the information given therein to them, "*provided they read the reports.*"

There are, in this jurisdiction 14 Chapters, 11 reporting with a membership in those reporting of 1,251 and 73 exaltations.

Companion Hermon L. Emmons Jr., the Chairman of the Committee

on Correspondence was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion William A. Wentz Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The usual business was transacted at the several Quarterly Convocations, and the Annual Convocation was opened on the 7th of December, 1875, by M. E. Grand High Priest, John W. Dadmun.

Dispensations for new Chapters are granted on application to the Grand Chapter and invariably referred to a committee, who do not always report favorably, but only when it is apparent that the interests of Capitular Masonry demand it. Weak Chapters, we presume, are in this way avoided.

At this Convocation the election of officers was had and on the 28th of December a special Convocation was held for installation, when Companion Alfred F. Chapman was installed M. E. Grand High Priest.

From the address of the Grand High Priest and the reports of the D. D. Grand High Priests we learn that the Craft is harmonious, though our Companions are now feeling in that jurisdiction what has been pressing so heavily upon us for ye these many years, financial depression and lack of business.

Companion Alfred F. Chapman, who was elevated to the position of Grand High Priest, made the report on Correspondence.

Companion Chapman's review of Alabama is so kind, and his defense of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, so full of Masonic charity that we cannot find it in our heart to object longer, and we regret, perhaps, more than our Companion, that we were able to reach New Orleans so late that we saw but few of our confreres.

Number of Chapters.....	67
" " Exaltations.....	614
" " Members.....	8,912

MICHIGAN.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 18th of January, 1875, with M. E. John L. Mitchell, Grand High Priest, presiding. In his address he announces that peace and harmony prevail, and a prosperity "unlooked for in the general financial depression." We find him troubled as all presiding officers of Grand Bodies are by the receipt of numerous questions. "The answers to many of them could be found in works on Masonic jurisprudence, many would be answered by the individual sense of right and justice, while some

have required extensive examination of the laws and rulings of the Grand Chapter during the past years."

We call especial attention to his following remarks as we know that they are to a great extent applicable to this jurisdiction :

"My study on these questions has developed this fact, that diverse and opposite decisions have been rendered by different Grand High Priests, which have in their turn been sustained by the Grand Chapter, thus making a conflict of laws in our jurisdiction. It would seem that the Committee to whom these decisions have been referred, have not given them the time requisite for their examination, and the Grand Chapter in adopting them, have done it hurriedly and more as a matter of courtesy to the presiding officer, than with due deference to what is Masonic law and usage."

He, as well as his Grand Chapter, is opposed to the Representative system. On this subject he says: "I have and do consider this mode of representation between Grand Bodies an empty form, resulting in no good to representative or bodies represented."

He decides that an objection made after clear ballot "is the same as a black ball." This is his decision, though his own opinion is adverse thereto and the Grand Chapter :

Resolved, That whenever a candidate shall have been duly elected to take the Chapter Degrees, if objection be made by a Companion to his advancement, it shall be the duty of the High Priest to require the objector to file charges and specifications against the brother, and in case he neglects or refuses to do so the High Priest may proceed to confer the degrees upon the candidate."

Companion Innes, Grand Secretary, as Chairman, made the report on Correspondence, ably reviewing the proceedings of twenty-eight Grand Chapters, among which we find Alabama.

Number of Chapters.....	95
" " Exaltations.....	507
" " Members.....	7,255

Companion William E. Brown was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion William P. Innes Grand Secretary.

MISSISSIPPI

Sends us her proceedings for the Annual Convocation, held on the 31st of January, 1876, but shorn of their old time dimensions, there being no published report on Correspondence. Debt, that terrible incubus paralyzes almost the energies of our neighbor, yet she is making a vigorous effort, and will ere long be in a condition to let us have the labors of her committee.

M. E. Companion John Y. Murray, Grand High Priest, presided, and in his address he says:

Companions! From all the information I have been able to command, it strikes me that it may safely be stated that Royal Arch Masonry has not prospered in our jurisdiction the past year as in some former years, which can but be regretted by us all. There must be a cause for this want of prosperity. Really, it seems that there are several causes for it. Only three of them require special mention here—in fact I may say two, for the last two that I shall mention are so intimately connected it would not require a great stretch of the imagination to bring them under one head; at any rate one is but the legitimate consequence of the other.

As the first cause, I would mention the extraordinary stringency in financial matters generally, which has been produced, in great part, by the failure of crops in 1874, but not altogether by it. Onerous and oppressive taxes have had a large share in the matter. I presume there is scarcely a people upon earth who have been subjected to a more unjust, and it might be stated destructive, revenue system, than the people of this State have for the last decade. And Masons, like other men, have not been exempt from the consequences of these things. I apprehend there are hundreds of Master Masons in our jurisdiction who would have tried to *go up higher* during the year 1875, had it not been for the scarcity of money."

The Grand Chapter manfully took hold of the debt question, and inaugurated a system of economy that will soon relieve itself. Yet we differ with it as to the necessity, value or expediency of publishing the membership of a Chapter, for although it may materially "assist in the detection of the unworthy who solicit Masonic charity," it also enables the designing to establish his standing by assuming to be one of the worthy members. We know by experience that these "dead beats," of whom unfortunately there are some in Masonry, do not hesitate at any manner for entrapping the unwary even to assuming a few aliases'.

Number of Chartered Chapters.....	81
" " Making Returns.....	68
" " Exaltations.....	111
" " Members.....	2,077

Companion H. W. Walter was made M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion J. L. Power continuing Grand Secretary.

MINNESOTA

For 1876 comes to us, Companion Samuel J. Prentiss the M. E. Grand

High Priest presiding. We observe that the Grand High Priest made many visitations during the recess which doubtless tended to infuse energy and zeal in the Craft and produce harmony. We make a few extracts from the address, commending the sentiments to our companions :

"Do not let it be said by the younger Masons or the world that we use the Blue Lodge simply as 'stepping stones' toward the Royal Arch and then neglect them as we become better qualified to give that 'light and information' which time and experience may enable us ; let us not hesitate in doing so. As our jurisdiction increases in size, let us look well to the blocks prepared for the edifice. Do not fall into the common error of supposing that our success is measured by our increasing numbers. Our sublime principles must be impressed on the hearts and consciences of those worthy in order to make our temple lasting and useful. Our Council Chambers must be dedicated to the Royal Art pure and free from the influences of vice or immorality. Let us love and respect true morality, order and propriety, and as the triumphs of the past are due to virtuous actions, the success of the future depends on the same virtuous practices. While we hold that Masonry should not interfere with politics or dictate articles of faith, it should inculcate truth, justice and morality.

"To be true, we should not speak evil of a brother Mason, or detract from a brother's reputation or character, as his good name ought to be as carefully guarded by every Companion as a valuable trust. Try to do as we would be done by, and not let envy, malice or ambition induce us to betray that trust or violate our vows. Somewhere I have read these lines :

" Oaths are but words,
And words but wind,
Too feeble instruments to bind."

"I have never thought they could be true, or that there was no binding force to a *vow*.

"Let us think well of the number five, as explained in the third degree, or the pressure of the hand as a M. E. M.; and never let idle words injure a brother's name.

"Companions, I fain would leave these subjects, but a sense of duty to our institution induces me to point them out. And in calling your attention to these glaring breaches of morality and brotherly love, I ask you to scan well the applicant for our mysteries. Too many rather than too few have desired to share our rites and enjoy our privileges. Let us not make our Chapter imposing from its size at the expense of that true worth or beauty which should adorn our sanctuary. If we thus resolve to examine well the material presented for inspection, we shall always have the pleasure of finding none among us but such as we can cheerfully 'accept' as companions indeed ; and we may confidently hope that when the Grand High Priest of Heaven shall summon us from our earthly labors, we shall all be accepted as suitable stones for that Spiritual Building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

Companion A. T. C. Pierson made report on correspondence, and we are at a loss to conceive a reason for our proceedings not being among those reviewed. We feel sure that our very excellent Grand Secretary forwarded them in time.

We give Companion Pierson's views on the representative system.

"We acknowledge a *penchant* for the system, as a system; we believe it is capable of being made useful and beneficial.

"Our idea is that the Representative should be a *permanent* member of the body to which he is accredited, and should be one who would keep himself sufficiently posted as to the doings of the Grand Body that he represents, to be enabled to answer the question as to the name of the presiding officer and the Grand Secretary. In his report on Foreign Correspondence, Companion Lewis says:

"'But of one thing we were thoroughly convinced: whenever the system of representation shall be organized on the basis of membership of the Representative in the *accrediting* body, it will be of practical benefit to the Craft, although while the reverse is the custom, as at present it almost universally is, there is very little benefit and a good deal of humbug about it.'

"There is considerable humbug in the procurement of commissions—'If I am elected — I can get you a commission as the Representative of —, and I will do it!' The party is elected, and in due course a commission is received. We know of parties who have never been near the Grand Body since the presentation of the commission. Of others who are not even members of a subordinate body in the jurisdiction; of another who did not even present his commission in person, and has never been a member of, or even visited the Grand Body, but they are particular that their names should appear in print as Grand Representatives.

