

1877
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1877 / A.I. 2407

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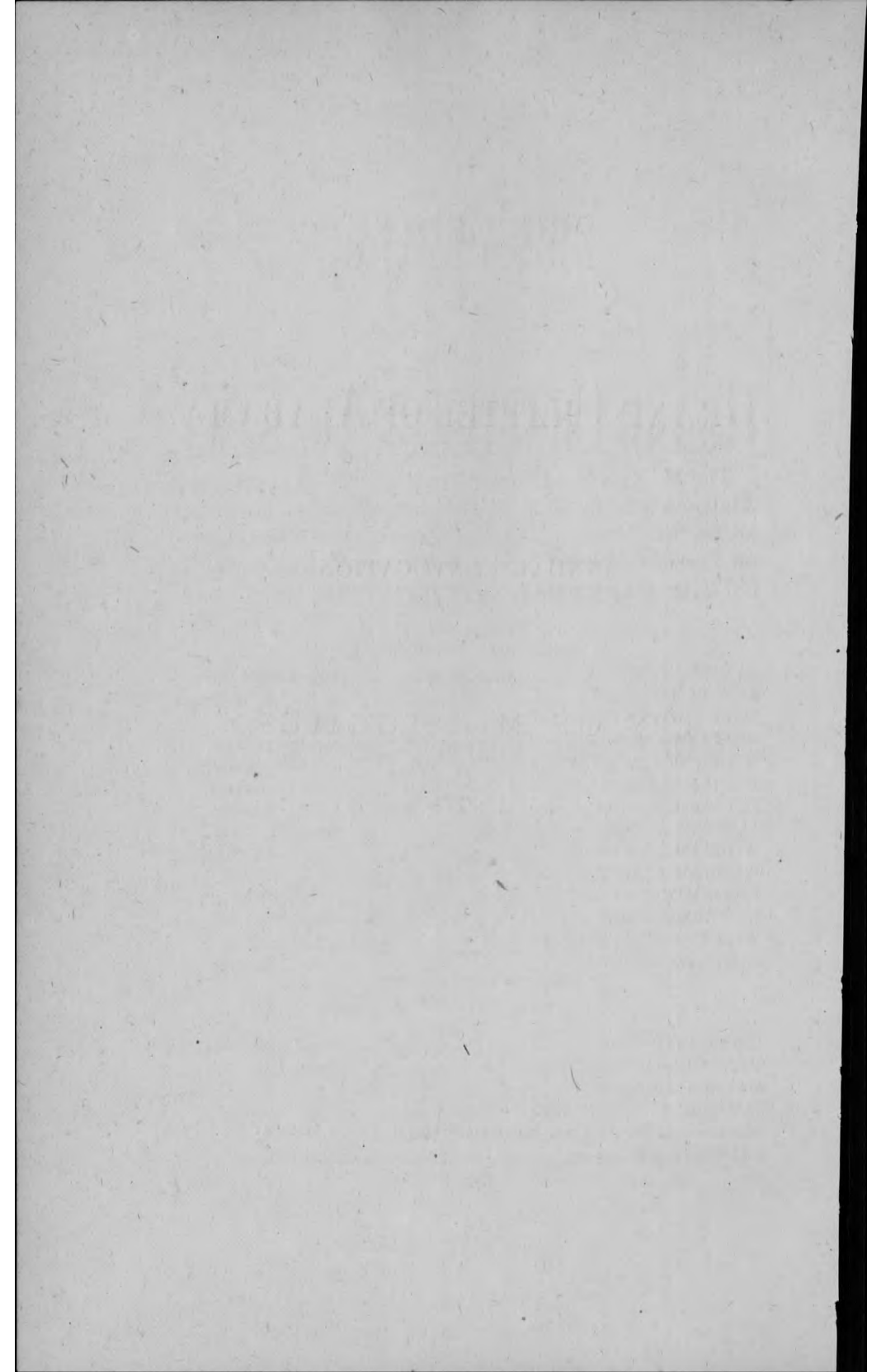
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A.D.2017, A.L.6017

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,
AT THE
ANNUAL CONVOCATION,
HELD IN THE
CITY OF MONTGOMERY,
1877.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:

BARRETT & BROWN, STEAM PRINTERS AND BOOK BINDERS,
1878.



PROCEEDINGS.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama held its Fifty-first Annual Grand Convocation at the New Masonic Temple, in the City of Montgomery, on Tuesday, the 4th day of December, A. D. 1877, A. L. 5877, Anno Inv. 2407.

PRESENT :

JAMES E. COBB.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES MILTON.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
LUCKY W. JENKINS.....	Grand King.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Grand Secretary.
WILLIAM B. WOOD, <i>as</i>	Grand Chaplain.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Grand C. of H.
WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH.....	Grand P. Sojourner.
WILLIAM W. McCOLLUM.....	Grand R. A. C.
BENJAMIN L. ALLEN.....	Grand M. 3 V.
NEWELL M. THORNTON.....	Grand M. 2 V.
WILEY W. BLOODWORTH.....	Grand M. 1 V.
JAMES DAVIDSON.....	Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS :

PELEG BROWN.....	Grand High Priest.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Grand High Priest.
MYLES J. GREENE.....	Grand High 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.	6.	Cyrus.....	William B. Wood*.....	H. P.
"	9.	Clinton	Benjamin L. Allen*.....	"
"	13.	Gainesville.....	{ Edward N. Kring.....	"
"	17.	Wetumpka.....	{ John B. Lanford.....	S.
"	20.	Livingston	{ Thomas P. Whitby*.....	H. P.
"	21.	Mobile.....	{ John Gideon Harris*.....	"
"	22.	Montgomery.....	{ William S. Foster*.....	"
"	22.	Montgomery.....	{ William D. Wadsworth.....	"
"	22.	Montgomery.....	{ Joseph Winthrop Moses.....	K.
"	22.	Montgomery.....	{ Edmund R. Hastings.....	S.
"	23.	Talladega	{ Myles J. Greene.....	H. P.
"	23.	Talladega	{ Joseph H. Johnson*.....	K.
"	23.	Talladega	{ James H. Joiner*.....	S.
"	24.	Eufaula.....	{ James Milton.....	H. P.
"	28.	Saint John's.....	{ William W. McCollum.....	"
"	28.	Saint John's.....	{ Philip Milhous*.....	K.
"	35.	James L. Daniel.....	{ Sowell C. Woolfolk*.....	H. P.
"	40.	Camden.....	{ Lucky W. Jenkins.....	"
"	44.	Choctaw.....	{ Francis P. M. Gilbert*.....	K.
"	44.	Choctaw.....	{ Lemuel J. Mooney*.....	H. P.
"	64.	Central.....	{ Isaac Johnson.....	K.
"	66.	Alabama	{ Oliver S. Beers.....	"
"	66.	Alabama	{ William G. Little*.....	S.
"	71.	Landmark.....	{ James M. Bridges.....	H. P.
"	73.	Gordon.....	{ Newell M. Thornton.....	"
"	76.	Elyton.....	{ Sam Thompson.....	"
"	76.	Elyton.....	{ Louis T. Wimberly.....	"
"	80.	Loachapoka.....	{ Wiley W. Bloodworth*.....	K.
"	80.	Loachapoka.....	{ George P. Harrison Jr*.....	S.
"	87.	Moulton.....	{ DeWitt Clinton White.....	H. P.
"	90.	Greenville	{ James L. Dunklin*.....	"
"	93.	Columbus.....	{ Joseph A. Adams.....	"
"	94.	Cowikee.....	{ Thomas Swanson*.....	"
"	96.	Daniel Pratt.....	{ Samuel P. Smith.....	"
"	96.	Daniel Pratt.....	{ Lleuelyn Spigener.....	K.
"	96.	Daniel Pratt.....	{ Mark Hirscher*.....	S.
"	98.	Oxford	{ Joshua Draper*.....	H. P.
"	99.	Thomas M. Bragg.....	{ John A. Padgett.....	S.
"	100.	Rock Mills.....	{ George W. Taylor.....	H. P.
"	102.	Cross Plains.....	{ Alexander McCollister.....	"
"	102.	Cross Plains.....	{ Jacob F. Dailey*.....	K.
"	103.	Warrior.....	{ Robert R. Savage.....	S.
"	103.	Warrior.....	{ Secretary W. Chapell*.....	H. P.

*Proxies.

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

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

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest delivered his Annual Address, and on motion of Companion Oliver S. Beers, it was referred to a special

COMMITTEE ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

Oliver S. Beers, of Alabama No. 66.

Joseph H. Johnson, of Talladega No. 23.

Peleg Brown, of Alabama No. 66.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Companions of the Grand Chapter:

The circumstances which surround us to-day are in favorable contrast with those of our last Annual Convocation, and afford us cause for congratulation, encouragement, and gratitude. Threatening clouds obscured the dawn of the Masonic year just past—the beams of its setting sun gave unwonted brightness to our sky. To the fears which erewhile possessed every heart, have succeeded confidence and the assurance of hope. We have waited for the better days, as those who “watch for the morning,” and now do we not see, full orb'd above our horizon, the morning's herald? If, indeed, our long night is overpast, happy are we if, through its dark watches, our characters have been purified and strengthened. An expression of trust in God, and the recognition of his guiding-hand in the affairs of life, is demanded of those who would know the mysteries of Masonry. Nor is this expression and recognition the requirement of an idle and unmeaning ceremony. To receive the degrees of the *Order* with intelligent appreciation of the lessons taught, is to stand at last within the veils of our sanctuary with that steadfast faith which purifies motive, and directs and controls action.

Let our rejoicings, then, be with timbrel and harp, as we join the glad acclaim of thanksgiving and praise, ascending from all parts of our common country, to an overruling Providence, for mercies vouchsafed and blessings secured. “For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even unto death.”

But the occurrences of life are presented to us in contrast, and with the song of rejoicing are often mingled the notes of the funeral dirge. Hope and despair, sunshine and storm, joy and sorrow—these are the mingled antitheses of a checkered existence.

A good man, and a pillar of strength to our Order, has fallen. Since last we met, Companion WILLIAM E. BEARD has gone to his reward.

For many consecutive years, and to the time of his death, he was a member of this Body as High Priest of Fulton Chapter, and rarely was his seat vacant. Modest in the expression of his views, but wise in counsel, and ever faithful to the trust committed to him, his loss is to us a calamity. Recently, prior to his death, he was appointed to represent the Grand Chapter of West Virginia near this Grand Chapter. His commission did not reach him, but remains with our Grand Secretary. His sterling worth, his long and faithful service, and his representative character, call for suitable testimonials at your hands. Reverently we approach his new made grave to deposit this humble offering of respect to his memory.

In the interchange of courtesies with the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, I appointed Companion A. M. Evans to represent us near that Grand Chapter.

Since we have reached this city, the sad intelligence comes to us that we must add yet another name to our roll of worthy dead. Past Deputy Grand High Priest J. McCALDER WILEY is no more. He died at his home, in Troy, on Sunday last, having completed an active and eventful life of more than three score years and ten.

His was a positive character ; but with the sterner traits, which enabled him to impress himself upon those with whom he was brought in contact, were united, in an eminent degree, the gentler attributes of warm attachments, and a sympathy for the distressed that had expression in continued works of active benevolence. He loved our Order, and sought opportunity to promote its interests.

I make this announcement of the decease of one so long connected with this Grand Chapter, regretting my inability, on the moment's call, to do justice to his worth.

No great number of calls for official action, was made upon me during the past year. A few applications were received for dispensations to elect officers, after the time prescribed had passed. I complied with the request, in this regard, of Tusculumbia Chapter No. 10, for the reasons, as

represented to me, that the failure to elect at the proper time was caused by unavoidable accident, and that the interests of the Chapter required an election at an early day. The other applications were denied, no sufficient cause of remissness being shown.

I received a petition from the surviving members of Mineral City Chapter—whose charter had been forfeited—for permission to reorganize this Chapter; and coming to me, as it did, strongly indorsed by our Worthy Grand Secretary, I caused a dispensation to issue in accordance with its prayer. You will doubtless be called upon to revive this charter and will take such action in the premises as your wisdom shall suggest.

I granted dispensation to Greenville Chapter to confer the several degrees at one convocation, upon candidates in waiting to receive them. To this I was mainly induced by representation of the necessity existing that the work should be correctly exemplified in this Chapter, and the assurance that the services of Right Excellent Daniel Sayre had been secured for the purpose.

I have since learned from companion Sayre that this work was done on four successive evenings, the intervals being devoted to instruction; and that there were marked evidences of good results accomplished.

In exercising the dispensing power I have acted in the line of precedent, but I invite your attention to the doubt expressed by learned Masons as to the extent of the powers possessed by Grand High Priests in this regard. What powers, if any, do these officers have, other than such as are conferred by constitutional provision?

This being a continually mooted question, should receive attention from you, and such decision that my successors shall be in no doubt of your opinion.

In obedience to what appeared to me to be your expressed wish, I attended the tri-ennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter, at Buffalo, in August last.

The proceedings had at this convocation have been published, and a copy will be furnished to each subordinate Chapter in the United States. Hence, I need not attempt to speak of the matters upon which action was had. It suffices to say that, the convocation was largely attended, and its

proceedings were conducted in the utmost harmony. Representatives from all parts of the extended jurisdiction were there to consult in the unity of masonic charity and zeal ; and from the sympathy of hearts thus aglow, good results to the Order may be expected to be gathered in coming years.

In your resolution of instruction to me, you were pleased to express your strong desire that no action should be taken tending to enlarge the powers of the General Grand Chapter to the detriment of State Grand Chapters. I am gratified to believe and report that no danger exists at this point, if I may judge from the tone of expression given.

The revised constitution proposed by the committee, is published in full in the proceedings, and it may not be amiss to submit it to a committee of this Body, in advance of the next tri-ennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter, that, from their report after careful consideration of its provisions, you may be the better prepared advisedly to express your views of its merits.

I can not refrain from noticing, gratefully, the unremitting efforts of the companions of New York, and of Buffalo especially, in the entertainment of their guests. Their large-hearted hospitality contributed in no small degree, to render the convocation a season of refreshing to those whose privilege it was to be present. Long will we retain the recollection of our visit to the beautiful "Queen City of the Lakes," and of the brotherly greeting and kindness received there.

It gratifies me to state that, from intercourse with companions, official and otherwise, I deem the prospects of the Order, in this jurisdiction, at least encouraging.

I am informed that steps are being taken to have restored to their places on our roll, Chapters whose charters were forfeited, under the pressure of financial embarrassments, and the demoralization of disturbed political and social relations. Individual companions, too, under the influence of that more healthful tone pervading society everywhere, are experiencing a rekindling of their masonic zeal, which the unrelenting necessities of poverty, and the forebodings of a future which seemed to hold a "still lower deep," repressed.

These are omens of cheer. But much remains to be done. There is still laxity in discipline to be corrected; remissness and neglect of duty to be rebuked; and reviving hopes to be encouraged and strengthened; and it behooves you, assembled in Grand Convocation, to determine what may be done to the attainment of these desired ends.

Official visitation by members of the Grand Council, would doubtless be efficacious in the accomplishment of good results here, as it does in other jurisdictions. One or more annual visits to each subordinate Chapter by the Grand officers, would afford gratifying evidence of your oversight and regard, and would be the most effectual means of having placed before you the true condition of the Craft.

In this way, too, might be accomplished more readily than in any other the dissemination of the work and lectures. I make these suggestions rather to stimulate inquiry than by way of recommendation.

The question of the practicability of the adoption of such system, is one fraught with difficulties, in view, chiefly, of the depleted condition of our treasury. The spectre, "hard times," shows his grim visage to warn us to prudence in any course requiring the expenditure of money. It may, however, be possible so to curtail expenses, that the necessary means may be secured without material increase of dues. Or, if this system of official visitation can not be provided for, would it not be well to require each High Priest to append to the returns of his Chapter a detailed report of its condition, showing especially the number of convocations held during the year and the average attendance?

Before passing from the matter of expenditure, it has occurred to me that there is one point at which curtailment may be properly had. It has been your pleasure to present to each retiring Grand High Priest a jewel, or other evidence of your regard. Without underrating the inestimable value which these tokens possess to the recipients, I am constrained to invite discussion of the question, can you afford to continue the custom of their bestowal? Or, are you not in danger of exalting a sentiment, however worthy in itself, at the sacrifice of higher and more vital interests?

If so, I urge you to take such action, by resolution or otherwise, that

will relieve you of the seeming necessity of awarding these favors hereafter. The highest evidence of your confidence and esteem, is not contained in the presentation of jewels of gold and silver and precious stones, but in the fact of being thought worthy by you to be called to this exalted station.

And now, companions, my second term of office draws to a close. Presuming that it will be your pleasure, as I trust it may, to retire me from official station, I take this occasion to renew my expressions of grateful acknowledgment. A half score and more of years have come and gone since first I clasped hands with many of you around our holy altar. They have been years of mingled good and ill—of trials and triumphs—but their retrospect offers, than these annual reunions, no more enticing resting place to memory. Some whom we loved have preceded us to “that bourne whence no traveler returns;” others, in the fullness of years, are waiting in the Beulah Land for the Master’s summon. The work of today is ours—let us perform it well. The future is hidden. We may not look adown its dim vista afar, nor know where rolls the dark river. But whether it holds for us days or years—so God’s will is done.

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.*)

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

TYRIAN NO. 54 REINSTATED.

Resolved, That Tyrian Chapter No. 54, which has not been represented in this Grand Chapter since 1873, and the charter of which has thereby become forfeited, be, and the same is hereby, reinstated with all its former rights and privileges; and the members thereof are hereby authorized to hold an election for officers at their earliest convenience, to remain in office until the annual election in June.

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

CLAYTON CHAPTER NO. 63.

Resolved, That Clayton Chapter No. 63 have sixty days to make returns and pay dues.

A similar resolution was offered by Companion William B. Wood as to

CYRUS CHAPTER NO. 6,

And by Companion Henry Clay Armstrong as to

TUSCUMBIA CHAPTER NO. 10,

And they were both adopted.

REPORT ON M. M. DEGREE.

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

Companion John Gideon Harris was presented as the duly accredited representative of the Grand Chapter of Kansas, and he was received and welcomed.

Companion George P. Harrison Jr. was presented as the duly accredited representative of the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin, and he was received and welcomed.

The following Special Committee was appointed on the death of Companions James McCaleb Wiley and William E. Beaird, viz :

Companions Myles J. Greene,
John A. Foster,
William W. McCollum.

And the Committee subsequently made the following report :

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama :

Your committee, to whom was referred so much of the Grand High Priest's address as relates to the death of Past Deputy Grand High Priest J. McCaleb Wiley, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report. For ages, and among all organized bodies of men, banded together for a praiseworthy end, as their numbers, one by one, cease to labor on earth, it has been a commendable custom in some way to extol and commemorate what was worthy in their lives and characters. Especially has this been the case when he who falls asleep has made such "footprints on the sands of time," as impress for good the generations that succeed him.

In obedience to this time-honored custom, and also as an expression of our profound grief at his loss, and our admiration of his many virtues, we would commit to posterity the following tribute to the memory of our loved and lost companion.

James McCaleb Wiley was born in Cabarras county, N. C., A. D. 1806.

He received, for the period, a liberal education in his native State. At the age of eighteen years he came to and became a citizen of Lawrence county, Ala.

He began active life as a physician, and located in Dallas county. Thence he emigrated to New Orleans, where, in attending to his patients, he contracted yellow fever, from which he barely escaped with his life. When convalescent he went to Mexico in quest of health. He resided awhile at various points on the Pacific Coast, and then went back to the Gulf at Tuspan, where he spent some time in the practice of his profession. While there he joined the regular army, and became aid-de-camp to Santa Anna, then Mexican Dictator. Later he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

This period of his life was full of adventure. He was repeatedly robbed and was thrice wounded in battle.

At this point your committee cannot refrain from recording an episode in the life of Companion Wiley, which attests his ardent and unfaltering patriotism, and at the same time furnishes a beautiful and practical demonstration of the teachings of our Order.

In 1836, during the Texas revolution, on one occasion while on dress parade, Col. Wiley was ordered by Gen. Santa Anna to march his regiment to Fort Alamo, Texas. Instead of obeying the order, he deliberately removed the epaulettes from his shoulders and said: "I refuse to fight my countrymen." For this act of open insubordination he was immediately ordered under arrest, tried by court martial, and sentenced to be shot. But being a prominent Freemason, the influence of his brethren secured for him a temporary reprieve. He was transferred from prison to prison, until the battle of San Jacinto was fought on 21st April, 1836, when he was released and restored to his command. But he soon retired from the service, and returned to the United States, locating in Butler county, and began the practice of the law. In 1839 he removed to Clayton, Barbour county, and lived there until 1850, when he removed to Troy, Pike county, where he resided continuously until the time of his death.

Companion Wiley was extensively known throughout the State, and was frequently called to occupy important and distinguished official positions, in all of which he exhibited a degree of ability and fidelity that proved him to be worthy of every trust committed to his hands.

His generous nature and benevolent disposition impelled him not only to seek membership in, but to take an active part in the labors of, every humanitarian institution within his reach. And as an evidence of the esteem in which he was held by those among whom he labored, there ex-

ist Subordinate Lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, and Good Templars which bear his honored name.

Companion Wiley became a member of this Grand Chapter in 1845, from which time until his death he was present at every annual convocation. He was elected Deputy Grand High Priest in 1845, and also in 1861, 1862 and 1863. He raised five sons, all of whom he initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry.

For some months past his family and friends have been made anxious on account of his failing health, and on the 2d day of December, A. D. 1877, full of years and honors, surrounded by loving friends, faithful brethren, and his devoted family, he calmly and peacefully breathed his life away.

To you, Companions, who knew him so long and so well, it were worse than needless to enumerate the many virtues that adorned his character. Faults and imperfections he had—as who has not?—but his errors were always of the head and not of the heart.

In conclusion we offer the following resolutions, and recommend their adoption :

1st. That we tender to the family of our deceased Companion our heartfelt sympathies in this afflicting dispensation of Divine Providence.

2d. That a memorial page of our printed proceedings be dedicated to his memory.

3d. That a copy of this report be sent to his family.

Your committee, to whom was also referred the duty of writing a notice of the death of Companion William E. Beaird, regret that they are in possession of less material out of which to compose a fitting notice of his death. Companion Beaird was so modest in his nature, so retiring in his disposition, that it was seldom he could be induced to accept office, and therefore he never sought it. But having been for many long years a constant attendant upon the Grand Chapter, he could not always avoid that which he always insisted there were others so much more capable of filling, in consequence of which he was frequently Grand Master of one or other of the Veils, and Grand Principal Sojourner. And at the time of his death he was the honored representative of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia.

In conclusion, your committee can safely aver that within their knowledge there was not within the bounds of this Grand Jurisdiction, a more earnest or a more conscientious Mason than Companion William E.

Beaird, and therefore they make the same recommendations that they did in the case of Companion Wiley.

Fraternally submitted.

MYLES J. GREENE,
Chairman.

The Grand High Priest announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES :

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 1.—John A. Padgett, Isaac Johnson, Joshua Draper.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 2.—Louis T. Wimberly, Joseph A. Adams, Jacob F. Dailey.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 3.—Newell M. Thornton, Secretary W. Chapell, William G. Little.

ON DISPENSATIONS.—Edward N. Kring, William W. McCollum, Francis P. M. Gilbert.

ON FINANCE.—Wiley W. Bloodworth, James L. Dunklin, James M. Bridges.

ON BY-LAWS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND APPEALS.—Samuel P. Smith, George W. Taylor, Lemuel J. Mooney.

ON JURISPRUDENCE.—Peleg Brown, Myles J. Greene, Palmer J. Pillans.

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 5, 1877.

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 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. And the following preamble and resolution accompanying it was concurred in and adopted :

RECOGNITION OF G. R. A. C. OF QUEBEC.

WHEREAS, A Grand Royal Arch Chapter has been duly formed in the Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, with the entire approbation and sanction of the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Canada, within whose jurisdiction it lay, and has been recognized by it, therefore be it

Resolved, That we hail with pleasure this new Grand Chapter, and greet fraternally the M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Quebec, and pray that its usefulness may be great and enduring.

Companion Oliver S. Beers 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 annual address of the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, respectfully report, that they have carefully read and considered this exceedingly appropriate deliverance, and beg to express their thanks for the privilege of thus renewing their contact with the noble sentiments and judicious views so acceptably and eloquently expressed in the able message under consideration.

Your committee concur fully in all the official acts stated and opinions expressed by the M. Ex. G. High Priest in his address, and commend them to the approval of the M. Ex. Grand Chapter.

We heartily sympathise with the M. Ex. G. H. Priest in his feeling remarks in reference to the loss of the worthy companions, William E. Beard and James McCaleb Wiley, P. D. G. H. P., who have so recently been called hence by death, being thus translated to the higher companionship of "just men made perfect;" and we recommend that this portion of the address be referred to a special committee of three with instructions to prepare and report to this Grand Chapter suitable memorial resolutions in testimony of our regard for these loved and lost companions.

Your committee recommend that so much of the address as relates to the powers of the M. Ex. G. H. P., "other than such as are conferred by constitutional provision," be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for report at their convenience. Also that the M. Ex. G. H. Priest, R. Ex. D. G. H. P., King, and Scribe, be constituted a committee to examine the proposed revised constitution of the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of the United States and report upon the same at our next annual convocation.

Respectfully submitted,

OLIVER S. BEERS,
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. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

Your Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 3 beg leave to report, that

they have carefully examined the returns submitted to them, and find the following

CORRECT:

Gaston	No. 85	Oxford	No. 98
Moulton	" 87	Rock Mills.....	" 100
Cowikee	" 94	Cross Plains.....	" 102
Daniel Pratt.....	" 96		

INCORRECT:

JEFFERSON No. 81.—Initials and abbreviations used, dues charged at 50 cents and set down in the wrong place, owes \$6,25; dues not indorsed on the back, date of 1 death not given.

GREENVILLE No. 90.—Under the head of "Degrees Conferred" all the names repeated under all the subordinate heads, whereas they should only be under the head of "Royal Arch Masons."

COLUMBUS No. 93.—Dues not set down in the column of Dues, no postoffice set down, recapitulation not filled up.

THOMAS M. BRAGG No. 99.—Slovenly made out, abbreviations used, year A. L. not filled up, seal crank-sided.

WARRIOR No. 103.—Dues charged at \$1,50, for 2 years, instead of being made out for one year at 75 cents, and the dues for 1876 added at the bottom.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

NEWELL M. THORNTON,

Chairman.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic year, Companions George W. Taylor and Newell M. Thornton 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.
WILLIAM B. WOOD.....	Florence.....	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.
GEORGE W. TAYLOR.....	Rock Mills.....	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.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

DUES REMITTED TO TUSKEGEE NO. 43.

Resolved, That the dues of Tuskegee Chapter No. 43, be remitted and a new charter granted to it free of charge, that Chapter having lately lost its hall, furniture, jewels, and charter by fire.

INSTALLATION.

The Grand Officers not heretofore installed, were installed in Ample Form.