The whole system wants remodeling.

Number of Chapters.....	31
“ “ Exaltations.....	148
“ “ Members.....	1,396

Companion R. J. Marvin was made Grand High Priest, and Companion A. T. C. Pierson Grand Secretary.

NEBRASKA.

We have the proceedings of the Ninth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter held on the 16th November, 1875, M. E. Companion Charles T. Goodman Grand High Priest.

The address is entirely of local interest and concise.

At this Convocation was introduced a resolution requiring a Companion

elected to receive the degree of High Priest-hood before being installed, but "its consideration was indefinitely postponed" by Grand Chapter.

The Committee to whom was referred a case of grievance reported that there were involved in it two questions of Masonic Law :

1st. "Does the suspension or expulsion of a R. A. M. from his Lodge act as suspension or expulsion from the Chapter?" and

2d. "When a brother is re-instated by his Lodge or Grand Lodge, does that action re-instate him in his Chapter?" which was referred to a Special Committee which reported as follows and it was adopted :

"1. Does the expulsion or suspension of a Royal Arch Mason, by his Lodge, act as an expulsion or suspension from his Chapter?

"To which we answer :

"Such expulsion or suspension by the Lodge *ipso facto* destroys his Masonic standing in the Chapter.

"It seems to your committee that no reason for this opinion need be given.

"2. When a brother is re-instated by his Lodge, or by the Grand Lodge, does such action re-instate him in his Chapter?

"Your committee would say in response thereto that it depends in what manner such 're-instatement' is effected. If the re-instatement follows because of the reversal of the judgment of the subordinate Lodge, we are of opinion that his re-instatement in the Chapter also follows. If the re-instatement is by reason of his *pardon* by the Grand Lodge, or his being received upon his petition to the subordinate Lodge and election therein, your committee is of the opinion that a re-instatement effected in such a manner will not restore him to good standing in the Chapter. In the first instance, his restoration to all Masonic privileges follows because the sentence of disfranchisement is ascertained to be erroneous, and the decision of the Grand Lodge annuls it. In the second place the validity of the judgment pronounced is questioned, but by the grace of the Grand Body further punishment is remitted, but that will not restore him to his position in the Chapter."

No report on correspondence.

Number of Chapters on Roll.....	14
“ “ Exaltations.....	70
“ “ Members.....	609

Companion Goodman re-elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion William R. Bowen Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

We have the proceedings of the Convocation held on the 18th of May, 1875, W. E. Barrett, M. E. Grand High Priest. He says that the Craft

are in a gratifying condition, within the jurisdiction, and the report of the Grand officers would indicate the same.

From reading the report on disputed claim to jurisdiction by two Chapters, we are led to believe that we reviewed these proceedings last year, but having misplaced in some way our last report, we are not able to verify the impression, nor have we time to obtain a copy of our last report.

The report on Correspondence is by Companion Nathan P. Hunt, and is a valuable resume of the proceedings reviewed.

Number of Chapters.....	18
“ “ Exaltations.....	104
“ “ Members.....	2,091

Companion Barrett declined re-election, whereupon Companion John D. Patterson was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion John A. Harris, Grand Secretary.

NEW JERSEY.

At a very late period and after we had abandoned all idea of seeing the proceedings of this Grand Chapter they came to us certified to by the almost undecypherable chirography of the inimitable Thomas J. Corson, conveying to us the intelligence that the Twentieth Annual Convocation was held on the 13th September, 1876, amid harmony and concord among the Craft in that Institution. M. E. Companion Frederick G. Wiese, Grand High Priest, presided and delivered an address which might be accepted as a pattern by many others. It is pertinent to the matter in hand, and is what it was designed these addresses should be, a concise report of the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in New Jersey and of his acts during the recess of the Grand Chapter. Sometimes we find but little of these acts and a lengthy disquisition on the history and beauties of Masonry in the addresses. This may furnish agreeable reading to those whose taste run that way, but are hardly what was designed or expected when the rule requiring these reports was adopted. We dare believe that we will be chastised, abused, “*lambasted*,” &c., for these remarks, but the thoughts are ours, and we could not help expressing them. We are delighted to find such a decided expression of our own sentiments from a M. E. as the following, and somewhat surprised to see nothing about the prerogatives of that high official :

“Twice during the year I have been solicited to grant a dispensation to receive a petition to elect the candidate and confer the degrees of the

Chapter upon him before the time required by their By-Laws had elapsed, both of which I refused, giving as my opinion that a Grand High Priest has no inherent right to set aside a By-Law of a Chapter when the same is a proper Masonic law and does not interfere with the Constitution or General Regulations of the Grand Chapter."

We crave the indulgence of our Companions if we give another extract from this admirable address :

"And now, my Companions, while to all human appearance the present condition of the Royal Craft is eminently gratifying, let us remember that Masonry is progressive. As it is in the first degrees, so it is with those of the Chapter. The Master Mason is exhorted to a continual work. He is taught to regard himself as a builder. But this is impressed with greater force upon the mind of the Royal Arch Mason. *He* is taught that the end of his labor is only attained in the finished temple, which is built upon the ruins of the old; that the future life, erected upon the ruins of the present, is the object of his toil; and that his highest reward is to be received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master indeed. But to accomplish this he cannot be satisfied with present attainments. He must continue his search for hidden and buried treasures until his toils are rewarded in being admitted within the vails into the Holy of Holies. Fidelity to the lessons inculcated by our sublime degrees; the enactment of them in our daily lives; the exemplification of them especially to those who are without; cannot but make us a blessing to ourselves and to the world. That only is progressive Masonry which enables us daily to become brighter Masons and better men."

The business was routine and promptly attended to.

Companion Corson, whom we had mourned as dead, having seen the announcement of the death of a Thomas J. Corson two or three months since in a newspaper, and we did not think there could be but one, and that one himself, presented the report on Correspondence. We cannot imagine how the proceedings from New Jersey would look without his report. It is just what might be expected of him—filled "with brilliant corruscations (that's the word, ain't it?) of blinding wit," as he terms his own reports, and surely the man that makes them ought to know. We find Alabama with the most of the family and kind and pleasant words has he for her, though he may be just a little ironical towards your reporter.

All through the report we find him fighting vigorously against "perpetual jurisdiction" of a rejected candidate by the Chapter rejecting him.

Below we give and endorse his views in relation to the retention of a Representative by one Grand Chapter after it had been notified that he was repugnant to the Grand High Priest of another :

"We have nothing whatever to do with personal considerations in this

matter; we don't know, and we don't care, what were the reasons which led to the request being made to have the commission of the offensive Representative withdrawn. We contend that every Grand Chapter—and the Grand High Priest and his Associate Grand officers are, *de facto* and *de jure*, the Grand Chapter during the interim of its meetings—has the inherent right either to refuse to receive any Companion whom it does not wish to accept in that capacity, and that it has just as good a right to request or demand the recall of the commission of any Representative of another Grand Chapter when that Representative may have become objectionable to the Grand Body to which he has been accredited. If our Minister to England should become objectionable and obnoxious to the Court of St. James, would our Government undertake to keep him there after a request had been made to have him recalled? Certainly not. Nor is any Grand Chapter bound to have a Representative fastened upon it who does not give satisfaction to that Grand Body. The Grand Chapter of the District should, in our opinion, withdraw the exequatur of the Representative of the Grand Chapters of Canada and Nova Scotia who has become disqualified to properly perform the functions of his office by reason of the state of feeling existing between him and the members of the Grand Body to which he has been accredited; and then courteously, but firmly, inform the Grand Chapters of Canada and Nova Scotia that it will not receive him as Representative. Similar difficulty may arise in other jurisdictions, and it is well that the principles of appointment, reception, retention, and removal of Representatives should be clearly and distinctly defined.

Number of Chapters.....	33
“ “ Exaltations.....	229
“ “ Members.....	2,718

Companion Edward Goeller was elected M. E. Grand High Priest and Thomas J. Corson, Grand Secretary.

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-Ninth Convocation was held on February 1st, 1876, M. E. Joseph B. Chaffee Grand High Priest.

The address shows that prosperity and harmony prevail. We agree with the M. E. Grand High Priest in his decisions and quote one of them because it enunciates our views so frequently expressed. To be sure, the terms, “dropped from the roll,” and “suspended” appear different, while the effect of each is almost the same. We have always held that no Mason should be deprived of any of his Masonic rights without trial by his peers, and judgment rendered. We have also held that “suspended,” as used for non-payment of dues is not the term as used in the O. B., but having no other signification than is conveyed by the term “dropped from the rolls,” yet we know that the majority is against our opinion—and we find that absence and poverty instead of awakening in us feelings

of kindness and sympathy, instead of opening the doors of our hearts are to steel us against all kind feelings, all expressions of Masonic sympathy. The ruling was endorsed by the Grand Chapter:

"4. That when a companion has been dropped from the roll of his Lodge for non-payment of dues only, such action does not deprive him of his general standing as a Mason, but only of his rights of membership in his Lodge, hence his relations to his Chapter remain unimpaired and subject only to the provisions of its own by-laws."

From a resolution introduced into the Grand Chapter it appears that some of the Chapters within the jurisdiction must have been "communicating," not "conferring" the degrees. This method may have pleased an indolent High Priest, but not one who either had intelligence or ambition.

"*Resolved*, That the degrees of Capitular Masonry must be *conferred* in Chapters under this jurisdiction, and not *communicated*; and any Chapter violating this regulation is liable to charges, and, on proof of the commission of the offense, the warrant of the offending Chapter shall be declared forfeited in accordance with the provisions of Section 45 of the Constitution."

Elsewhere, in the report on correspondence, we learn from Companion Ogden, Chairman, that the work in New York is the true work, and "that from Montauk Point to Lake Erie it is almost universally *worked* in the true genuine way." However, Companion Ogden had written his report before the resolution, which tells a different tale, was introduced.

Companion Ogden made an excellent report on correspondence, giving Alabama a kind review. Under California he says as follows:

"Is Companion Wiggin sure he is right, when he says Masonry is a "*progressive*" institution? We have, somehow, an idea that it is a very fixed affair, with landmarks, old and well settled; doubtless there are a good many fast men and progressive people in California, but they can't progress Masonry much, and she retain her identity and be the same institution everywhere else the world over, as she is in California. The truth is, Masonry is a finished institution, and has been so for a long time, and in form, spirit, and work, has but little to do with the rapid action and progressive motions of the people who live in the Golden State, or any other State or country."

The question of the force of objection, after ballot, is occupying much of the attention of the writer, hence, we copy his views:

"What will Companion Ogden say to this? A brother objected to the advancement of a candidate, and, on investigation, it was found that the

objection was based upon mere rumor, and the rumor vanished into 'thin air.' How could these facts have been ascertained if no one had a right to question the objector?"

"We say just this to it: That any Companion who made objection upon mere rumor would withdraw it at once when the rumor had vanished into thin air.' We have never said that no one had a right to question the objector. On the contrary, we think that any Companion has a right to question him, and ascertain whether the objection is valid, or to ascertain whether it cannot be removed. What we do say and think is, that you may not force the objecting member to withdraw his objection, or to yield his right, only as he does it voluntarily—which he would do in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred if satisfied that he was mistaken. Our view of the question is this: if a Companion is present and votes, and the ballot is clear, he is foreclosed from objecting without stating the grounds; but that a Companion *not* present may, as a Masonic right, interpose an objection at any time, and demand a ballot before further progress is made."

"Companion Ogden has never tasted of the sweets of this, our centennial paternal government in the South, else he could not have written as he has in his conclusion. We all, though pressed by the heel of almost tyranny; though bayonets gleam on every hand; though all the tax-gatherers are aliens to our people; look to the benign influences of Masonry to aid in kindling in the hearts of all a feeling that we, too, under these Southern skies are brethren. We heartily wish we could truthfully, with him, say:

"It is a free country; civil liberty is guaranteed to all; religious toleration and the exercise of free thought and rightful action unquestioned the birthright of every citizen."

Number of Chapters.....	273
" " Exaltations.....	1,226
" " Members.....	18,875

Companion J. B. Chaffee, was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Fox Grand Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 5th June A. L. 2406, A. D. 1876.

R. E. Thomas S. Kenan D. Grand High Priest, acting as M. E. Grand High Priest, the Grand High Priest Companion Thomas W. Dewey, having passed from the labors on the earthly temple to refreshment in the "temple not made with hands eternal in the heavens" on the 4th August, 1875, to whose memory a fitting tribute is paid by the acting High Priest. The address says:

"After eliminating the facts contained in these replies, I think unmistakable evidence is furnished to justify the conclusion, that our present condition of apathy may be traced, first, to the condition of the country, and second, to the want of skill in the work by officers of Chapters, and a want of knowledge of the philosophy of the Chapter degrees.

"The first of these causes should not be an obstacle. It is true the financial embarrassment of our people is almost universal, but remember that we have only to do our whole duty, and humbly trust to the Providence of Him, who doeth all things well."

He recommends a study into the philosophical import of the degrees as a means of making them attractive to the intelligent, and a study of the ritual to make them agreeable to all. He recommends the accumulation of a Masonic library by all Chapters. This is a right step and would doubtless make our Sanctuaries more attractive and insure fuller attendance.

Below we give the report of a committee concurred in by the Grand Chapter. The principle enunciated at the close is the true one :

"The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the resolution, introduced by Companion M. M. Katz, in regard to the enactment of a requirement, compelling the preferring of charges against one, who has been once elected and received part of the degrees and estopped, beg leave to report that the same has had due consideration, and recommend that it do not pass. We hold that it is contrary to the usage of the Craft and against the policy of our Order, as evidenced by abundant legislation and immemorial precedent, to require that any one should disclose his ballot or declare how he voted."

The report on correspondence is by Companion Southgate, full and complete.

Number of Chapters.....	22
" " Exaltations.....	42
" " Members.....	842

Companion Kenan was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion D. W. Bain Grand Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Sixth Annual Convocation was held on 1st June, A. D. 1875.

M. E. Companion Sircom M. E. Grand High Priest.

We learn from the address that the Royal Craft are not idle in that jurisdiction, and that there is a prospect of a complete union of all the Chapters in Nova Scotia under this Grand Chapter, two still working un-

der charters from the Grand Chapter of Scotland. One of these made overtures for junction at this Convocation.

We are somewhat at a loss, however, to account for one fact given us by the M. E. Grand High Priest as observed by him during his visitation among his subordinates. He examined very carefully their records and in each instance gives a table of statistics. Among these we find that one Chapter somehow held a meeting with seven only. We have been taught that not less than nine constituted a legal Chapter. He gives maximum attendance fourteen, minimum *seven*. Will the chairman on correspondence tell us how that is?

We copy his estimate of the value of printed proceedings and correspondence as follows:

"The custom now so universally adopted of printing the proceedings of each Grand Chapter, together with the reports of Committees on Foreign Correspondence, and transmitting copies to sister jurisdictions, has resulted most beneficially to the whole Order, and I firmly believe it has done more in bringing about the present uniformity in the administrative affairs of the Royal Craft, and also of drawing more closely together its members in fraternal union, than could have been accomplished by any other means.

"Those of you who have the good fortune to read these proceedings, could not have failed in finding them both interesting and instructive; the many hours I have thus spent have been amongst the most delightful and profitable ones since my connection with this important branch of Freemasonry."

Companion Gossip made the correspondence report in quite a chatty *gossiping* style. He speaks well of our High Priest's address in 1874 but noting that the committee on work had reported on the opening and closing ceremonies of the M. E. M. and R. A. degrees which was received and concurred in he says:

"We fail, however, to find any further reference to the matter. For information we would have been pleased to have seen the substance of the report, which might have been given in a manner that would not have been a violation of the rules of propriety," &c., &c.

Now we are at a loss to conceive how any further mention could have been made without giving the esoteric work of the degrees which would doubtless have been a "violation of the rules of propriety." In Alabama however we hold that all the degrees of the Chapter are Chapter work and require not less than nine regular R. A. Masons to be present; we cannot work with seven as we find is sometimes done in Nova Scotia.

In his opinion that "suspension from a Blue Lodge *should not* necessa-

rily entail a similar punishment in the Chapter *without due trial and conviction by the Chapter* we see the same desire which we once before thought we discovered elsewhere, to make this branch of Masonry independent of that which it is thought right to speak of as below it. Our own opinion is that with the "Blue Lodge" the building is complete and that all else are only ornaments to it, not necessary tho' beautifying and enriching it. Hence if the building fall or be destroyed what becomes of the cornices? capstones? and ornaments?

Number of Chapters.....	6
" " Exaltations.....	32
" " Members.....	265

The same officers re-elected.

OHIO.

Of the Grand Chapter of this State the proceedings of the Sixtieth Annual Convocation is before us, Companion Reuben C. Lemmon M. E. Grand High Priest.

In this large jurisdiction harmony generally prevailed, but some members of one of the Chapters "Oriental" claim the *right* to peddle ritual printed, &c. The M. E. Grand High Priest properly ordered the actively offending member to be put on trial and the Chapter finding him guilty, but assessing inadequate punishment, the Grand High Priest suspended the charter, and reported the whole matter to the Grand Chapter which was referred to the committee on jurisprudence, who made the following report, which was adopted:

"In the matter of the interdict of work in Oriental Chapter, No. 128, your committee approve the action of the M. E. Grand High Priest, but a number of the Companions of said Chapter have been before your committee, and from their representations we feel assured that the offense, on the part of the Chapter, was more of the head than of the heart, but as intelligence, not less than honesty, is necessary to the successful management of a subordinate Chapter, your committee recommend that so soon as the M. E. Grand High Priest shall be satisfied that said Chapter can safely be intrusted with all the interests of Royal Arch Masonry, he remove said interdict, but in such removal they also recommend care."

Companion William L. Buechner, from committee on correspondence, made the report. Of Alabama he writes courteously and fraternally. He is no advocate of the representative system, yet we are able to state, from our experience in another position of responsibility, that a repre-

sentative may be made useful when needed, and to some extent we have been obliged to modify our views.