REPORT ON THE R. A. DEGREE.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong, of the Committee on Work, made report on the R. A. Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

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

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

THURSDAY MORNING, December 6, 1877.

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 Wiley W. Bloodworth, of the Committee on Finance, made report, and the report was received and concurred in. (*See Appendix.*)

Companion John A. Padgett, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 1, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in:

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 1.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

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

CORRECT :

Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1	Mobile.....	No. 21
Cyrus.....	" 6	Talladega.....	" 23
Clinton.....	" 9	Eufaula.....	" 24
Tuscumbia.....	" 10	Union.....	" 26
Gainesville.....	" 13	Saint John's.....	" 28
Wetumpka.....	" 17	James L. Daniel.....	" 35
Mount Moriah.....	" 19		

INCORRECT :

LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Seal very indistinct and seems to be worn out, and if so, we suggest that the Chapter procure a new one.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—Not signed by the High Priest, nor by any one for him, and no reason assigned for the omission.

Fraternally submitted.

JOHN A. PADGETT,
Chairman.

Companion Louis T. Wimberley, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters No 2, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in :

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 2.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

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

CORRECT :

Camden.....	No. 40	Gordon.....	No. 73
Choctaw.....	" 44	Elyton.....	" 76
Alabama.....	" 66	Loachapoka.....	" 80

INCORRECT :

CONCORD No. 37.—No postoffice set down.

CLAYTON No. 63.—No seal.

CENTRAL No. 64.—Name not indorsed on the back, year A. L. not filled out, seal in bad order.

LANDMARK No. 71.—Recapitulation not filled out, no date to attestation.

Fraternally submitted.

LOUIS T. WIMBERLY,
Chairman.

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

HERMON CHAPTER NO. 34 REINSTATED.

Resolved, That the Charter of Herman Chapter No. 34 be restored, and that Chapter reinstated, on the payment to the Grand Secretary of one year's dues, and that it be allowed 90 days in which to make said payment.

Resolved, That said Chapter be authorized to elect officers immediately on the restoration of the charter, to serve until the annual election in June, and report the same to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible.

REPORT ON THE R. A. DEGREE.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong, of the Committee on Work, concluded report on the R. A. Degree, and the report was received and concurred in.

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

ON WORK.

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

CUSTODIAN OF THE WORK.

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

Peleg Brown.....	Mobile.
Myles J. Greene.....	Talladega.
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

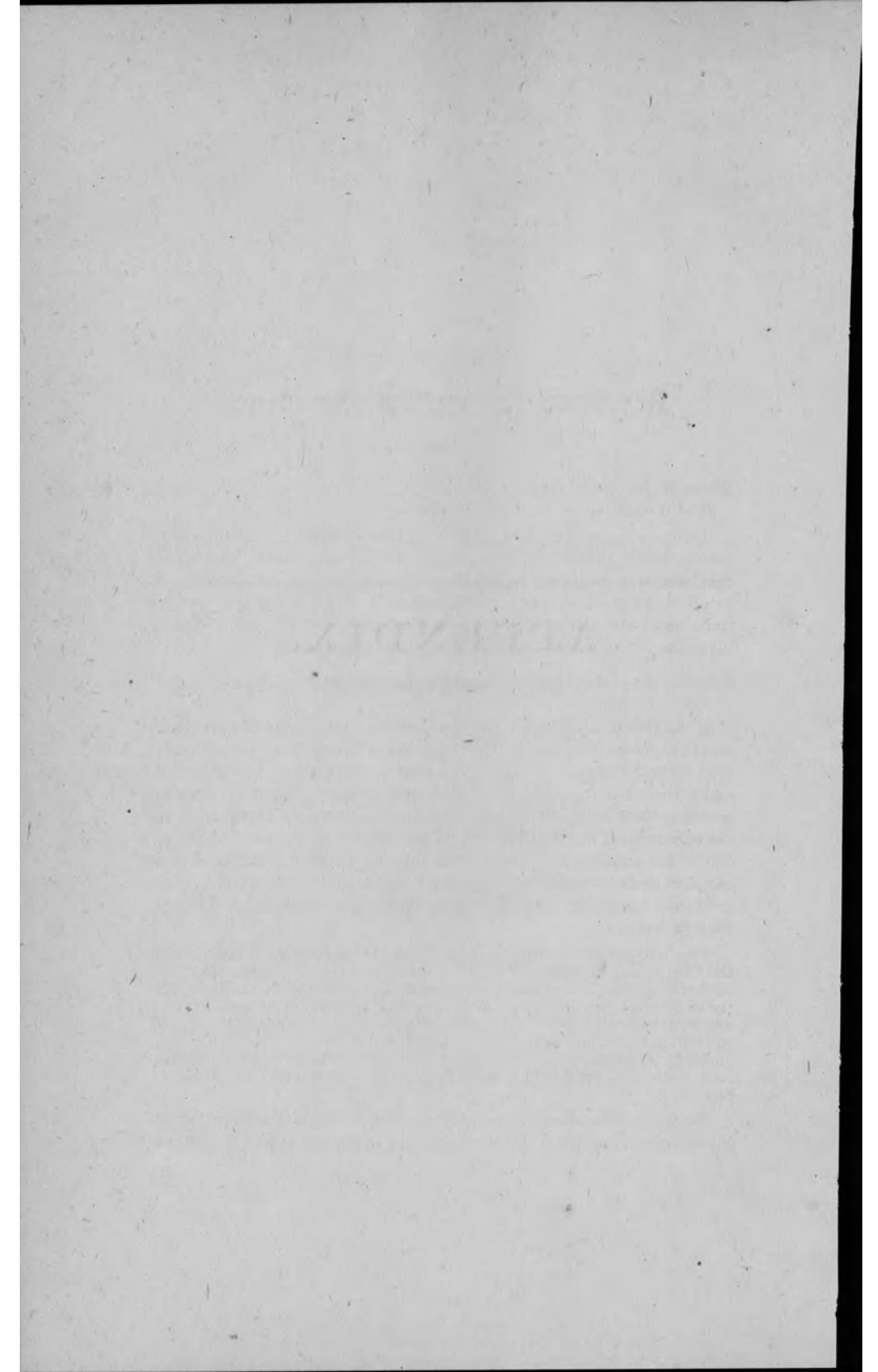
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Mobile.
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And there being no further business to be brought before the Grand Chapter at this Grand Annual Convocation, the minutes were read and approved.

And then, after solemn prayer to the Throne of Grace by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama was closed in AMPLE FORM, at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes, A. M.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

APPENDIX.



Report on Foreign Correspondence.

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

Having reviewed the proceedings of 37 Grand Chapters, (Florida, Minnesota, Maine, Ohio, and Nova Scotia not being of them,) which have been placed in our hands by the R. Ex. Grand Secretary, we proceed, in as succinct a manner as perspicuity will allow, to lay before you what we think may prove either of interest or instruction to you. We sincerely hope that our efforts in both directions may be successful.

ARKANSAS.

At the twenty-seventh annual convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on 5th October, 1876, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, E. R. Duval, delivered a very handsome and eloquent address. Harmony seems to prevail, and perhaps lethargy, that lethargy which precedes dissolution, for no questions seem to have been submitted to him, nor any applications for the organization of new chapters. This latter he hopes may be the result of the experience of companions, that the too great multiplication of chapters leads to weakness and death. He urges the Chapters to illustrate their teachings, showing forth by their works the good of Masonry. He says truly:

“It should be the policy—it ought to be the principle—of action with the Chapters already in existence to make themselves stronger and better—stronger in the exhibit of practical morality, and better in their ability to impress the teachings of Capitular Masonry. A lifeless Chapter begets drones, and drones in Masonry beget absolute worthlessness, and worthlessness of necessity leads to the death of the organization. Life and activity beget life and interest. It works out the problem of success, and, with this established, the Chapter flourisheth as the “rose of Sharon.”

The list of delinquent Chapters is very large, and it is clearly deducible therefrom that the financial depression which has lain so heavily on

all this region, has pressed with peculiarly baneful influence on Masonry.

Grand High Priest and Secretary re-elected.

Number of Chartered Chapters.....	66
“ that made returns.....	26
“ represented.....	13

Sixty-two were added to the Chapters by exaltations, admissions, &c., while by death, dimissions, &c., they were diminished by seventy-eight.

No report on correspondence.

CANADA.

We have the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, which held its nineteenth annual convocation on 9th August, A. D. 1876, M. Ex. Companion, L. H. Henderson, G. Z.

From the address of the G. Z., with the reports of the D. G. M's., we are satisfied that Capitular Masonry is not only harmonious but zealous in that jurisdiction. A number of new Chapters were being formed, and much work being done.

We were also pleased to see that the cause of difficulty between this Grand Chapter and that of the District of Columbia was happily removed, and that the good feeling heretofore existing between the two about to be fully restored.

Companion Henry Robertson presented one of his usually complete and full reports on correspondence, but we regret that we do not find Alabama among those reviewed. This ought not to be, for with postal arrangements such as we now have, our proceedings should be in the hands of our Canadian G. S. E. most punctually. Under Connecticut he proves his ability to defend his Grand Chapter and his positions, but as the matter is rather local than general, we do not quote.

We fully agree with him when he says: “We do not believe in inflicting any punishment without giving the accused a fair trial.” This in relation to suspension for non-payment of dues. And in another place: “We do not believe in placing non-payment of dues (which may be entirely involuntary on the part of the offender) on a par, as far as punishment is concerned, with unmasonic conduct.”

Companion Henderson was re-elected G. Z., and Companion Daniel Spry, G. S. E.

We also have the proceedings for 1877 of this Grand Chapter. On the 2d February an emergency convocation was held. This was to take into consideration the formation of the Grand Chapter of Quebec. The Grand

Chapter of Canada gave its consent to the Chapters in the province of Quebec to hold a convention and determine what course they would pursue. This convention determined to organize a Grand Chapter, and did so organize under the name and title of "The Grand Chapter of Quebec." The Grand Chapter of Canada then cordially and fraternally extended recognition to the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

The twentieth annual convocation was held on 8th August, 1877, Companion Henderson, G. Z., who paid a deserving tribute to the memory of Companion G. Frank Gouley, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

Companion Henderson congratulated the Grand Chapter on the harmony restored between the Grand Chapter and that of the District of Columbia, by the appointment of a representative entirely acceptable to that Grand Chapter.

The reports of the several Grand Superintendents of Districts show a lively interest in Capitular Masonry, and reasonable growth in the Order.

Companion Robertson again made the report on correspondence, and Alabama for 1876 receives fraternal notice.

Companion Fred. J. Menet, Toronto, was elected M. Ex. G. Z., and Companion Daniel Spry R. Ex. Grand Scribe, E.

CONNECTICUT.

The proceedings of the seventy-ninth convocation is before us, M. Ex. Companion H. W. Coye, G. H. P., in the East. It was held on 8th May, A. D. 1877.

Masonry in this jurisdiction seems to be harmonious, if not exceedingly prosperous, and the latter condition is attributed by our M. Ex. Companion to "the long continuance of the almost paralyzed financial condition of the country." Our Companions in Connecticut can then well realize the condition of those in this more Southern, but less favored, portion of the country.

The Grand Chapter of Quebec was recognized at this Grand Convocation.

There were introduced the following resolutions, which were referred to Committee on Revision of Grand Chapter Regulations:

Resolved, That the several Chapters in this jurisdiction be and they are hereby authorized and empowered, at any stated Convocation, upon good cause shown, and upon such terms as may be just, by a majority vote, to rescind the resolution striking a member from the roll for non-payment of dues, upon the application of such member in writing, at any time within two years thereafter; provided such member shall not, in the meanwhile, have become a member of another Chapter. This resolution

shall apply to all members heretofore stricken from the roll, whether the period above limited in which such application can be made has expired or not.

Resolved, That no Royal Arch Mason in this jurisdiction, of twenty-one years' good and regular standing, shall be subject to discipline for non-payment of dues.

This question of suspension for non-payment of dues has agitated our Companions very much. The hardship of being wholly deprived of all Masonic recognition without a hearing, and most probably on account of poverty, is becoming apparent.

There is no report on correspondence.

The same officers were re-elected.

COLORADO

Held her second annual convocation on 21st September, A. D. 1876, M. Ex. Companion, William N. Byers, G. H. P. The M. Ex. reports Capitular Masonry as being harmonious, and sufficiently prosperous, yet he, too, complains of the effect of "hard times and stagnation in business" on Masonry.

We are no little surprised that he should have deemed it necessary to refer the question as to the propriety of conferring the degrees on one who had lost his right arm to the Grand Chapter. We think that "patriotism" is no substitute for the "limb," nor is the word to be found in the "old regulations" or "Anderson's Constitutions."

We give below what he says about suspension for non-payment of dues. That question is troubling them there too:

Under the regulations of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, stringent rules are enforced by the subordinate Lodges in respect to the payment of annual dues by members. In consequence, many Master Masons have been "stricken from the rolls." There is a wide diversity of opinion as to the effect of this striking from the Lodge rolls upon such as are Chapter members in regard to their Masonic standing therein. I respectfully suggest that the Grand Chapter may very properly consider the subject, and, if thought best, rule thereon.

Companion Parmelee, from the Committee on Correspondence, made a very elaborate and excellent report, reviewing our proceedings for 1875 in a fair and pleasant manner.

Companion Irvin W. Stanton was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Ed. C. Parmelee continued Grand Secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

The annual convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 13th December, 1876, M. Ex. Companion Geo. B. Clark, G. H. P. There had

been a semi-annual and special convocation, the latter of which was for the purpose of attending the funeral of their M. Ex. P. G. H. Priest, J. E. F. Holmead.

The G. H. Priest's address was devoted mainly to the business before the Grand Chapter, the finances of which are in no very good condition, Harmony prevails and Capitular Masonry is prosperous.