He can't agree with companion Southgate that a charter may be at home or burned and still be valid in a Lodge or Chapter hall. He thinks that from these reports on correspondence sounder views of Masonic law are obtained than elsewhere, and that they tend to producing greater uniformity in ruling than might be produced by any other method. Indeed we are of opinion that with the single exception of work they stand in the place of the Grand Chapter and are calculated to effect all that can be effected by it except confer titles.

We quote his views on suspension for non-payment of dues, because they are ours, though we agree with Companion Drummond that the effect suspension for non-payment of dues in the Lodge must have such effect in the Chapter as the Grand Lodge may decree it shall have in the Lodge. We mean that if the Grand Lodge shall declare that suspension for non-payment of dues even without trial shall work a forfeiture of all Masonic rights, the member must stand expelled in his Chapter:

"Our law in Ohio is very similar to that of California, but we think it wrong. Suspension is a Masonic penalty, and no penalty should be inflicted upon a Mason without a fair trial and due conviction. Non-payment of dues is certainly a Masonic offense. If a Mason is guilty of it, prefer charges, try and convict him; any thing short of a trial that we might be in favor of, is striking his name from the roll of members, and the payment of his dues should then restore him, without any further action of the Masonic body, to which he belonged."

We are glad to see that under Iowa he expresses sentiments fully in accord with our own, that although Masonry teaches temperance as one of the cardinal virtues, it neither undertakes to become a part of the Teetotal movement or of the vegetarian. On this subject he says:

"We would like to see this temperance question banished from our lodge-rooms as much as politics or religion; it has nothing to do there. Every Mason should be a temperate man, and we repel the charge of our fanatical, one-idea total abstinence men, that he who is not for them is against them, as unfraternal and untrue. We claim to be as strong a temperance man as they are, but differ how best to accomplish the end. Temperance preachers and temperance societies have, for the last thirty years, spent time and money in vain. What good has the senseless crusade done in our own State? It has done nothing for temperance; it has frequently separated old friends; has embittered man against man. Begun in a Christian spirit, it was soon conducted in a spirit of vengeance and persecution, and ended, as every sensible man predicted, as a farce.

"Try and elevate mankind to a higher standpoint of morality and you will check intemperance."

We will tell our Companion that in this jurisdiction the representatives of Chapters are not paid either per diem or mileage, and yet our subordinates are very well represented. We fully agree with him that it is perhaps indiscreet to pay either. He is opposed to paying, yet the Grand Chapter of Ohio pays both:

"We have for years been opposed to paying mileage and per diem out of the treasuries of the Grand Bodies. Let either the delegates pay their expenses out of their own pocket, or let the subordinate bodies, to which they belong, pay them. Under the present arrangements a certain number of good, healthy, vigorous chapters have almost to bear the whole burden of expenses in the Grand Chapter, when quite a number of sickly chapters, that should never have been created, draw out two or three times as much as they pay in, and that year after year. That is all wrong. Let them pay the expenses of their delegates, and if they have not life enough in them, let them die, the sooner the better for Capitular Masonry."

Number of Chartered Chapters.....	141
" " Exaltations.....	504
" " Members.....	8,597

Companion Lemmon was re-elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion James Nesbitt Grand Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The Quarterly Convocation held on 4th November, 1875, may almost be said to have been a Lodge of sorrow, for at it the announcement was made of the death of three Past Grand officers to whose memory suitable tablets were inscribed.

The Annual Convocation was held on 27th December, 1875, when Companion Andrew Robeno, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered his closing address, and Companion George E. Wagner, who had been elected at the preceding Quarterly Convocation, was installed M. E. Grand High Priest.

The system prevailing in this jurisdiction of Grand visitations, though at some cost to the Grand Chapter, must be productive of an immense amount of good to the craft.

Companion Wm. J. Kelly again made the report on correspondence, and among the proceedings reviewed we find those of Alabama for 1874. Companion K. does not agree with our Grand High Priest when he decided that amendments or changes in by-laws of subordinate Chapters

need not be submitted to the Grand Chapter for approval. The report is fully up to Companion Kelly's reputation in these matters and bears unmistakable evidence of the free use of scissors.

In this Jurisdiction are 98 Chapters, with a membership of 9,830.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

We have before us the proceedings of the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on 15th February, A. D. 1876, Companion August Smythe, M. E. Grand High Priest. From his address we quote :

"I have but little to report concerning the Craft in this Jurisdiction, save to renew my congratulations at the continued and unbroken harmony which prevails. The partial failure of the crops throughout the State has had its effect upon Masonry, as upon every institution among us, but the reports that come to me justify me in the conclusion, that notwithstanding the financial difficulties, a quiet prosperity and steady growth prevail. No trouble has arisen, nor have I been called upon to hear, much less decide upon, any case of grievance, nor are there any matters that I know of, of appeal to this Grand Body. This alone is cause for great satisfaction. With foreign jurisdictions our intercourse has been uninterrupted and harmonious, with naught to mar our friendly relations."

The Committee on the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, after endorsing the report, say :

"It is to be regretted that all the jurisdictions have not foreign correspondence, as it tends to bring us nearer to each other, but we hope in another year this will be remedied, and that we will be in communication with them all."

The committee appointed at the previous Convocation to make a report on the best method of producing uniformity of work, made a very lengthy report. In it we think we see that there is almost an impossibility in producing absolute uniformity. Doubtless it were well, even desirable, could it be produced, uniformity in the essentials—in the lessons and moral precepts taught, and in the modes and manner of producing these impressions, and enforcing these lessons, is essential, but we opine that the effort is to produce verbal uniformity. This is impossible so long as there is a diversity in the minds of the several High Priests. Nor do we think it desirable, believing as we do, that the mere repetition by note, will, in many instances, deprive the whole scheme of the beauties, and strength, and value of the instruction. We do not know how the Grand Chapter expected to accomplish its object, though we give below the reso-

lutions, so far as published, adopted by it on this subject, stars and all :

"Resolved 1st, That the work and lectures heretofore adopted, be referred to the Grand Council and Custodians, with authority to revise, or make optional any part thereof, with a view of conforming said work to the best standard for practical use, and of preserving the structure of Capitular Masonry intact.

"Resolved, 2d, That for the purpose of communicating to the Subordinate Chapters the work and lectures, as authorized and ordered in the foregoing resolution, the Grand Council be requested and are hereby authorized to proceed at once to carry out the succeeding resolutions, which resolutions, numbered 3, 4, 5 and 6, are hereby ordered to be omitted from the printed proceedings; and that the Grand High Priest be instructed to draw on the Grand Treasurer for the amount necessary to execute the provisions of the said resolutions."

* * * * *

Companion M. B. Moses made the report on correspondence, reviewing the proceedings from Alabama for 1874, and calling us Palmer G. Pillans. How long, Oh, Lord, how long shall I submit to this misprinting of my name ?

Nevertheless, a very excellent report follows, showing care in selection, and what we think the Craft desire rather than extensive lucubrations of our own.

Number of Chapters making return.....	29
Number exalted.....	92
Number of members.....	948

Companion William K. Blake was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Moses Grand Secretary.

TENNESSEE.

M. E. Companion Wilbur F. Foster, Grand High Priest, opened this annual Convocation in ample form, on 11th November, 1875.

The following may find an application in our own Jurisdiction, and its suggestion may as well be heeded here as in our neighboring Grand Chapter limits :

"The information obtained by letters received from various parts of this Jurisdiction, together with such personal visits as I have had the opportunity of making to Subordinate Chapters, lead me to think, that while all matters connected with Capitular Masonry in this State, are harmonious and peaceful, yet there is a certain apathy, and a lack of interest and activity, which should be overcome, if possible. I know of no remedy, except by a system of visitation, which shall arouse the mem-

bership to a prompt attendance upon Stated Convocations, give such instruction as may be necessary to the officers, and re-awaken the interest of all in the teachings, history and ritual of the Chapter Degrees. It is for the Grand Chapter to decide what steps, if any, shall be taken in that direction."

The question of what number constitutes a quorum the Grand High Priest invokes the Grand Chapter to settle:

"A question has arisen as to what number constitutes a legal quorum, for the transaction of business of any kind, in a Royal Arch Chapter, and the opinion of the Grand High Priest was given in correspondence with Edgefield Chapter, No. 75, in favor of requiring the presence of at least nine members of a Chapter, before business of any kind be transacted therein. The necessity for the presence of at least nine Royal Arch Masons, is of course unquestioned; but whether those nine must all be members of the Chapter which is about to be opened, is a question, which, I think, the Grand Chapter should decide."

We incline to the opinion that nine members of a Chapter are necessary and that our Grand Chapter rules this way. The committee on jurisprudence reported:

"II. Upon the question as to what number constitutes a legal quorum we think that for all purposes save that of balloting for candidates, dealing with the financial affairs of the Chapter in any way whatever, recommending petitions for new Chapters, and altering or amending By-Laws, nine Royal Arch Masons, whether exclusively members or not, are sufficient."