For some time past there has been an unpleasant feeling existing between this Grand Chapter and that of Canada, in consequence of the latter's refusal to recall the commission to Companion Mason as its representative, (a full account of which we gave last year,) when requested to do so by the M. Ex. G. H. Priest. This culminated at last in the Grand Chapter by resolution striking the name of Companion Mason from the Roll of Representatives.

The communication from the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Mississippi, appealing to the Grand Chapters to incorporate the cryptic degrees into the Chapters, and thus save them from destruction and perhaps loss, was referred to a committee, who reported that they were in favor of so incorporating them. This was adopted by Grand Chapter. Some difference existed as to arrangement of the degrees. From this report we learn that the degree of Royal Master is still more recent than that of Select Master, and that neither of them have any claim to antiquity.

Companion McGrotty again made the report on correspondence. He, and so do nearly all the reviewers, congratulate us upon being once more restored to the bosom of mother G. G. Chapter, perhaps on the principle that misery loves company.

After quoting a question and ruling of M. Ex. G. H. P. of Delaware as to suspension for non-payment of dues, he says, and we fully agree with him, because we do not think that any Mason should be punished for any offense unless he has had due notice, and a chance for defense:

While we agree with the Grand High Priest in his decision, we do not agree with him as to the law being a landmark. The non-payment of dues by a member of a body in any branch of Masonry is a violation of his O. B., and should be punished by charges preferred, and due trial.

On the subject of incorporating the cryptic degrees in the chapter, he says:

We heartily agree with this suggestion. If such action could be taken as to lessen the number of Grand and subordinate bodies in Masonry, it would produce, in our opinion, incalculable benefit. There are too many different bodies, and it is a constant drain on the purse of members, the payment of dues, &c., in all, and ultimately results in the dimitting from all but one or two bodies, after receiving the degrees. At least, that is our experience.

We have long doubted the necessity, nay propriety of having so many Grand Bodies, with their subordinates, but of late in this jurisdiction the lack of interest in cryptic Masonry has brought us to think that unless some such step be taken they will receive the appellation "gone"—*"Carthago fuit."*

Companion J. L. Johnson was made M. E. G. H. P., and Companion C. W. Hancock, Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.

M. Ex. Companion Willis Holden, G. H. Priest, opened the Grand Chapter on 17th January, A. D. 1877.

The address is short, announcing that the year has "passed away almost imperceptibly;" yet it has gone—none have died—harmony prevails. There is a cash balance in Treasury of \$104 00. The report on correspondence is made by Companion Mynich on 39 proceedings of Grand Chapters, and consists of 20 lines.

Companion Mynich was made G. H. P., and Companion J. P. Allmond, Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

The twenty-third annual convocation of this Grand Chapter was opened by the M. Ex. G. H. Priest, Alex. Gurdon Abell, on 10th April, A. D. 1877, who, in his address, is able to say what few G. H. Priests can ever say of the Companions who are elected to preside over Chapters. A little reading of the proceedings, and especially of these reports by all High Priests would enable other Grand High Priests to make the same remark, but it is deemed easier to ask the advice of the G. H. P. than to read up so as not to require it:

It is gratifying to be enabled to report that, during the past year, nothing has occurred to disturb the harmony existing among the Chapters of this jurisdiction; that, so far as information has been received, they are in a good and prosperous condition; and that their officers, generally, are companions whose zeal, intelligence, and knowledge of the laws of our Order are such as to afford little or no room for criticism. Under these circumstances, the duties of the Grand High Priest have not been burdensome, and, having thus, in accordance with our law, exhibited "the condition of Royal Arch Masonry within his jurisdiction," it only remains for him to present a "report of his official acts during the year."

He recommends the adoption of a rule requiring candidates to be examined in open Chapter touching their knowledge of the degree just taken, before being allowed to receive the next degree.

He favors the adoption of the Council degrees by the Chapters.

We see that this Grand Chapter is enforcing the regulation requiring a certificate of qualification from the Grand Lecturer before a High Priest elect can be installed. This will do more to establish uniformity in work than any method we have seen proposed, and will also perfect the Chapters.

The committee to whom was referred the communications from Mississippi in relation to the Council degrees reported favorably on the plan, and Grand Chapter adopted resolutions looking to that end.

The Grand Chapter of Quebec was recognized and welcomed.

Companion Wiggins, Grand Secretary, presented another of his most admirable reports. His selections are judicious, and his expression of his opinions firm and decided, and we are constrained to say usually just and always amiable and kind. Certainly we cannot say of him as Carson did of Companion Miles, of Illinois, though we indorse the last paragraph:

Companion J. H. Miles presented an excellent Report on Correspondence, including the proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters, in which he says—*nothing*. He's just the stillest fellow we ever did see. Gouley's "sass," "Lewis" "imperence," Drummond's disquisitions, Ogden's legal learning, Eastman Johnson's hilarity, and even our own brilliant coruscations (that's the word, ain't it?) of blinding wit—all these never move him. Nothing will pry his jaws open. He pursues the silent tenor of his ways like a crystalized Quaker meeting in a state of petrification.

But he can out-quote all creation, and each of his reports presents an admirable epitome of the different proceedings which he notices.

Companion Henry Hay Knapp was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Wiggins as Grand Secretary.

ENGLAND.

We are exceedingly gratified at having received a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales for 1876, and also for 1877, and hope hereafter to receive them regularly. These pamphlets each contain a short history of the Mark Degree, and showing the difference between a Mark Mason and Mark Master Mason; the former pertaining to the F. C. Degree, while the latter was only conferred on Master Masons. We would like to quote this in full, but our limits forbid.

These records show that the Order is without doubt growing in strength and influence in the kingdom, and doing good. Its financial condition

is good. Its subordinates are to be found wherever the Government of Great Britain has control.

GEORGIA.

The proceedings of the convocation, held on 25th April, 1877, of this Grand Chapter, are before us, Companion Luthur J. Glenn being M. Ex. G. H. P. This being the fifty-fifth convocation of this Grand Chapter, the G. H. Priest indulged in some retrospective reflections. In doing this he communicates some wholesome truths. Among others, the following:

In the review of this period, while the profane world presents many changes and improvements in the arts and sciences, discoveries and inventions, calculated to ameliorate the condition of the family of man, yet I am compelled to add that, in these latter years, the fiends of evil, unbound and let loose in the name of "progress," have laid violent hands, at home and abroad, on things held sacred, until the integrity and old fashioned honesty of our fathers, have given way to fraud and speculation, and are sneeringly characterized as "old fogyism." I have warned you before against the modern idea of "progress" in your legislative deliberations. I repeat the warning, and would that my voice could reach and have influence in some other jurisdictions in which there appears a disposition to obliterate some of the original and most valued landmarks of the Order."

And we cannot help quoting the following, because it so well expresses the hopes of all in this section of our country:

We have now entered upon the first year of the second century of our country's existence. With it, thank God, comes the dawn of a brighter day. The clouds and gloom that o'ercast the setting of our first centennial sun have been dissipated and scattered. Our own loved and lovely South, relieved from the rule of the bayonet, is again clothed in the habiliments of local self-government. The bow of peace, and union, and Fraternity again arches our national sky. Hope, long deferred, resumes her sway, and bids us press forward in the paths of peace and industry to the relief of our own stricken section, and through it to the relief of the whole country. The whole has suffered through its parts, and the nation has just awakened to the pregnant truth that it requires the health of all its parts to make a perfect whole.

We are glad to see that the finances of this Grand Chapter are now in a healthy condition.

The Grand Chapter of Quebec was recognized and greeted.

Companion Samuel Lawrence made report on Correspondence, kindly noticing Alabama and ourself.

We regret that we have not space to reproduce all he says in arguing with Companion Wiggins of California, on the propriety of allowing any brother present to vote on the application of one for the degrees; thinks

that the Texas rule allowing this, to be a good one. We most decidedly agree with him that upon the application of a profane for Masonic light every brother present should be allowed to cast a ballot, for is not every brother equally interested as to the material to be introduced into the Temple?

His dissent to the R. A. burial service, is thus put:

Companion Parmelee's is the first approval of the Royal Arch Burial service we have met. But horse-doctors, we suspect, abound in Colorado.

Companion Glenn was again elected G. H. Priest, and Companion J. Emmett Blackshear, Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS.

M. Ex. Companion Haswell C. Clarke, G. H. Priest, opened this Grand Chapter in ample form, on the 26th day of October, 1876.

The G. H. Priest says that the "Royal Craft is in a very prosperous condition," and no less than six new Chapters were authorized during the year. He recommends the districting of the State and the appointment of D. D. G. H. P's., whose duty it should be to visit every Chapter in his district, or the requiring the Grand Officers to perform this duty upon assignment.

Companion James H. Miles made the report on Correspondence in his usual felicitous style, reviewing proceedings of Alabama for 1875.

Number of active Chapters.....	160
" exaltations.....	811
Total membership.....	10,828

Companion Arthur R. H. Atkins was elected M. Ex. G. H. Priest, and Companion J. H. Miles re-elected Grand Secretary.

INDIANA.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Indiana held its Annual Convocation on 18th of October, 1876, Companion Lucien A. Foster, M. Ex. G. H. P. From the annual address we extract—

Companions of the Grand Chapter:

On our again meeting in Grand Convocation I am sorry that we have not a better exhibit of an increase in membership in this Grand Jurisdiction. The cry of hard times, scarcity of money, and the excitement of an unusually bitter political campaign, will be at least a partial, and I hope satisfactory, solution of the fact.

Some of our Chapters show a good amount of work done, exceeding any former year; others are at a stand still, and some, unfortunately, have "advanced backward."

We have the promise of better times from all the political parties, in case their particular candidate is successful: and let us hope that such will be the case, and that the good times coming will reach our subordinate Chapters during the next year.

But I can congratulate you on the pleasing fact that during the year our companions have enjoyed peace and harmony. I have not had a single complaint or grievance referred to me that originated during the year.

The report on correspondence is from the pen of Companion W. W. Austin, and a most admirable report it is, laying before the companions of that jurisdiction whatever he deemed might be instructive or interesting—what ought to be the end and aim of every reporter.

93 Chapters—membership 4,918.

Companion Reuben Peden was elected M. Ex. G. H. P.

Companion John M. Bramwell continued Grand Secretary.

IOWA.

On the 3d of October, 1876, M. Ex. Companion Horace S. Winslow opened this Grand Chapter. We are glad to be able to quote from the address the following, it being a sentiment so often felt and some times expressed by us to our companions.

Our allegories and symbolismes may as easily be made a mine of wealth from which fresh supplies may be drawn at will, presenting points bristling with beauty, worthy of and engaging the study of the intelligent and learned, as to convey but an idea of senseless jargon—a meaningless confusion of words. A failure to accomplish this desirable result lies mainly at the door of him whose duty it is "to lead the blind by a way they know not."

In reading this address we were forcibly reminded that there is "in every house a skeleton in the closet"—for the M. Ex. G. H. Priest, while dealing in a most methodical and business-like manner with all else that required attention, lets his reason sleep while his feelings, wishes and imagination run riot on the subject of negro, or, as he calls them, "colored," masons. He announces to his Grand Chapter that "quite recently a Chapter of colored Royal Arch Masons has been organized within this Grand Jurisdiction," and instead of denouncing this invasion of his jurisdiction, and declaring any such body, not authorized by the Grand Chapter of Iowa, to be clandestine, and thus maintaining and asserting the dignity of his Grand Chapter, he drivels about its being "almost criminal to delay much longer the recognition," &c., and urges though "trusting that it will speedily lead to such conclusions and the adoption of such a line of action as shall render justice to those who are now the subjects of an unjust and indefensible rule."

Now suppose the M. Ex. had announced that a chapter of white Royal Arch Masons had been formed and opened in Iowa by warrant from any other than the Grand Chapter of Iowa, would there have been any such recommendations? Why, if a chapter in an adjoining jurisdiction accidentally makes one a Royal Arch Mason who lives within the jurisdiction of Iowa, what a hubbub immediately ensues!—what correspondence and demands for apology! &c. And yet the M. Ex. G. H. Priest announces that a Chapter exists without proper authority, consequently not merely irregular, but clandestine, and he forsooth recommends recognition and companionship!

The committee on G. H. Priest's address, in noticing this portion, are so exuberant in the expression of philanthropic sentiment, that they think it were better to "tear down the pillars of strength and establishment, and blot out the celestial and terrestrial bodies," &c., than not to greet these negroes who *assert* that they are Royal Arch Masons and that they have a chapter. We give their report in full on this subject:—

"*Colored Royal Arch Masons.*—Masonic *laws* are the creatures of men and times and circumstances; masonic *principles* are the sublimation of the truth and the right which have been evolved from the conflicts of the ages. If men have made laws excluding from the counsels of masonry other men of different race or color, it were time to repeal them and bury them in darkness. Else let us tear down the pillars of strength and establishment, and blot out the celestial and terrestrial bodies delineated thereon, and cease talking about the universal reign of masonry, and the universality of its claim to the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man.

Your committee are in hearty sympathy with the well chosen words of the M. E. Grand High Priest. They reflect the sentiments expressed by Past Grand Master Campbell K. Peck in his annual address to the Grand Lodge in 186-. And while your committee may not presume to pronounce authoritatively, they desire to declare emphatically that masons everywhere should at once determine to do justice to those who, as the M. E. Grand High Priest forcibly states it, are "the subjects of an unjust and indefensible rule."

As, "In every nation, they that fear God and work righteousness are accepted of Him," so in every Lodge and Chapter they that do square work and are true to the everlasting principles of the Order, must be accepted by us.