Which was re-committed to be reported upon to the next Annual Convocation. We are glad to see that the question: Whether a dimit conditioned upon subsequent payment of arrearages can be acted on or entertained by a Chapter. Our own opinion has always been that when a Lodge or Chapter grants a dimit or authorises a dimit upon the member putting himself clear of the books—it does wrong, and that the member is not dimitted until he does clear himself. But suppose he does not, what is his status? Shall the members refuse to recognise him as still belonging to the Chapter? and the High Priest to allow him to vote? And can he be suspended for non-payment of dues accumulating after that time?

There is no report on correspondence.

Number of Chapters.....	115
“ “ Exaltations.....	118
“ “ Members.....	3,788

Companion A. S. Curry was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion John Frizzell Grand Secretary.

TEXAS.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 3rd June, 1875, with Companion W. K. McAlpin M. E. Grand High Priest in the chair. The Grand High Priest says of the Craft:

"We meet to-day, Companions, under favorable auspices. Peace and prosperity still mark the progress of Royal Arch Masonry in Texas. It is true there is but little increase in the number of subordinate Chapters, and it is not a thing to be desired that they should multiply rapidly. Yet those in existence, with very few exceptions, are quietly and prosperously pursuing 'the even tenor of their way,' with no disturbing elements to produce discord and confusion among the workmen."

We are pleased to see so much conservatism in a Grand High Priest as is evinced in the following extracts from the address. Most High Priests claim to occupy positions analogous to Grand Masters and the right to exercise similar powers, while we doubt if there be any powers in either as now constituted, not actually conferred by the Constitutions:

"I have had applications from several Chapters for special dispensation to hold elections for officers at other times than that fixed by the Constitution; these, of course, I declined to grant; but took occasion to remind the petitioners that the Constitution prescribes the time for the election of officers in subordinate Chapters and the Grand High Priest cannot fix a different time; and in case of failure to elect at that time, the Constitution prescribes who shall continue to be the officers, and the Grand High Priest cannot provide for a different set of officers."

"Chapter No. — located at San Antonio, at their meeting in December, ascertaining that their High Priest, King and Scribe, would all be absent at the time of their stated meeting in January, when officers for the ensuing year should be elected, and there being no Past High Priest of their Chapter that could be present, to open and preside, instructed their Secretary to apply to me for a special Dispensation, authorizing Companion E. L. Beaumont, P. H. P. of Gonzalez Chapter, No. 51, to open their Chapter at the time of their stated meeting in January, and preside at the election. This I declined to grant, doubting whether I had the power, and believing that no one could properly open the Chapter and preside except an officer who was in corporeal and *de jure* possession of the charter. In this and similar cases, I proceeded upon the theory that the Grand High Priest, unlike a Grand Master, is possessed of no inherent powers, and can exercise only such powers and authority as may be conferred on him by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Chapter."

The Grand Chapter demands its dues in specie, having once been

burned, it dreads the fire, and value of currency, say the committee on finance, "depends on the will of Congress and the power of production of printing presses." *Their heads are level.*

Companion Robert M. Elgin made the correspondence report reviewing all but two Grand Chapter proceedings curtly and courteously. We accept his apology for giving us a misnomer, and hope we may be able to accept and improve his terms for settlement but "*quien sabe.*"

Number of Chapters.....	111
" " Making Returns.....	101
" " Exaltations.....	431
" " Members.....	4,022

Companion W. N. Swain was elected M. E. Grand High Priest and Companion R. Brewster continued Grand Secretary.

VERMONT.

The Fifty-Ninth Annual Convocation on 29th September, 1875, John W. Clark M. E. Grand High Priest.

We copy from the address the following beautiful exhortation :

"Let us, Companions, make the virtues of our Order appear in acts, not in professions and in forms. May we not show in actions that Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols? Our daily walk in life must be influenced by the principles inculcated by the institution of Masonry. A mere knowledge of the principle will avail little, and association will not lessen or reduce in any measure our individual responsibility. It is a goodly thing to have a knowledge of our beautiful ritual, that we may impart to others therein that knowledge which they have a right to expect, but if the truths and principles inculcated by the teachings of our Order do not chalk the way of our feet to bring them parallel with our professions, then we have labored in vain, and spent our strength for nought. Let none expect to conceal his individuality from the inspector of our work, but let each be ready on the sixth hour of the sixth day of the week, to bring up his own work, while all are ready to lend a hand and to be a brother keeper. Let us so stimulate each other to good works that we may keep close up to the standard of our professions, then we shall see that godliness is profitable, and holiness to the Lord beautiful and necessary."

The report on correspondence is from the pen of Companion J. Monroe Poland giving a fair view of Capitular Masonry within other jurisdictions.

Number of Chapters on Roll.....	25
" " Exaltations.....	102
" " Members.....	1,804

Companion Edward S. Dana was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion William H. S. Whitcomb Grand Secretary.

VIRGINIA.

The Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 17th December A. D. 1875, M. E. B. M. Harris Grand High Priest presiding.

The Grand High Priest gives a happy picture of Capitular Masonry in that jurisdiction, as follows:

"COMPANIONS:—It should be with hearts welling up to overflowing with gratitude that we are again permitted to assemble in annual convocation with entire peace and harmony prevailing in capitular Masonry throughout our jurisdiction. The labors of the Grand High Priest for the past Masonic year have been light. No questions on law or usage, worthy to be called to your attention, have been presented to him for a decision, bearing evidence to the zeal, intelligence and good sense of the officers of your subordinate Chapters. This should be a source of cheerful congratulation to the Fraternity throughout the State, and especially to you who are called together to legislate for the good of the Order. It is as natural for human minds to differ on minor as it is for them to differ on questions of more vital importance, therefore the decision of all Masonic laws should be predicated on sound, practical common sense, religiously regarding the rights of all. It is generally those minor questions which give most trouble and annoyance. The exercise of a little common sense in their consideration would, in a large majority of cases, relieve the Grand High Priest of any participation in their construction."

Companion William B. Isaacs again made the report on correspondence and announces that this is his last, but we find that the Grand Chapter has no idea of losing him, but remembering the old song, "If you have a good thing keep it," passed a resolution highly complimentary, requesting him to withdraw his declination of the honor, so we will doubtless hear from him again.

He evidently don't care about embracing all as Masons regardless of "race, color, or previous condition." Hear him, the *italics* are his:

"We do not propose to restrict an honest expression of opinion on any subject which comes legitimately under the teachings of our Order. We have, however, a right to, and do question, as Masons, the propriety of embracing all "men of every *race* and *condition* under God's blue canopy," ignoring "*race, color* and *previous condition*." There is no mortal being having greater sympathy for the poor, deluded, ignorant freed-man than ourself, nor is there one who, as far as the means and abilities with which God has endowed him will allow, would more cheerfully aid them to a disenthralment—morally, physically and politically; *aye!* add *mentally* too, than ourself. But when we are asked to go on "until earth's millions shall stand in the presence of God" (on earth) "in their mind free and *EQUAL*," the teachings of nature, education and associa-

tion bid us revolt at the idea, but—the Grand Chapter of Arkansas appears, by a re-election, satisfied, and we say, "chacun a son gout."

Notwithstanding his argument, "which we give below, we yet entertain the opinion that no Mason, be he a Royal Arch or other *ought* to be suspended, and thus deprived of his Masonic status without trial and judgment of his brethren.

"We have never found a constitutional provision (there may be many—don't interrupt us) regulating the subject; hence it has *generally* been left to the good sense of the Subordinates to regulate it by by-laws. For a long time—from the foundation of the second Temple, when we were young—the payment of dues was regularly *expected*. In the event of failure for such a long period as to exhaust the patience of a Chapter, the penalty was "forfeiture of seat" or "membership;" but the time came when "we could'nt do as we used to could." The demands on our charity funds became so exacting, imperative and heavy, as to be embarrassing. Before that time the "travelling mendicant" was a curiosity—seldom knocking at our doors. Since the inauguration of steam as a motive power, they have become as thick as the leaves in Valombrosa. Then we were glad to see them, to sympathise with them, and send them on their way rejoicing. Now they are worse than were ever the flies or frogs in Egypt, and, we fear, in many instances, as little entitled to consideration as those flies or frogs. Thus times change.

"Time, that changes all, yet changes us in vain;
The body, not the mind;"

and, except in its fundamental principles, our Institution has changed too, and, "suspension" is substituted as a penalty in place of forfeiture of seat. A penalty rendered necessary by those, formerly, unusual demands, and the necessity for greater severity to make those birds sing who would'nt otherwise *fork over a note*."

Number of Chapters making Returns..... 28
" " Members..... 1,478

Companion William H Lambert was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and our aged friend Companion John Dove again Grand Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA.

The Fourth Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 12th November, 1874. M. E. Companion Thomas H. Logan's address was entirely of local interest but expressing opposition to placing this Grand Chapter within the control of the General Grand Chapter, and the committee on the address reported also adversely to that measure, which was adopted.

An Annual Convocation was also held on 11th November, 1875, coming in the same pamphlet, M. E. H. M. Gamble Grand High Priest.

The Grand Chapter resolved to have the proceedings published biennially.

Number of Chartered Chapters.....	17
“ “ Those Reporting.....	14
“ “ Exaltations.....	39
“ “ Members.....	497

Companion H. M. Gamble was re-elected Grand High Priest and Companion O. S. Long Grand Secretary.