In accordance with these views, thus briefly expressed, and in order that these chapters of colored masons shall be under like beneficial control with ourselves, it is suggested that the several Grand Lodges in the United States, by delegates, shall convene at some suitable time and place and deliberate upon this subject alone, and reach some conclusion that may prove a solution of the question."

The M. Ex. very properly calls this the "coming question," but it will only be so, if masons reject all the principles governing like cases, and are determined to let prejudice rule. Is the negro better than the white?

Shall the latter be required to show his credentials when he makes application, while the former is allowed, nay invited, to enter upon his own statement merely?

We have heretofore been silent on this subject, because we thought that the sober second thought, that which comes of reflection, would free us of any such necessity, but the closing year of the centennial existence of this republic seems to have inspired many brethren with new ardor, yea greater admiration for this people. Let them, Companions, become R. A. Masons in the regular way, as we require those of all other colors, and there will be no necessity for violating any of the long settled principles of masonry, nor of enunciating any such monstrous masonic heresy as that there can, because of a "new day" be a "new duty."

We have an excellent report on correspondence from Companion W. H. H. Pilsbury, but we have already given so much space to this Grand Chapter that we can spare no more, except to state that in it we find a notice of a colored Grand Chapter of Ohio. Companion Pilsbury says, "We find ourselves wholly unable to locate it and conclude it is colored and clandestine"—a righteous conclusion. But then, why place the proceedings of a clandestine, nay spurious body, in such good company, sandwiching it between Nova Scotia and Pennsylvania? Is this hereafter to be the lot, the *happy* lot of every clandestine and impudent fellow?

The same officers were continued.

KANSAS.

We now turn to the proceedings of the twelfth annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Kansas, held October 17th, A. D. 1876, over which R. Ex. Companion Dwight Byington, Grand King, presided, the G. H. Priest being unable to attend. Companion Silas E. Sheldon read the address of the M. Ex. G. H. P.

Among his decisions we find one which entirely agrees with our own views, but we believe is not settled in this jurisdiction, at least we have heard different views expressed, and we think that some of the decisions of the Grand Lodge from which we mainly derive our jurisprudence, tend in the other direction:

"When the High Priest of a Subordinate Chapter convenes his Chapter in Special Convocations, it is not necessary that he state the purpose for which it is so convened, and it will be proper for him to do any work that may be done, which is not in violation of existing By-Laws, or Standing Regulations."

The G. H. Priest recommended that the fees for the degrees be reduced from \$40 to \$30, to which, however, the Grand Chapter did not accede.

Companion E. T. Carr reported on correspondence, giving Alabama full attention. The report is full of instruction and should be read by every Companion in Kansas who wishes to know what is transpiring in other jurisdictions.

Companion D. Byington was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion E. T. Carr continued as Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

The proceedings for 1876 come to us from this Grand Chapter with a view of the "Masonic Widows and Orphans Home of Kentucky" as a frontispiece. This represents one of the noblest of charities, and proclaims in unmistakeable tones the Masonic character of our Brethren and Companions there. Truly may each contributor point to it and say: "*Eregi monumentum ære perennius*," for though like other works of perishable man the bricks and stones may in time be scattered, and its site be lost, yet the good that is being done by it will produce effects that will continue to the latest posterity. The Grand Chapter convened on 16th October, 1876, R. Ex. Companion James W. Staton, D. G. H. Priest, presiding. The business was purely local and rapidly transacted.

Our worthy Companion Henderson, he of the musical turn, again came forward with the report on correspondence. We are always glad to get his reports, because they are always pleasant, agreeable, and amusing. He introduces his report thus:

"Again we essay the task of a Reviewer, having first made a hasty excursion with the eye through an enormous budget of Proceedings. We heard of a man who objected to the dictionary as a "reading book" because it so often changed the subject. This objection would not be forceful with regard to the minutes, for our Grand High Priests "ring the changes" on the old traditional platitudes: "Another year has rolled round;" "give account of my stewardship;" "business has prevented;" "harmony reigns;" "few questions of jurisprudence;" "regrets," etc., make up the staple of the addresses. One fairly groans for something new.

But for the Reports on Foreign Correspondence the literature of Capitular Masonry, as we have it in the minutes, would be singularly barren of interest. The correspondents are generally witty, and, occasionally, satirical, and, on the whole, amiable.

We should like to have the General Grand Chapter offer a prize for an original report from our Grand High Priests. Now and then one does trumpet some new note, and when this is the case we take exquisite delight in repeating it. Of all the work we have to do nothing is more tedious than our annual perusal of the proceedings. If, therefore, our Report should be "dry reading" set it down to the material with which we are furnished.

We opine that but little thought is bestowed by our Grand High Priests

upon their addresses. He who will get out of the old ruts and give us something fresh and invigorating upon the history and ethics of our Royal Art will deserve, and receive, a meed of merit from his admiring Companions."

We give his views on the question of conferring the Chapter degrees on a maimed candidate, which are ingenious, cogent, and almost convincing:

"A decision adverse to a maimed candidate receiving Capitular advancement is published. While a number of jurisdictions concur in this view we are gratified to see that a number of our Companion reporters agree with us, that the landmarks of Symbolic Masonry are not imperious in this respect as regards Capitular Masonry. We have seen no argument, even plausible to our reason, sustaining the position that a physical defect, incurred after being raised, is to operate as a bar to further advancement. Masonry being now an ethical Institution we see no reason why such strict construction should be applied to an unfortunate brother as will prevent him from receiving "further light in Masonry." The soldier disabled for field-service, by the very reason of his wounds, may be promoted, and a brother who has been true and faithful, and, in some instances, on account of this very fidelity, maimed, should not be mortified by closing the gates to his Masonic aspiration. The analogy suggested is not regarded as perfect and may even be set down as inapposite, but every Companion having a *heart* must see that such a restriction, if it really exists, is singularly antagonistic to the spirit of Masonry. Should Hiram have escaped with his life from the brutal assault of the envious Craftsmen, but, injured in his person because of his fidelity to obligation, would anyone think it would be *humane* to say to the unfortunate brother—Master—we cannot introduce you to the farther mysteries of Masonry? With him the true word was lost. It is its possession that makes the full Master. If it is ever recovered it is *the right* of every one raised to the sublime degree. It is the necessary complement. It is promised. Were it supposed to be in possession at the time of the raising it would be his indefeasible right. If entitled to it *then*, is the utter loss of a limb to operate to alienate this right? We trow not.

We would like to clip somewhat at length the many good things in this report; but we have promised to be brief, and must bid adieu to Companion H. Companion H. gives us in this pamphlet an interesting history of R. A. Masonry in Kentucky, and in it shows that the same fears which are alive in our breasts to-day of the aggressive tendency of the G. G. Chapter agitated our Companions there as early as 1831. We would like to give the report of a committee on this subject, were we not under obligation to be as brief as possible.

The Grand Chapter elected Companion Staton M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Joseph H. Branham, Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

The proceedings of the annual convocation of this Grand Chapter, held 13th February, 1877, are before us, M. Ex. Companion Samuel J. Powell,

G. H. Priest. The address is a practicable one, and devoted to matters of general interest. From it we learn with great pleasure of the prosperity of the Craft. On this subject, he says:

"I am gratified to have it to say that not a single charge has been preferred, or complaint made during the year. Peace and harmony prevail throughout the entire jurisdiction; and Capitular Masonry is still in a prosperous condition. I do not wish to be understood as saying that this prosperity consists in accessions to our numbers, for, in my judgment, an increase of membership is not, of itself, an indication of prosperity. On the contrary, the process of separating the sheep from the goats still continues, and many of the careless and worthless are dropped from our rolls; and the same monetary depression that has heretofore kept so many from our doors, still exists. What I do mean to say is, that there is an element in every Chapter, whose sails are not set to catch the popular breeze, but love the Order for its own sake, with intelligence to appreciate their high privileges and responsibilities—with zeal to bear the burden and heat of the day—they hold fast to the faith of their fathers, and maintain the Order in its dignity and usefulness."

The business of the Grand Chapter was purely of local interest, and we again find no report on Correspondence. We feared Companion Horner had bankrupted the Chapter by his very able and lengthy reports, this induced us to turn to Treasurer's report, but we there found a fair balance—so we don't know what to make of it. However, we know that we shall have a good one next time for Companion Batchelor, the Grand Secretary, will make it.

Companion Joseph H. De Grange was elected M. Ex. G. P. H., and Companion J. C. Batchelor, M. D., Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS.

We delight to take up the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, because everything is done in so deliberate, orderly, and square, a manner. Here there is no haste, but calm deliberation. The volume contains the proceedings of Quarterly, Special, and the Annual Convocation on 12th December, 1876—M. Ex. Alfred Chapman being G. H. Priest.

At one of the Special Convocations, held for the purpose of constituting and consecrating "Unity R. A. Chapter," and installing the officers, the M. Ex. G. H. Priest delivered a very interesting historical address. It is too long to be transferred in full to this report, but we extract as follows:

"An English authority says that no regular organization of the Craft is recorded prior to the building of King Solomon's Temple, and Solomon himself, who died 975 years before Christ, is acknowledged as our first Grand Master. The same authority traces the stream of English Masonry from its rise until 1866, when the Earl of Zetland was Grand Mas-

ter of the United Grand Lodge of England. Julius Cæsar is said to have been a Patron of the Order fifty-five years before the Christian era; and since the arrival of the Romans in Britain, which occurred Anno Mundi 3949, many distinguished persons, including Sovereigns and Princes, have been identified quite as closely with the Craft. A charter was granted by *Carausius* to Albanus, or St. Albans, who held the first Grand Lodge A. D. 287. Since that time, 25 of the Sovereigns of England have been identified with the Order, either as Patrons or as Grand Master, not including the present heir apparent to the throne, who now holds the latter high office.

Cardinal Woolsey was Grand Master in 1509, Queen Elizabeth was Patron, and appointed Sir Thomas Sackville, Grand Master, who resigned the office, in 1567, in favor of Sir Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, who presided over the Northern Masons, and Sir Thomas Gresham, the "Royal Merchant," and founder of the Royal Exchange in London, who presided over the Southern.

Following these in grand and strong succession comes a long line of illustrious men—among them the Earl of Effingham, Inigo Jones, Sir Christopher Wren, Anthony Sayre Esq., the Duke of Montague, Sir Francis Drake, and members of the Royal Family. Truly, it is a royal line; with one end reaching into the dim and shadowy past, and the other actively grasped by the vital present."

And again :

"Here let us rest from further pursuit in the domain of history, for whatever may have been the character or condition of the Order during the centuries of uncertainty, or however much the Anglo-Saxon race may have impressed itself upon it, the principles of the Institution, like truth itself, are the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.

"Living through ages of uncertainty, with its existence depending upon the good character of its adherents, and its legends upon tradition for preservation and transmission; it has outlived dynasties, endured persecution, outgrown envy, and now, independent of the malice of the wicked and the weak, it is, beyond dispute, the oldest and the best of all the moral forces of human organization.

"It invades not the spiritual domain of religion, and imposes no dogmas of creed upon its members; but with the Bible open upon its altar, and a belief in God as the sole requirement for the erection of its spiritual edifice, it teaches that our moral and spiritual characters should be most like God, and enforces its lessons by the use of appropriate symbols.

"After due knowledge, it permits not any of its members to say, 'I was sick and ye visited me not,' an 'hungred, and ye fed me not, naked and ye clothed me not,' but with a charity, at once disinterested, delicate, and vigorous, it gives relief without ostentation, and sympathy without reproach. To the living it gives when want is most pressing, to the dead it is most tender, and holds their widows and orphans in appropriate remembrance. It makes no agreement to give, but employs the best methods in dealing with the dependent, without oppressing them with the sense that they are considered such.

"It gives by contribution what it refuses by contract, and is practical in producing results.

Companion Chapman discountenances the idea of naming Chapters after those still living, because "man, in his best estate, is subject to frailty and error."

The Report on Correspondence, we are delighted to see, comes again from the pen of Companion John W. Dadmun. His respite seems to have given him a new appetite, and new vigor. He gives Alabama a full, courteous, and flattering notice.

Companion Chapman remains M. Ex. G. H. P.

Companion Zeph H. Thomas, Grand Secretary.

MISSOURI.

To have the proceedings of this Grand Chapter for October 5th, 1876, with the signature of Companion George Frank Gouley, and be thus reminded of the awful calamity by which he lost his life, fills us with gloom, and so bedews our eyelids that we have neither heart nor vision for a review. By his death, our corps is deprived of one of its brightest ornaments. Learned, brilliant, with a keen sense of the ridiculous, a fluent and facile writer, though just and charitable, we shall long miss his admirable reports.

Companion Joseph S. Browne elected M. Ex. G. H. P.

MARYLAND.

The proceedings of the Convocation held on 13th November, A. D. 1876, are now in hand—M. Ex. Companion Hermon L. Emmons Jr. G. H. Priest. The Address is a short, well-written, business-like paper, and, in conclusion, he declines re-election, and recommends that the Grand Chapter begin then to adopt a rule of action which shall prevent re-elections. He hints at his reasons only, but every Mason can readily imagine them.

Companion E. T. Schultz reported on correspondence, and, this being his first effort, he thus introduces himself:

"Your Committee on Correspondence herewith submits this, their first report. It is with much trepidation that the writer enters upon this duty. It is one entirely new to him, and the mere thought is appalling that he is required, in the performance thereof, to comment upon and criticise the writings of such veteran reporters as Companions Drummond, Corson, Parvin, Gouley, Pierson, Wiggin, Cottrill, etc., etc., who, from their long practice, are as accustomed to wielding the pen as the writer is to his bales and measures. But, having accepted the position, he will proceed, to the best of his ability, trusting that the Grand Chapter may overlook his short-comings, and also that his companions of the

reportorial corps will deal leniently with this, his first and, more than probable, last effort as a Masonic reporter."