WISCONSIN.

On the 15th of February 1876 was held the Twenty-Sixth Convocation of this Grand Chapter, M. E. Companion Jonathan H. Evans Grand High Priest. The High Priest says:

“We have abundant cause for congratulation upon the condition of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, not so much for an increase in numbers, but for the watchfulness and care that seems manifest in guarding the doors of our Chapters against the admission of unworthy material. With but few exceptions all the Chapters are working harmoniously, and with a reasonable degree of uniformity. The history of this Grand Chapter may not show such a rapid increase in subordinates as some of our sister Grand Jurisdictions, but for a healthful and substantial growth it will bear a favorable comparison with any. Fifty Chapters have been organized in this State, and all of them are at work; we have no surrendered charters to file among our Archives; proving that a cautious and conservative policy has always governed this Grand body in establishing Chapters only where there was a strong probability of their being well sustained.”

We heartily approve the effort made by the M. E. for eliminating all levity from the beautiful and instructive degrees in Royal Arch Masonry, and some things are so well said by him that we give the paragraph in full. The *italics* are ours:

“During my administration as your presiding officer, I have endeavored (and I believe with some degree of success) to eliminate those parasites of mirth and levity which in some of our Chapters are suffered to mar the beauty and sublimity of two important degrees of Capitular Masonry. Indeed, I find some Companions who believe that these excrescences are a part of the work and ritual which the candidate must necessarily endure before he can be permitted to see the glories of the inner sanctuary. I wish I could impress my Companions with the fact that there is nothing in the true work that would detract in the

least from the character of those conferring the degrees, or give offense to the most sensitive and refined mind in the person of a candidate. *Every step taken in the ladder of Masonry, from the lowest to the highest degree, is intended to convey to the mind of the candidate an important lesson in the most impressive manner; anything contrary to this principle will be found upon investigation to have no part or place in the work or ritual of any of the degrees.*"

At this Convocation the Grand Chapter of Colorado was recognized and fraternally greeted. And an effort which we believe and hope will be effectual in producing uniformity in work was made. It provides very stringent rules for making the instruction of the Grand Lecturer operative, and, if enforced, doubtless the desired result may be obtained and this *ignis fatuus* overtaken.

A resolution was adopted declaring all by-laws "disfranchising any member of a Chapter without due notice and trial are declared by this Grand Chapter to be unmasonic and of no force."

The Grand Chapter also recommends the abolition of affiliation fees.

Companion J. P. C. Cottrill again made the report on correspondence—reviewing among others Alabama.

We do not, as Companion Cottrill understood from our remarks, think that restoration in the Lodge *should* restore in the Chapter. This, however, is the ruling of our Grand Chapter. If, however, a brother be suspended by his Lodge, he is thereby also suspended in his Chapter and loses all Masonic standing, and is as if he never was a member. The action of the Lodge restores him to membership in it, but we do not see how this ought thereby to make the brother a member of a Chapter.

Companion Cottrill expresses the views which have impressed themselves upon us more forcibly, since we have been placed in the responsible position of Grand Master than ever before, and we have only been induced on some occasions to exercise the dispensing power because it has grown into the custom in our jurisdiction. But the more we have reflected upon it, the more it has impressed us that the "constitution, laws and edicts" of the Grand Lodge, and by parity of the Grand Chapter, are sufficient for the guidance of the Grand Officer as well as every member of the Craft. Under Maine he says:

"Three might be a quorum in a Master Mason's Lodge. He discusses the 'dispensary power' as he terms it, and is evidently against the whole business. We agree to this very decidedly. All the Grand Bodies of Masonry are controlled now-a-days by written constitutions. They rest no longer in parol, or upon tradition, but are plainly expressed in writing;

and when a written constitution prescribes a specific regulation, we do not believe that any officer ought to have power to alter it, even by dispensation. Companion Drummond would also favor the leaving out of the P. . M. . degree, if it did not, as he thinks, involve an overthrowing of the whole system as received from the fathers. We trust we have all due respect for the fathers—both Masonic and in the line of blood—but we could never see the necessity or utility of the P. . M. . degree as a Chapter degree. Mackey's explanation of it is a mere apology for having it at all. He admits that it is an apparent anomaly; and if it is an apparent anomaly, why should it be kept? For many years its practice has been strictly circumscribed by the General Grand Chapter, and by many State Grand Chapters, and we cannot see at all its use or its necessity in the Capitular system. It is well enough in its proper place, to be conferred upon Master's elect, to instruct them more thoroughly, and to place them under more obligations than otherwise they would be subjected to. But otherwise we cannot, after much reflection, deem it of sufficient importance to retain."

Number of Chapters.....	50
“ “ Exaltations.....	210
“ “ Members.....	2,891

Companion William C. Swain was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion John W. Woodhull Grand Secretary.

Companions, we have thus completed the task assigned us, and performed the duty which has given us pleasure and profit, and from the perusal of which, should you ever peruse it, we hope you may not get up disgusted, but instructed. We have written and clipped for you, Companions of this Grand Chapter, and with no particular desire to please others if you only may be satisfied. We have striven to let you see what others thought, not what our individual opinions may be, save in a few instances, and so long as our labor shall receive the plaudits of those of our own jurisdiction we shall be abundantly satisfied.

P. J. PILLANS,
Chairman.

GRAND SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 5, 1876.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

I herewith beg to submit to the Grand Chapter my report for the expiring Masonic year. The unexpended balance of the Contingent Fund, amounting to two hundred and sixty-six dollars and seventy-five cents, has been paid over into the hands of the Grand Treasurer.

All of which is fraternally and respectfully submitted.

DANIEL SAYRE,

Grand Secretary.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

In account with DANIEL SAYRE,

Grand Secretary.

1875.

CR.

Dec.	7.	By Dues at this Grand Convocation.....	\$ 908 00
"	20.	" Contingent Fund.....	500 00

BACK DUES.

" 31.	By Mount Moriah No. 19.....	\$ 22 50	
1876.			
Jan. 14.	" George D. Norris No. 91.....	13 50	
" 28.	" Lebanon No. 57.....	26 25	
Feb. 23.	" Tuskegee No. 43.....	14 25	
June 23.	" Talladega No. 23.....	20 25	96 75
			\$1,504 75
			10

1875.		DR.			
Dec. 20.	To paid	Grand Treasurer.....	908 00		
" "	" "	Tuscumbia No. 10.....	30 75		
1876.					
April 6.	" "	Printing proceedings.....	162 00		
" 17.	" "	Postage Stamps.....	30 00		
Aug. 25.	" "	Expressage from Notasulga.....	50		
Oct. 19.	" "	Silver Service Set for M. J. Greene.	100 00		
Nov. 14.	" "	Barrett & Brown.....	5 50		
" "	" "	Expressage.....	1 25		
" 28.	" "	Grand Treasurer.....	266 75	\$1,504 75	

MONTGOMERY, December 5, 1876.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

WILLIAM H. DINGLEY, GRAND TREASURER,

In account with the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

		DR.	
1875.			
Dec. 7.	To Balance.....	\$	666 20
" 20.	" Received of Grand Secretary.....		908 00
1876.			
Nov. 28.	" " " "	266 75	\$ 1,840 95
1875.		CR.	
Dec. 9.	By Committee on Work, L. W. Jenkins....	36	00
	" " " H. C. Armstrong..	28	00
	" " " J. H. Johnson.....	41	00
	" " Corres. P. J. Pillans.....	150	00
	" Grand Sentinel.....	15	00
	" Secretary.....	400	00
	" Treasurer.....	100	00
	" Secretary, Contingent fund.....	500	00
	" Balance on hand.....	570 95	\$ 1,840 95

MONTGOMERY, December 5th, 1876.

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 funds in the hands of the Grand Treasurer on the 28th November, 1876, amounted to.....\$1,840 95
 Expended up to December 9, 1876..... 1,270 00
 Leaving Balance on hand..... \$ 570 95
 Estimated Receipts at this Convocation..... 1,000 00

Estimated amount in the Treasury..... \$ 1,570 95

Your Committee recommend the following appropriations to meet the necessary expenses of the Grand Chapter, to-wit:

To Companion	Dingley, Grand Treasurer.....	\$ 100 00
“ “	Sayre, Grand Secretary.....	400 00
“ “	Pillans, Foreign Correspondence.....	150 00
“ “	Grand Secretary for Contingent fund...	400 00
		\$ 1,050 00

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. of Members.	Amount of Dues.	Advanced.....	Presided.....	Recd and Ack'd.	Exalted.....	Affiliated.....	Rejected.....	Dimitted.....
1	Tuscaloosa.....	35	26 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
5	Eunomia.....	27	20 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Clinton.....	16	27 00	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
10	Tuscumbia.....	39	29 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Gainesville.....	22	16 50	2	2	2	3	...	...	...
17	Wetumpka.....	14	10 50	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
19	Mount Moriah.....	28	21 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
20	Livingston.....	24	18 00	2	2	2	2	...	...	1
21	Mobile.....	41	30 75	3	3	3	3	...	...	7
22	Montgomery.....	56	42 00	4	4	4	5	2	1	3
23	Talladega.....	28	21 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
24	Eufaula.....	28	21 00	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
25	Courtland.....	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Union.....	16	12 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Saint Johns.....	53	39 75	10	10	10	10	5	4	9
30	James Penn.....	28	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2
32	Fulton.....	11	8 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	James L. Daniel.....	17	12 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Concord.....	25	18 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	Camden.....	26	19 50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	Tuskegee.....	20	15 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	Choctaw.....	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
57	Lebanon.....	40	30 00	5	6	4	3	...	...	...
64	Central.....	12	9 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	Russell.....	24	24 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
66	Alabama.....	37	27 75	5	3	3	3	5	...	4
67	Farriorville.....	13	9 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
70	Choctaw Corner.....	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
71	Landmark.....	42	31 50	2	2	3	3	...	...	3
72	Midway.....	16	12 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
73	Gordon.....	25	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3

NAMES AND NUMBERS OF CHAPTERS—CONTINUED.

Number.....	Names of Chapters.	No. of Members.	Amount of Dues.	Advanced.....	Presided.. ..	Rec'd and Ack'd.	Exalted.....	Affiliated.....	Rejected.....	Dimitted.....
76	Elyton.....	17	12 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
80	Loachapoka.....	14	10 50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
81	Jefferson.....	33	24 25	...	...	...	3	...	...	1
83	Bell.....	16	12 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
85	Gaston.....	26	19 50	2	2	2	2	2	...	1
87	Moulton.....	26	17 25	2	3	3	3	...	...	...
91	George D. Norris.....	15	11 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
93	Columbus.....	17	12 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
96	Daniel Pratt.....	25	18 75	1	1	1	3	...	...	...
98	Oxford.....	20	15 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
99	Thomas M. Bragg.....	18	20 00	3	3	3	3	...	...	...
100	Rock Mills.....	30	22 50	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
102	Cross Plains.....	24	18 00	3	2	2	3	...	...	...

AT REST.

“After Life’s Fitful Fever, They Sleep Well.”

James W. Strudwick, March 20.....	Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1
Edward B. Bramson, May 23.....	Eufaula.....	“ 24
Joseph C. Baker, March 14.....	Courtland.....	“ 25
Robert Christian, May 14.....	Union.....	“ 26
Michael Fitzgerald, June 7.....	Saint John’s.....	“ 28
Julius C. Mitchell, February.....	James L. Daniel.....	“ 35
John W. L. Daniel, August 30.....	Midway.....	“ 72
Edward H. Ward, December 29 '75. }	Gaston.....	“ 85
George S. White, April 4..... }		
George W. Nummy, October 21....	Daniel Pratt.....	“ 96
Oliver H. P. Walker, July 15.....	Thomas M. Bragg.....	“ 99

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

—♦—

TUSCALOOSA No. 1.—Adkins Cain, Thomas J. Durrett, Leonidas F. Burkes, William H. Shepherd, Henry L. Woods—5.

EUNOMIA No. 5.—J. R. Slaughter, A. A. Baker, W. D. Humphry, T. S. McCalley, M. A. Miller, J. C. Steele, J. B. Trotman, B. C. ————8.

CLINTON No. 9.—Myer Goldsmith, Robert A. Wilson, Martin Stanton, Nicholas D. Richardson, William W. Phillips—5.

LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Lewis Parrent, George Wilson, Isaac James Lee, Ezekiel S. Gully, Lemuel F. Whitehead, Zachariah Tureman, Reuben H. Arrington, Berryman Hawkins, Boanerges C. Hunter—9.

MOBILE No. 21.—Joseph B. Garner—1.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—William B. Hughes, Coleman B. Ferrill, John T. McGuire—3.

EUFULA No. 24.—Thomas Cargile, Patrick O'Byrn—2.

COURTLAND No. 25.—William S. Bankhead, Malcom J. Gilchrist, Samuel T. Torrian, Thomas J. Graham, John H. Houston—5.

SAINT JOHN'S No. 28.—William P. Becker, A. J. Goodwin, Samuel W. John, Edwin H. Nash—4.

CAMDEN No. 40.—E. H. Cook, John T. Cook—2.

CHOCTAW No. 44.—D. H. Smith, Walter D. Campbell, James R. Mills, A. M. Stroud—4.

ALABAMA No. 66.—Crawford Blackwood—1.

FARRIORVILLE No. 67.—Thomas J. Williams—1.

LANDMARK No. 71.—Robert R. Harwell, John W. Simmons, Edward Bachelor, John Hatton—4.

MIDWAY No. 72.—Daniel Feagin, Charles H. Jernigan—2.

GORDON No. 73.—John M. Hudspeth, Joseph W. Guilford, John H. Davis, Britton Searcy, Doctor W. Roach, James Alexander, Daniel Riley—7.

BELL No. 83.—Moses Kemp—1.

MOULTON No. 87.—William H. Hill, Jacob A. Dukeminier, Henry L. Boothe, William E. Mabry, Lee F. Whitten—5.

GEORGE D. NORRIS No. 91.—Joseph M. Hambrick, Richard H. Taliaferro, J. Duckett—3.

THOMAS M. BRAGG No. 99.—Pinckney A. Tatum—1.

REINSTATED.

EUNOMIA No. 5.—James B. White—1.

MOBILE No. 21.—Newtown Fitz—1.

JAMES PENN No 30.—Benjamin S. Evins—1.

JAMES L. DANIEL No. 35.—John W. Sheeley, Daniel Bradley, Reuben Y. Langston—3.

CAMDEN No. 40.—William A. George, John T. Pritchett, Neill McArthur—3.

CHOCTAW No. 44.—Thomas Bomer—1.

ELYTON No. 76.—A. Wright Godwin, John Acton, Andrew J. Cross, Alfred Griffin, Samuel W. Acton. William P. Hickman—6.

GASTON No. 85.—Isaac R. McElroy, William Y. Peteet, Needham W. Cannady, Joseph C. Woodward, William H. Evington, Nathaniel A. Gilmore, Henry T. Lindsay—7.

COLUMBUS No. 93.—Outlaw Alexander, Daniel C. Hunt—2.

SUSPENDED FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

Leonard W. Harmon.....Concord.....No. 37.

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that made returns.....	44
Chapters that paid dues.....	39
Chapters that were represented.....	32
Members reported at this Convocation.....	1120*
Estimated membership not reported.....	225—1345
Dues received at this Grand Convocation.....	\$768 00

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced	48
Presided.....	43
Received and Acknowledged.....	43
Exalted.....	50
Affiliated.....	15
Rejected.....	6
Dimitted.....	54
Died.....	11
Expelled.....	0
Suspended for unmasonic conduct.....	1
Suspended N. P. D.....	73
Reinstated.....	25

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

Chapters square upon the Books.....	32
Chapters under Dispensation.....	0
Chapters Delinquent.....	15
Charters forfeited.....	56

Whole number at the end of the year.....103

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 1876.

DELINQUENT IN DUES.

Cyrus.....	No. 6	Danville.....	No. 78
Choctaw.....	“ 44	Greenville.....	“ 90
Clayton.....	“ 63	Cowikee.....	“ 94
Choctaw Corner.....	“ 70	Warrior.....	“ 103

DELINQUENT IN REPRESENTATION.

Cyrus.....	No. 6	Midway.....	No. 72
Gainesville.....	“ 13	Danville.....	“ 78
Mount Moriah.....	“ 19	Greenville.....	“ 90
James L. Daniel.....	“ 35	Cowikee.....	“ 94
Choctaw.....	“ 44	Oxford.....	“ 98
Lebanon.....	“ 57	Thomas M. Bragg.....	“ 99
Clayton.....	“ 63	Warrior.....	“ 103
Choctaw Corner.....	“ 70		

CHARTERS FORFEITED.

Numbers 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 25, 27, 29, 30, 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, 69, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 86, 88, 89, 92, 95, 97, 101.

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.
John G. Harris.....	Livingston	Kansas.
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.....	Louisiana.
George D. Norris, M. D.....	New Market.....	Massachusetts.
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.....	Tuskegee.....	Nova Scotia.
Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.....	Oregon.
George D. Norris, M. D.....	New Market.....	South Carolina.
Peleg Brown.....	Mobile.....	Tennessee.
William E. Beard.....	Orrville.....	West Virginia.
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.
Albert D. McConaughy.....	Atchison.....	Kansas.