When reviewing Maine, he thus expresses his opinions of the powers of a Chapter U. D., which seem to us sound. We do not now recollect any decision on this point having been made in Alabama, but we know that the Grand Lodge requires the dimits of the applicants to be filed with the Grand Secretary, with the application for dispensation, and gives to the Lodge U. D. all the powers of a chartered body during the continuance of the dispensation :

"We regret that Companion Drummond cannot agree with the host of authorities he cites, and that he believes that Lodges or Chapters U. D. should have power given to discipline the members composing them. Now, our views upon this subject are as follows : A certain number of Companions, believing that the interest of Capitular Masonry would be promoted by the formation of a new Chapter in a particular locality, petition the Grand High Priest for a Dispensation for the purpose of forming one. A Dispensation is granted, which empowers them to form and open a Chapter, and therein to confer the several degrees, according to the ancient custom (no other powers are given therein). This Dispensation (by its terms) to continue in force no longer than to the next succeeding Convocation of the Grand Chapter, when, if the Companions named in the Dispensation have proven themselves capable of complying with the duties prescribed in the Dispensation, and the Grand Chapter believes that there is sufficient material in the territory, in which the new Chapter is to be located, without detriment to the Chapters already in existence, a charter is usually granted, and in due time they are constituted a regular Chapter, with all the powers appertaining thereto; until this is done, they are nothing more than a Chapter in embryo, without any power whatever except to confer degrees. If the Grand Chapter, for any cause, refuse to grant a charter, all power under the Dispensation ceases, and the Companions who have been made under its authority, are non-affiliated Royal Arch Masons. Should it become necessary to discipline any so made, they can be dealt with as non-affiliated Companions by any regular constituted Royal Arch Chapter, which alone, in our opinion, have any power to discipline Royal Arch Masons."

Companion Charles F. Achey was elected M. Ex. G. H. Priest, and Companion William A. Wentz continued Grand Secretary.

MICHIGAN,

The proceedings for 1877 are in hand ; the Twenty-eighth Annual Convocation having been opened by M. Ex. Wm. Brown, G. H. Priest.

Last year we had not the proceedings of this Grand Chapter, and in making out our list, in some way it was omitted. But we know we have them now, and hope to be as well instructed as heretofore, upon examination. Of the condition of the Craft the G. H. Priest says—

"The past masonic year, so far as I am aware, has been one of comparative quiet among the Royal Craft. No intruder with mistaken zeal has created discord or confusion in our ranks; nor has the fanatic's angry touch despoiled the work of those whose knowledge of architecture and the different arts and sciences, have entitled them to prominent distinction and faithful remembrance among us."

The address concludes with a true and exalted sentiment, which we would heartily indorse if the word *sacred* were not applied to Masonry. We believe that the institution is the work of man, the result of man's necessities, but based on divine principles, which are immutable and indestructible; hence the durability of the Order:

"The sacred institution of masonry will survive and prosper while nations fall and crumble into dust; for an eternal principle of right exists in its organization, and must prevail for all time to come. Its course is onward, and its aims are pure and upward. While religious tenets clash, its principles never change. Faith in God, Hope in immortality, and Charity towards all mankind come from on high. Let us ever remember and practice them. May the blessings of Heaven prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us."

Companion William P. Innes, Grand Secretary, presented the correspondence report, which is lengthy and judiciously made, having in hand the proceedings of all the Grand Chapters, save Colorado and Rhode Island.

Of the unity of Masonic Jurisprudence wherever heard from, he truly says—

"Our Masonic Law, as a general thing, is based on the same governing principles throughout the land, and what is Masonic Law on the broad Atlantic is Masonic Law on the great Pacific. This we attribute, in a great measure, to the very general system of interchange through the Committee on Foreign Correspondence."

Companion Oliver L. Spaulding was elected M. Ex. Grand High Priest, and Companion Wm. P. Innes Grand Secretary.

MISSISSIPPI.

For the Convocation held on 5th February, 1877, over which Companion Harvey W. Walter, M. Ex. G. H. P., presided. In his address, in the few following words, he gives a glowing description of the harmony which prevails among the Craft—

"Not a complaint has been made to me, not a charge preferred, and not a legal question propounded during the year."

Now this might have arisen either from the perfect harmony prevailing, or from the lethargy which precedes death, but he also informs us that "our Order has grown, if not in numbers, in temperance and virtue."

In short the Companions have become more infused with the spirit of the several degrees, so that "bickerings are unknown."

The report of the Grand Secretary, however, gives but a gloomy picture. The Chapters are annually diminishing—the revenues of the Grand Chapter decreasing, and the Grand Chapter burthened with debt. The Grand Secretary set a noble example for others in proposing a reduction of the salary of the office, and Companion Oliver Clifton, Chairman of Committee on Correspondence, in order that the report might be printed with the proceedings, offered to bear a part of the expense—yet the members want mileage and per diem. This incubus of debt is sapping the energies of the Grand Chapter, and through it acting on the subordinates.

The scheme of incorporating the Council degrees in the Chapter, from which the M. Ex. hoped so much, was passed over to the next triennial convocation by the G. G. Chapter and a convention in which 24 Grand Councils were represented, the vote upon the expediency of the plan was 6 Grand Councils in favor—12 against, one divided—one not voting, and 4 having retired before the vote was taken, so that a majority were actually opposed to it.

The Grand Chapter resolved to pay no one out of the funds of the Grand Chapter at the next convocation, also to print no proceedings next year. The first resolution if adhered to will ruin the Chapters, though it would have been better to have acted on it at this convocation. Most sincerely do we hope that the Grand Chapter may be at ease financially, for an empty pocket disorders the brain.

Companion Clifton submitted the report on correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of 35 Grand Chapters, many of them for two years, giving ample notice to Alabama. Under this head he makes a suggestion which strikes us as valuable and we extract it.

"We suggest to the Companions of Alabama, that the appointment of their Committees on Chartered Chapters at each Convocation might be dispensed with, and such duties as they seem to be required to perform also dispensed with, without injury to the business interests of the Craft, if subordinate Chapters were required to send their returns to the Grand Secretary in advance of the Annual Convocation so that all mistakes could be by him corrected. Such a plan works admirably with us."

Companion Clifton, after making a most excellent report, defending his Grand Chapter, and attacking with force the opinions of others, though always courteously, closes his report saying—"We ask for the foregoing charitable criticism."

Companion H. W. Walter was again made M. Ex. Grand High Priest, while Companion J. L. Power remains Grand Secretary.

NEBRASKA.

The proceedings of the tenth annual convocation of this Grand Chapter, was opened in Ample Form on 20th December, 1876, by Companion Charles F. Goodman, M. Ex. Grand High Priest.

The Grand High Priest declares that the Royal Craft are prospering in that jurisdiction, and the formation of new Chapters, together with the harmony prevailing, give satisfactory evidence that he is right. Supplemental to these also is the recommendation of the Grand Secretary, Companion Wm. R. Bowen, to reduce the dues of subordinates—and all sums paid in to the Grand Chapter as dues on membership for 1876, were refunded.

We find that there are 16 Chapters, in which there were 71 exaltations and a membership of 667.

There is no report on correspondence, but instead the reports of several of the Representatives of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska near sister Grand Chapters; and among these we find that of our Companion Wiley W. Bloodworth, the worthy representative here. Having the proceedings as published of the several Grand Chapters themselves much more precisely, and fully, and correctly given, there is no room for comment or criticism. We do not think the plan can be productive of as much good as the method abandoned, because there can be no assignment of the reasons for the several positions of the several Grand Chapters, and a uniformity of decisions on a question arising, is not so likely to be obtained. We find the acts of but ten Grand Chapters reported. Seven only of the reports were written from the jurisdictions of which they speak, the others in Nebraska from proceedings. The plan will prove economical.

Companion Edwin F. Warren was elected M. Ex. Grand High Priest and Companion Wm. R. Bowen, Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

And now comes New Hampshire, for convocation held May 16, A. L. 5876, A. I. 2406—Companion John D. Patterson being M. Ex. Grand High Priest.

Capitular Masonry is in a healthy condition here, and the reports of the several members of the Grand Council demonstrate this, and, also, that they honestly discharged their duties when making official visits, neither reproving harshly, or excusing error.

There are 19 Chapters, 2,115 members, and there were 124 exaltations.

The report on correspondence is made by Companion Nathan P. Hunt, who made a "brief" report on the acts and doings of 37 Grand Chapters, giving Alabama sufficient notice.

Companion Andrew J. Thompson was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion John A. Harris continued Grand Secretary.

P. S.—Since the above was written our esteemed Companion, John A. Harris, has ceased to exist. He died at his home, in Concord, on the 3d of September last. A good mason, and an admirable Secretary.

GRAND SECRETARY.

NEVADA.

As we sit near an open window, fanned by the breezes of the Gulf, laden with the perfume of the sweet olive and with oranges on the trees in sight, now on this November day, we greet the proceedings of the fourth annual convocation of the Grand Chapter from the "snowy" State. Companion DeWitt C. McKenny, M. Ex. Grand High Priest, presided. Companion Samuel W. Chubbuck, Grand Secretary, with the representatives of six chartered Chapters, constituted it. It was held on 14th June, 1877.

The G. H. Priest states that "peace and harmony" prevail; that "the several branches of industry are not as prosperous" as could be desired.

The committee on jurisprudence reported adversely on the question—"Can a Companion exchange his mark for that of a *deceased Companion*?" which was concurred in. We italicise for this jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter is making an effort to force membership of the non-affiliated, and will succeed as badly as all others who have run counter to the principle, that as one becomes a mason of his own free will, so also ought he to be allowed to sever his connection of his own free will.

This Grand Chapter favors the absorption of the Council degrees.

The same officers were continued.

No report on correspondence.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The twenty-ninth convocation of this Grand Chapter, was held on 4th June, 1877, Companion Thomas S. Keenan M. Ex. G. H. Priest, presiding. The address is very short and of local interest only.

There appears to be a deathly lethargy creeping over the Chapters in this jurisdiction; let us hope that the settlement of political difficulties,

and a return to greater prosperity generally, will stimulate our Companions in the old North State to renewed vigor. We know how "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and can truly sympathize with these Companions.

Deserved marks of esteem were paid to the memory of Companion George Frank Gouley, and also to that Masonic veteran and christian gentleman, Companion John Dove of Virginia.

This Grand Chapter indorsed the plan of amalgamation of the Chapter and Council.

No report on Correspondence.

22 Chapters, 21 exaltations, 912 members.

M. Ex. Companion Charles W. Alexander elected G. H. P., and Companion Donald W. Bain, Grand Secretary.

NEW JERSEY.

Here we have New Jersey, the home of Corson, the Prince of good fellows, and the life of reporters, which held its twenty-first annual convocation on September 12th, 1877, M. Ex. Companion Edward Goeller G. H. Priest, presiding.

From the address we copy the following eloquent meed of praise and sympathizing sorrow for two of the brightest Masonic lights now extinguished, and we know that all the Companions of Alabama will join in this expression of their grief:

"New Jersey claims a place amid the general sisterhood of Grand Chapters, and as a loving sister she would modestly offer the tribute of her love and sympathy to Virginia and Missouri, in the dark days of their bereavment. The former Chapter sits as a widow clothed in sack-cloth, bearing the heavy burden of bereavement, in the one year, of her Grand Treasurer, "honest, accurate and affable"; her Grand Lecturer, one of the most brilliant and letter-perfect of American Masons; and her Grand Secretary, whose devotion to the Craft for nearly sixty years of continued office-bearing has made the name of John Dove "familiar as household words." When such a man is gathered to his fathers, it befits us to pause and contemplate the lessons of his life. The record that he leaves contains this remarkable fact: serving the Grand Chapter of Virginia as her Secretary, "not once absent during fifty-eight years of service, with books present and ready, and papers all filed." Is that an insignificant matter? It stamps the man as consecrated and loyal to his work, as faithful to his trust, as competent for his task; and therein is described the earnest Mason. The loss of such a man is a loss to the Craft, and we claim the right to deck the memory of Dove with the fragrant flowers of our affection, and share the bitter cup of sorrow with bereaved Virginia.

"The singular dispensation of an All-wise Father, which consumed in

flame the bodies of many of our race, in the city of St. Louis, on the night of the 10th of April last, bereaved the general Craft of another of its best and brilliant toilers. The pen fell from magic fingers in the Old Dominion, and it has fallen from as generous a hand as ever traced the glowing thoughts of genius, in the death of Grand Secretary George Frank Gouley, of Missouri. Younger than Dove, though not less powerful in his Masonic learning and influence, we claim *this* loss also as our own. Brave, generous, courteous, around no brow clustered brighter laurels of nobility. In the full ripeness and vigor of his manhood, with his intellect touching the zenith of his fame, he was cut down like the noble Tyrian, and all the Craft must gather to mourn its irreparable loss.

"Virginia—Missouri—with you we hallow the memory of these noblest of our sons. We venerate you for the children you have borne. They are ours, and we sorrow in deepest sincerity. And, while we know—

"All heads must come
To the cold tomb,"

your cherished dead incite us to nobler toil, and teach us that—

"The actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in the dust."

The G. H. Priest notices some errors and irregularities that, we fear, are to be found in every Chapter, and cautions to a greater care in the practice of Masonic virtues.

Companion T. J. Corson, whose death we mourned, we find is still at his old vocation, and makes the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of 38 Grand Chapters, and among them we find Alabama.

We thank Companion C. for his kind expressions with regard to ourselves, and are satisfied that we unjustly charged him with wrong last year, and we assure Companion C. that we will in no wise be annoyed, if he destroys the proof of his identity and life by paying that "Tailor's bill."

We find him averse to suspension for non-payment of dues without trial.

To Companion Ogden's exclamation—"What is New Jersey but a kind of appendage to New York, a suburb of the great Metropolis?" Companion C. says:

"Let us inform this verdant youth that New Jersey is the balance-wheel, the regulator, between New York and Pennsylvania, without which these unwieldy and erratic jurisdictions would fly off at a tangent—collapse—go 'up in a balloon'—fly into eternal smash. Hopkins of Pennsylvania calls New Jersey a 'Giant's causeway' between the lands of Penn and Hendrick Hudson. At a meeting of the Medical Society of New Jersey, some years ago, the president gave a formal reception to the representatives of the medical societies of our two big neighbors, in doing which he said that various appellations, complimentary and otherwise, had been applied to our modest little State, but she's bigger than Massachusetts anyhow, and don't make so much fuss either. Among other titles given to us, said he, New Jersey has been called the

"great intestinal canal between Pennsylvania and New York," and then, rather naively added, "I leave it to you gentlemen to decide which of you belongs to the *receptive* end." You see, Companion Ogden, that "the *wally* of this observation lies in the application *on't*."

Companion Corson battles right manfully against the right of objection, and gives good reasons for his views. This question as to what would be the effect of an objection after election, or whether the objector should be required to give his reasons, so that the value thereof might be determined by the Chapter, has given rise to lengthy discussion, and the decisions of Grand Chapters vary materially on the subject. There be good reasons against Companion C's position. Some definite and uniform rule should be established in the matter.

Under Wisconsin, of the Grand High Priest's address, he says:

"He reports having granted a dispensation to a Chapter to have a parade on the Fourth of July; to another, for the 'reception and transaction of business at a special convocation;' to another, to ballot for a candidate out of time; and had refused to grant a 'dispensation for the use of a substitute.' What is that about straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel—hide, hair, lump, and hoofs included?

But we must leave Companion Corson to meditate over his own humor, and laugh at his own puns.

Companion Martin M. Drohan was elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Corson is still Grand Secretary.

NEW YORK.

And now, in order, comes New York for 1877, which convened on 6th February, 1877—Companion Joseph B. Chaffee, M. Ex. G. H. P., and the representatives of one hundred and eighty-six Chapters, an army of Companions, bound by solemn ties to each other, and the amelioration of mankind.

With pleasure, we extract the following passages from the Address—they are so sound and practical. They prove that Companion Chaffee's "head is level," if we may be allowed this vulgarity in such a place as this:

THE PROGRESS OF THE ROYAL CRAFT.

"In times like those through which we have been passing, the real value of the material we have wrought into our walls is made apparent. If we have accepted blocks because of their fair seeming, without a rigid application of the overseer's square, the pressure of duty, when there is but limited opportunity for display, has revealed their flaws, and thus at-

forded us another proof of the wisdom of the admonition to "Lay hands suddenly on no man." If here and there a Chapter has become discouraged by the apathy of its membership and the lack of work, may we not learn therefrom how wise it is to make haste slowly, and to secure well the foundations before we build the superstructure? It will be found as a general principle that men who blindly rush forward in the affairs of life, endeavoring as it were to conquer a fortune by their very audacity, when they fail in their attempts, as they so often do, are apt to place the blame any where but upon their own want of foresight, their own neglect to sit down first and count the cost; so with our labor—forgetting the lessons nature so frequently teaches us, we often act as though we would repeat the miracle of the rod, and have our undertakings bud, blossom, and bear fruit in a single night. The real lesson of our progress is that of the oak which grows not on every soil, which requires long years to arrive at perfection, but which, when its growth has been established becomes the monarch of the forest and lives, while feebler and speedier growths have run their brief race and fallen to earth. Taking this view, companions we may see that the depression of the times re-acting naturally enough upon our work is by no means an unmitigated evil. On the contrary, we are thus brought to consider the condition and needs of the Craft, and to ask ourselves whether we have builded as wisely as we might, or whether in the enforced pause there may not be a providential opportunity for us to carefully scrutinize what we have done in the past, and to inquire thoughtfully

"WHAT REMAINETH TO BE DONE."

"Our relations with all corresponding bodies continue to be of the most satisfactory and fraternal character, as will be found more fully set forth in the report on Foreign Correspondence. I embrace this occasion to impress upon you all the great value of this annual contribution to the literature of Royal Arch Masonry, involving as it does great labor on the part of its author, and affording not only a history of the Craft during the past year, but giving the views of able minds upon a variety of topics of great interest to every Royal Arch Mason. No better preparation for the discharge of your duty as representatives of your respective Chapters and as guardians of the Institution can be found, than is contained in the careful study of this annual review of the doings of our sister jurisdictions; nor can I give you any better advice, than that you should avail yourselves of the means placed ready to your hands by an efficient and energetic committee."

Companion Ogden presented the report on Correspondence again, and gladly do we welcome him back to the corps. The report is very full, every Grand Chapter receiving its full share of attention. We are pleased to find him agreeing with us in many of our positions, but cannot help thinking he is wrong when he declares that—

"Expulsion from a Lodge, it is true, does cut off from the Chapter, but it cannot reach the standing of a member until the final act; up to that time the presumption is of innocence, even if within the jurisdiction

of the Chapter; but the presumption is that the Chapter knows nothing until duly notified, or until the fact becomes notorious. Our view is, that in the absence of charges in the Chapter the member must be held to be in good standing, and therefore is entitled to a dimit."

For if, when a brother is expelled from his Lodge he is, *ipso facto*, expelled from his Chapter, then if he be under charges in the Lodge, he is doubtless under a cloud in the Chapter, and the trial and verdict by the Lodge only perfects his position in his Chapter.

Under Delaware he enunciates the opinion so frequently expressed by us, that a "member cannot be suspended for non-payment of dues," and under Indiana we find his views more fully expressed, and with them we entirely agree:

"The more we see of the legislative action of Chapters, particularly on the subject of suspension for the non-payment of dues, the more we become impressed with the importance of some definite general rule on the subject. Almost every Grand Chapter has a different system or rule, while all have constant trouble on the subject. Masons, like other men, are subject to the fluctuations of business, to financial reverses, and many of them, like other men, are neglectful (we hope none of them actually dishonest,) and forget to do what is right and manful to do, and thus the dues accumulate. Lodges and Chapters need the money, inquiries are made, resolutions passed, suspensions ordered, sometimes by the simple operation of non-action, and sometimes by direct action and vote. Then follows another class of rules; some restore by the simple act of paying up, some by a majority vote, and some by a unanimous vote; and, take it altogether, it is confusion worse confounded.

Should there not be some general rule applicable to all, and operative in all Chapters? This, it seems to us, might be done in the Grand and Subordinate Chapters under the action of the General Grand Chapter. What the rule should be is not for us to say; but the wise men of the Craft ought to agree upon one which would be satisfactory in the main to all. It seems to us that a rule applicable to all subordinate Chapters, something like this, might be fair: "All members who are two years or more in arrears for dues, may, after due summons, and on failing to present reasons satisfactory to a majority of the Chapter, be suspended on a vote of a majority present and voting; and on payment of all dues within two years after the suspension, shall be restored to membership by the simple act of payment. But if payment be not made within two years after suspension, but within five years thereafter, it shall require the vote of a majority of members present and voting to restore to membership. And if payment be not made until after five years, then it shall require a unanimous vote to restore to membership." We simply make the suggestion, believing firmly that the good of the Royal Craft would be greatly promoted by some fixed general rule applicable and operative in all Grand Chapter jurisdictions."

Much as we admire the power and soundness of Companion Ogden in general, we are surprised at the sophistry displayed by him in his remarks under Iowa on the subject of negro Masons. We will not criti-

cise or call farther attention to this, but giving his remarks in full, leave all Companions to make their own deductions, and draw their own conclusions. We will say, however, that a strict adherence to the landmarks and principles of Masonry would probably have prevented this "subject" becoming "important." But the inconsiderate zeal of fanatics has drenched the land with blood, made countless widows and orphans, and impoverished the entire country, and may yet introduce discord even among our brethren. Let us adhere to the principles which governed our fathers, and Masonry will have no such question thrust upon it. Let every man, white and black, be subject to the same requirements, and let no sickly sentimentality induce discrimination:

"The question is doubtless one of a good deal of importance and interest. In the absence of slavery in this country the doors of Masonic Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies would seem to be barred against none, and particularly not against any of the citizens, free and equal as they are before the law of the United States. The question of color certainly could not of itself stand in the way, while a "previous condition" might; for to be "free born" is a prerequisite. And yet we question whether a free man to-day, though a slave fifteen years ago, could be excluded from a Masonic body, or be barred from entrance to one. The Declaration of Independence says: "All men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." While slavery existed as a fact, the natural right to liberty was in abeyance; but now, with the obstructive and restraining fact gone and removed, does not the colored man fall back and take rank as "a free man," the equal, so far as born or natural rights are concerned, with every other man of any or all other colors? Such, we think, is the logic of the case; but it is not the end of it. Color is color after all, and carries with it feeling if not prejudice, or may be natural repugnance, which forbids close association or fellowship. As a question, then, of policy, of interest to colored and white alike, it may well be considered whether it is not better for all concerned that Chapters and Lodges of colored men exclusively should be organized and maintained. We would not deprive the colored man of the rights and privileges of Masonry; but, for his own sake as well as for the general good, we would say, "organize your own Lodges and Chapters, living under the same general jurisdiction, if you please, with your brethren of paler faces, but enjoying full control in the closer and more intimate association of the Lodge and Chapter room." Such are the thoughts which have come to us as we have reflected upon the notice in the address of Companion Winslow. The subject is important, and will probably become so in the future. The race question is a very interesting one in this country, and it will touch Masonry in its outreaching; and Masonry must touch it, and touch it too so as to cover it with its broad mantle of charity and its sweet spirit of brotherhood, and thus do good to all classes, races, and conditions, and mould them all into a truer and broader brotherhood."

We can say to Companion Ogden that Kentucky already has that

"Home;" not quite finished to be sure, but capable of accommodating and actually accommodating, when we were there, some widows and about 50 children, giving these latter not only a home, but a fine substantial education. Let New York and Alabama, and all the other jurisdictions "go and do likewise," and we shall have erected a monument to Masonry more durable than Cleopatra's needle, which would indeed endure as long as time. Masons do not, quite sufficiently well recollect that "by their fruits shall ye know them."

But we must leave Companion Ogden and his most readable report, else we shall have consumed our space, and neglected those that are to follow. It is hard to know what to write, but harder to write little.

Companion George Van Vliet was elected M. Ex. G. H. Priest, and Companion Christopher G. Fox, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Secretary reported the total membership as 18,539. Exalted during the year 971.

OREGON

Comes forward with her neatly printed proceedings of the seventeenth annual convocation, held on 8th June, 1877, Companion J. B. Lee, M. Ex. G. H. P., with Companion R. P. Earhart, R. Ex. Grand Secretary.

"In conclusion, permit me to say, that Capitulary Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, is in a harmonious and prosperous condition, a greater interest seems to be manifested, and a greater care exercised in the selection of material, and its importance and value more sincerely appreciated. Foreign and sister Grand Chapters everywhere hail us with fraternal greetings and complimentary phrases; the proceedings of every Grand Chapter in the United States, and of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, Scotland, Nova Scotia, and Canada, have been received by our Grand Secretary and their receipt acknowledged by him in fraternal letters. These proceedings show the Royal Craft enjoying the same concord and prosperity found with us."

Oregon agrees with Mississippi and California in wishing to incorporate the Council degrees with the Chapter.

We find a resolution introduced to enforce membership. This was laid on the table "for the present," and our Companions had better let it stay there, for as sure as the effort is made, it will prove a failure, and be productive of more injury than benefit to the Craft in Oregon. This has been the experience of all others who have made a like effort.

Companion T. McF. Patton presented the report on correspondence. He introduces it with a short history of R. A. Masonry in his State. Alabama receives abundant notice, and his remarks about us are too flattering to be deserved, yet we are delighted to find him agreeing with us on so many points.

Hear him on suspension for non-payment of dues:

"The question arises, can a brother or companion, suspended for any cause, (non-payment of dues, or otherwise,) reinstate himself without formal application, and a vote of the Chapter or Lodge. We say they cannot, if the law is respected. This part of the California practice we do not approve. Suspension rather, definite or indefinite—one expires by limitation without action, the other requires action of the Lodge or Chapter.

* * * If a companion is suspended and desires reinstatement, let him pay the amount of his dues, petition for reinstatement, and if no other reasons exist than non-payment of dues, he will be restored without a question. In pursuing this course the law will be vindicated, and the rights of all will be respected."

We intend to avail ourselves of his industry, and copy his article on jurisprudence at the close of our report.

All the officers were re-elected.

PENNSYLVANIA.

We have the proceedings for the year 1876, of the quarterly and annual convocations of this Grand Chapter, the latter held on 27th December, Companion George E. Wagner, M. Ex. G. H. Priest.

At the quarterlies the usual business was transacted, and at that held November 3d, the election of officers was held, to be installed at the annual "communication."

The Grand High Priest delivered a straightforward address on business, but in closing he bid an affectionate and pathetic farewell to the Companions, announcing that he was about to become a resident of Chicago.

We very much like the frank and fearless report of the Committee on Appeals, who, because of great irregularity and gross negligence during the trial, and in the manner in which the papers were sent up, sustain the appeal, and restore the appellant to membership, but without prejudice to the Chapter.

Companion Alfred R. Potter, who had previously been elected with the other officers of the Grand Chapter, was duly installed M. Ex. G. H. Priest. The Order of High Priesthood is here a prerequisite to installation.