Frederick G. Walbridge.....	Boston.....	Massachusetts.
Moses W. Getchell.....	Minneapolis.....	Minnesota.
Robert L. Saunders.....	Jackson.....	Mississippi.
Thomas E. Garrett.....	Saint Louis.....	Missouri.
William E. Hill.....	Nebraska City.....	Nebraska.
Frederick G. Weise.....	Bordentown	New Jersey.
John W. Simons.....	New York.....	New York.
Rockey P. Earhart.....	Salem.....	Oregon.
Augustine T. Smythe.....	Charlestown.....	South Carolina.
Jonathan S. Davis.....	Paris.....	Tennessee.
Alexander M. Evans.....	Middleway.....	West Virginia.
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.	CONV. CATH'NS
1	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	Huntsville.	John M. Martin.	Luther S. Skinner.	1 Wed
2	Ennomia.	Huntsville.	Madison.	Huntsville.	Bernard F. Ludwig.	William H. Tancore.	1 Tues
3	Clinton.	Athens.	Limestone.	Athens.	Augustus F. Evans.	Samuel Tanner Jr.	2 Mon
4	Tusculum.	Tusculum.	Cherokee.	Tusculum.	Felix G. Norman.	John N. Greene.	Mon at 2 Sun
5	Gainesville.	Gainesville.	Sumter.	Gainesville.	Edward N. King.	Robert G. Nelson.	Thurs afm
6	Wetumpka.	Wetumpka.	Elmore.	Wetumpka.	Isaac W. Suttle.	William S. Penick.	Fri of or bfm
7	Mount Moriah.	Eufaula.	Greene.	Eufaula.	Charles Coleman.	James T. Smith.	3 Fri
8	Livingston.	Livingston.	Sumter.	Livingston.	Robert D. Webb.	Isaac C. Brown.	1 and 3 Thur
9	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Thomas H. Roche.	Calvin W. Sayre.	2 Sat
10	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Stephen H. Beasley.	Henry H. Hamill.	3 Fri
11	Talladega.	Talladega.	Talladega.	Talladega.	James H. John.	John C. Thomas.	1 Sat
12	Eufaula.	Eufaula.	Barbour.	Eufaula.	James Milton.	Westwood J. Baker.	Tues afm
13	Courtland.	Courtland.	Lawrence.	Courtland.	Ed. P. Shackelford.	Beverly Harwood.	1 Thurs
14	Union.	Uniontown.	Perry.	Uniontown.	John A. Shell.	Adolph Jacobson.	4 Mon
15	Salnt John's.	Selma.	Dallas.	Selma.	William W. McCallum.	Daniel P. Forney.	Last Mon
16	James Penn.	Jacksonville.	Calhoun.	Jacksonville.	George I. Turnley.	Benjamin F. Ellis.	3 Sat
17	Fulton.	Orrville.	Dallas.	Orrville.	William E. Bealrd.	Sowell C. Woolfolk.	2 Sat
18	James L. Daniel.	Glennville.	Russell.	Glennville.	Malachi W. Davis.	James E. Scarbrough.	1 Mon
19	Concord.	La Fayette.	Chambers.	La Fayette.	William T. Brown.	DeForest Richards.	Fri bfm
20	Camden.	Camden.	Wilcox.	Camden.	Lucky W. Jenkins.	John C. Smith.	4 Mon
21	Tuskegee.	Tuskegee.	Macon.	Tuskegee.	H. Clay Armstrong.	F. S. Ulmer.	1 Mon
22	Choctaw.	Butler.	Choctaw.	Butler.	Benjamin H. Warren.	John B. Appleton.	4 Fri
23	Lebanon.	Van Buren.	DeKalb.	Collinsville.	William J. Roberts.	Sylvester Steele.	Mo at Sa afm
24	Central.	Montevallo.	Shelby.	Montevallo.	William M. McMath.	William M. Cowan.	2 Fri
25	Russell.	Stevenson.	Mobile.	Stevenson.	Thomas T. Cotnam.	John G. Friend.	1 and 3 Sat
26	Alabama.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	John Cortright.	Enoch P. Salter.	1 Sat
27	Farrillville.	Farrillville.	Bullock.	Choctaw Corner.	Horatio C. Grayson.	Stephen M. Gilmore.	3 Sat
28	Choctaw Corner.	Choctaw Corner.	Clarke.	Choctaw Corner.	William C. Bridges.	Mark A. Cooke.	1 Thurs
29	Midway.	Ozark.	Dale.	Midway.	James M. Smith.	Cameron McKinnon.	3 Sat
30	Gordon.	Abbeville.	Bullock.	Abbeville.	Newell M. Thornton.	James W. Stokes.	2 Mon
31	Elyton.	Elyton.	Jefferson.	Elyton.	Sam Thompson.	George M. Morrow.	1 Tues
32	Leachapoka.	Leachapoka.	Lee.	Leachapoka.	Wiley J. Greene.	Wiley W. Bloodworth.	1 and 3 Thu
33	Jefferson.	Demopolis.	Marion.	Demopolis.	William W. Harder.	Morris Mayer.	2 Thurs
34	Bell.	Cheneyville.	Clay.	Cheneyville.	John W. Garrison.	Thomas C. Moon.	3 Sat
35	Gaston.	Gaston.	Sumter.	Gaston.	William R. Horn.	John N. Gilmore.	2 Sat
36	Moulton.	Moulton.	Lawrence.	Moulton.	DeVitt C. White.	Asa M. Hodges.	1 Sat
37	George D. Norris.	New Market.	Madison.	New Market.	Morris K. Taylor.	W. Robert Whitman.	1 Sat
38	Columbus.	Newton.	Dale.	Newton.	Joseph A. Adams.	William D. Vaughan.	1 Sat

96 Daniel Pratt.....	Prattville.....	Autauga.....	Prattville.....	Samuel P. Smith.....	Mark Hatcher.....	Mon afm
98 Oxford.....	Oxford.....	Calhoun.....	Oxford.....	Stephen C. Williams.....	Thad. L. Robertson.....	2 Tues
99 Thomas M. Bragg.....	Rutledge.....	Crenshaw.....	Rutledge.....	George W. Jones.....	George A. Almon.....	4 Sat
100 Rock Mills.....	Rock Mills.....	Randolph.....	Rock Mills.....	George W. Taylor.....	Thomas J. Thomson.....	Sat br 1 Sun
102 Cross Plains.....	Cross Plains.....	Calhoun.....	Ladiga.....	Andrew J. Sutton.....	Francis M. Savage.....	Sat br 2 Sun

Grand Secretaries and Their Address.

0. Alabama.....Daniel Sayre.....Montgomery.
1. Arkansas.....Luke E. Barber.....Little Rock.
2. California.....Charles Louis Wiggin.....San Francisco.
3. Canada.....John J. Mason.....Hamilton, Ontario.
4. Colorado.....Edward C. Parmelee.....Georgetown.
5. Connecticut.....Joseph K. Wheeler.....Hartford.
6. District of Columbia.....Charles W. Hancock.....Washington.
7. Delaware.....John P. Allmond.....Wilmington.
8. Florida.....DeWitt C. Dawkins.....Jacksonville.
9. Georgia.....James Emmett Blackshear.....Macon.
10. Illinois.....James H. Miles.....Chicago.
11. Indiana.....John M. Bramwell.....Indianapolis.
12. Iowa.....William 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.....Azariah 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 Johnston 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.....Reiley P. Earhart.....Portland.
31. Pennsylvania.....John Thomson.....Philadelphia.
32. Rhode Island.....William R. Greene.....Providence.
33. South Carolina.....James E. Burke.....Charleston.
34. Tennessee.....John Frizzell.....Nashville.
35. Texas.....Robert Brewster.....Houston.
36. Vermont.....William H. S. Whitcomb.....Burlington.
37. Virginia.....William B. Isaacs.....Richmond.
38. West Virginia.....Odel S. Long.....Wheeling.
39. Wisconsin.....John W. Woodhull.....Milwaukee.
40. United States.....Christopher G. Fox.....Buffalo, N. Y.

COUNCIL OF HIGH PRIESTS.

EIGHTH CONVOCATION.

MONTGOMERY, December 6, 1876.

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

PRESENT.

PELEG BROWN.....	President.
MYLES J. GREENE.....	Vice President.
MARTIN G. SLAUGHTER.....	Chaplain.
JOSEPH H. JOHNSON, AS.....	Treasurer.
THEODORE L. EASTBURN, AS.....	Recorder.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Master of C.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Conductor.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG, AS.....	Herald.
WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH.....	Steward.

A Council of High Priests was opened in Ample Form.

Petitions for the Order of High Priesthood, accompa-

nied by the proper and necessary vouchers of having been elected and installed to preside over Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, and the requisite contribution, were presented from the following Companions :

Stephen H. Beasley, of Montgomery Chapter No. 22.

William A. Driskill, of James Penn Chapter No. 30.

John G. Harris, of Livingston Chapter No. 20.

Joseph A. Adams, of Columbus Chapter No. 93.

Newell M. Thornton, of Gordon Chapter No. 73.

George W. Smith, of Elyton Chapter No. 76.

Felix G. Norman, of Tuscumbia Chapter No. 10.

Samuel P. Smith, of Daniel Pratt Chapter No. 96.

Benjamin F. Johnson, of Notasulga Chapter No. 92.

Rufus W. Cobb, of Shelby Chapter No. 97.

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 High Priests were duly elected :

OFFICERS :

MYLES J. GREENE.....	President.
H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Vice President.
MARTIN G. SLAUGHTER.....	Chaplain.
JOSEPH H. JOHNSON.....	Treasurer.
THEODORE L. EASTBURN.....	Recorder.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Master of C.

JAMES H. JOINER.....	Conductor.
GEORGE I. TURNLEY.....	Herald.
STEPHEN H. BEASLEY.....	Steward.

And there being no further business to be brought before the Council, 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.

T. L. EASTBURN,

Recorder.