Companion Charles E. Meyer presented the report on correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of 37 Grand Chapters, covering no less than 4895 pages. We have always felt that the labor was great, but we never realized how great, in preparing a report, until Companion Meyer's came to hand. We cite his remarks on the utility of these reports:

"The proceedings of the Grand Chapters of this country and abroad have been to us most interesting. An examination of them exhibits the

progress made by the Royal Arch, and points out the differences in the government of the craft. Here is written a history which cannot be changed or obliterated, the lessons of which, if heeded, will prove of advantage to those who come after us.

"The reporters of foreign correspondence stand as impartial critics; they examine carefully the proceedings, oftentimes poring over some thousands of pages, and selecting such portions as may prove of interest to their Grand Chapters, present in a connected or condensed form a perfect picture of the condition of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world."

We fully agree with him in his views in relation to the multiplicity of degrees, and believe that we need only those he mentions, for indeed we have found the others to be more ornamental than useful.

"We are coming to believe that there are too many degrees in Masonry, and that the declaration of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in olden times is true, "that Ancient Masonry consists of but three degrees, the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, to which is added the Holy Royal Arch."

"The ingenuity of man has conceived many hundred degrees, but take away the first three, the Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master, and the Royal Arch, and these air castles vanish.

"It is all very well to endeavor to keep the official degrees exclusive, but we believe also, that Royal Arch Masons should act with justice. If they elect a Companion as their High Priest, give him freely, without any unnecessary forms or red tape, what he is entitled to,"

We would, however, that the Companion should understand that the Council of High Priests is held at the time and place in which the Grand Chapter is held, only for the convenience of conferring the degree upon all those entitled to receive it. The degree is not a prerequisite to installation.

In the following Companion Meyer confirms our heretofore expressed opinion on the subject:

"A Royal Arch Mason who has lost his membership by resignation, suspension, or expulsion, can only regain it by petition in the usual form, its reference to a committee, favorable report, and unanimously favorable ballot.

"There should be some difference between one who has resigned, or been suspended or expelled; the one is honorable, the other dishonorable, and why the latter should have a greater privilege than the former we cannot see. One who has resigned cannot again become a member except by petition, etc., while, according to the action of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, he regains his membership at once by the action of another body; that is, the Lodge, not recognizing Royal Arch Masonry, says; We will restore this suspended or expelled Mason, and the Chapter must accept him to full membership without any question."

We are rejoiced to find him noticing the inconsistencies of the G. H.

P. of Iowa, and the errors of Companion Pillsbury, of same jurisdiction, on the subject of negro Chapters:

"He notices a *spurious* Grand Chapter of Ohio, which he confesses 'he is wholly unable to locate, and concludes it is colored and clandestine.'

"We object to the word clandestine, and would recommend spurious. "Clandestine" means "withdrawn from public notice for an evil purpose," "kept secret for a sinister purpose," while "spurious" is defined as "not proceeding from the true source, or from the source pretended, not genuine, counterfeit, false, illegitimate, bastard."

"We object to Companion Pillsbury placing this spurious organization among the regular Grand Chapters of this country."

We quote the following because we want to embrace every opportunity of impressing upon the Companions of Alabama that they should be active in well-doing, and practice what they teach. If this making provision for the needy and indigent were properly attended to, in a few years such a fund could easily be amassed as would insure some approach to comfort to every destitute widow and orphan among the brethren. Let the effort be vigorously made and persisted in, and success will readily be gained. See Kentucky, and now look at Pennsylvania, then ask yourselves, Companions, what has Alabama done, or is now doing, in this direction:

"Yes, we have a magnificent temple, of which we are justly proud, yet we do not forget the poor. We have, under the control of our Grand Lodge, two of the greatest charities in this country. The Grand Lodge Charity Fund, amounting to some \$60,000, relieving the widows and orphans of brethren (who were in good standing at the time of their death), distributing annually over \$3000. Then we have the Stephen Girard bequest, amounting to some \$60,000, distributing over \$3,000 annually to worthy distressed brethren. Again, we have the Subordinate Lodges, Mark Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies, distributing in charity thousands of dollars annually. None worthy of aid are turned away empty-handed, and when in the future we do erect our Masonic Home, it will be one worthy of the name."

Believing that a concise history of the Royal Arch Degree in Ireland will prove interesting, we take the liberty of clipping it entire from Companion Meyer's report:

IRELAND.

The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania is under many obligations to Most Excellent Companion James H. Neilson, of Dublin, Ireland, who at our request has furnished the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania the following history of the Royal Arch Degree in Ireland. In a private letter accompanying the history he says that the Irish ritual from beginning to end, first to thirty-third degree, is different from that of every other country. With pleasure we submit the sketch.

THE IRISH ROYAL ARCH DEGREE, WITHIN WHICH IS NOW CONTAINED THE DEGREES FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE EXCELLENT, SUPER-EXCELLENT, THE VIRTUAL MASTER, AND ROYAL ARCH.

The earliest known record of the conferring of the degrees formerly known in Ireland as "The Higher Degrees," is that contained in the Minute Book of the Kilwinning High Knight Templars' Lodge of Ireland, under date the 24th of January, 1780. There is a lodge resolution that "the lodge should henceforth confer the higher degrees." No definition is given of these higher degrees so arranged to be conferred. The minutes of the 6th of March following for the first time record the conferring of the degrees of Excellent and Super-Excellent on a Brother Darling, and it is presumed these degrees are two of "The Higher Degrees" referred to in the minutes of 24th January, 1780.

The subsequent minutes up to the 16th of August, 1804 (when the book ceases), contains several entries of the conferring from time to time of these degrees.

The earliest record of the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree is also to be found in the same minute book, under date of 17th of April, 1780, wherein it is recorded that "the Royal Arch Degree was conferred" on several brethren therein named.

These minutes contain several entries of the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree down to the 16th of August, 1804, when, as before mentioned, the book ceases.

The earliest minute from which the title of the presiding officer can be obtained is that of the 4th of December, 1780, wherein he is described as "the Worshipful High Priest in the chair."

From the same book of minutes, under date of the 2d of December, 1781, it has been ascertained that the degrees of Excellent, Super-Excellent, Royal Arch, and High Knights Templars, were conferred at the same meeting on the same Brethren. When the degree of Virtual Master was first instituted in Ireland, is unknown. It certainly was not worked in the Kilwinning H. K. T. Lodge, or Lodges 2 or 620, all of which lodges were the leading lodges in Dublin from 1783 to 1804, and worked the Excellent, Super-Excellent, and Royal Arch Degrees. No record exists even since 1804 in the minute books of Lodges 2 or 620 (which are still two of the leading lodges in Dublin), of its ever having been conferred in them.

The origin of this degree of the Virtual Master seems to have been, that a law was passed by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter (but at what date is unknown) by which it was ordered that the degree of Royal Arch should not be conferred on any Brother who had not passed the chair of a Blue Lodge. This degree seems thereupon to have been instituted for the purpose of qualifying Brethren for the Royal Arch Degree who had not passed the chair of a Blue Lodge.

Serious inconveniences having arisen in Blue Masonry from the Brethren who had received this degree of Virtual Master, considering and often assuming the rank of Past Masters, also from certain other causes, the old degrees of Excellent, Super-Excellent, the Virtual Master, and Royal Arch, were, on Wednesday, the 16th day of November, 1864, consolidated into one, and have since been styled the Royal Arch Degree.

The result of this change may be illustrated from the following, showing the changes made in the names of the Chapter officers:

Names of officers before 16th November, 1864.	Names since 16th November, 1864.
1 Principal.....	<i>King.</i>
2 Principal.....	<i>High Priest.</i>
3 Principal.....	<i>Chief Scribe.</i>
3 Sojourners.....	<i>Captain of the Host.</i>
	<i>Superintendent of the Tabernacle.</i>
	<i>Royal Arch Captain.</i>
2 Scribes.....	<i>Captain Scarlet Veil.</i>
	<i>Captain Purple Veil.</i>
H. P.....	<i>Captain Blue Veil.</i>
Pursuivant.....	<i>Janitor.</i>
A Paid Officer.....	<i>An Hon. Officer.</i>

It need not be added that this change has made this degree completely an Irish degree, unlike the degrees given in the good olden times, or as at present worked in any other country.

A vain attempt was made to model this new degree after the fashion of the American degree, but the attempt did not succeed.

This Royal Arch Degree does not seem ever to have been styled in Ireland "Holy Royal Arch."

CONCLUSION.

We have finished, and very unsatisfactory to ourselves is our work. The Masonic duties of the past year have been very severe on us. The report has been prepared at night, and oftentimes the small hours of the morning have found us hard at work. We have very much enjoyed the company of our Companions of the Reportorial Corps; it has seemed to us as in the olden times; and although many new faces have been present before us, yet nearly all of the old friends are still with us. But one or two are missing. Even those who have preceded us as Chairmen of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Companion Past Grand High Priest George Griscom, who wrote the first Report on Correspondence in 1856, and Companions William H. Allen and William J. Kelly are with us to assist and cheer us in our labor of love.

We have respectfully and earnestly requested the Most Excellent Grand High Priest to relieve us from serving any longer on this committee, and take pleasure in presenting to the favorable consideration of the Committees on Correspondence, our successor.

RHODE ISLAND

Comes to us for the years 1875 and 1876 in a remarkably neat pamphlet, garnished with portraits of two of its P. G. H. Priests; and the G. H. P. Companion Francello G. Jillson, after opening the Grand Chapter on 9th

March, 1875, tells us that "we are judged very much by other Grand Bodies according to the character and style of our printed proceedings." This is rather a new standard, and indeed we were rather inclined to estimate them by their gastronomic propensities, as, heretofore, after the usual business, the Companions repaired to the Council Chamber and dined together agreeably to the ancient customs of this Grand Chapter, and a very good custom too when the Grand body is so small as to render the same convenient.

The Grand Secretary recommends a capitation tax to raise funds.

And the committee on G. H. P. address recommends that rejections be reported to the Grand Secretary, who shall report to the several subordinates. Both these provisions exist in Alabama.

Companion Jillson was re-elected, and also Companion G. H. Burnham, the Grand Secretary.

In the same pamphlet we find the proceedings for 1876, of March the 14th.

Both the M. Ex. G. H. Priest, F. G. Jillson, and the R. Ex. Grand Secretary, George H. Burnham, declined re-election.

The per capita tax was resorted to.

The report on Correspondence is by Companion Burnham, who followed the lead of Companion Moses, we think, of Virginia, who one year mixed up the proceedings terribly. Now, being of a very systematic turn, this disgruntled us very much, and so *deranged* our ideas that we had not the heart to pick them out.

The Grand Chapter elected Companion Wm. T. C. Wardwell M. Ex. G. H. Priest, and Companion William R. Greene, R. Ex., Grand Secretary.

The convocation for 1877, also in hand, shows that it was held on 13th of March, with Companion Wm. T. C. Wardwell, G. H. P., and Companion Greene, Grand Secretary.

The address pertains to local business only, of no particular interest to the Craft in general, except that a dispensation "to vote for degrees in Royal Arch Masonry in the Mark Master's Lodge, providing all present were R. A. Masons." This strikes us as a novelty and innovation on Masonic principle. We are at a loss to conceive why, if there were present a sufficient number of R. A. Masons, a Chapter could not have been opened, and the business regularly transacted. We say we are at a loss for the necessity, though the G. H. Priest also required "that every member of the Chapter be notified of the application, and of the applicant's name, and the time when such ballot should be taken."

We have been very much bothered to know what character of dinner

this Grand Chapter had every year, and we have at last found that it cost about one dollar or less *per capita*.

A new constitution was adopted at this convocation, and all laws and edicts conflicting therewith repealed.

In it, it is provided that the M. W. G. Master of Masons, all P. G. M's, provided they are Companions of the Order, and members of subordinate Chapters, "shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership."

It also provides that the officers of each Subordinate Chapter *shall* consist of a—

High Priest,	Royal Arch Captain,
King,	Master of 3d Veil,
Scribe,	Master of 2d Veil,
Treasurer,	Master of 1st Veil,
Secretary,	Musical Director,
Chaplain,	Senior Steward,
Captain of the Host,	Junior Steward,
Principal Sojourner,	Tiler.

The first five of whom *shall* be elected by ballot, the remainder *shall* be appointed by the High Priest elect.

The italics are ours.

Companion Burnham presented the Correspondence report, reviewing thirty-four Grand Chapters, among which we find Alabama for 1876. Had we not occupied already so much space, we would be glad to give further notice of the report.

The officers remain the same as last year.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The proceedings of this Grand Chapter for the convocation held on 13th February, 1877, we now take up, finding Companion Wm. K. Blake, M. Ex. G. H. Priest, and Companion J. E. Burke, Grand Secretary.

The G. H. P., in his address, seeks to induce the Companions to draw lessons of wisdom from a retrospection:

"To the toiling millions who have participated in its stirring events, the past has been a year freighted with joy to some; with sorrow to others; and with the stern demands of duty to all. Happy for each of us will it be if, with the fruitful instructions of the century to assist us, we recognize the full measure of our individual responsibility. If, amid the active employments and constantly recurring struggles and temptations of life, we have been temperate, prudent, faithful, and just; if our hands have ever been ready to assist the unfortunate, and our voices ever prompt to encourage the weak, to cheer the afflicted, and save the fallen; if, in these things, conscience witnesses to our fidelity, be assured that every act of duty thus performed will make its impress for good upon our

lives, while every instance of failure will leave a scar which no healing art nor power of man can remove.

We find nothing to which we deem it necessary to call the attention of the Craft in the proceedings, they pertaining exclusively to local matters.

The report on Correspondence is by the Grand Secretary, making an admirable synopsis of the proceedings reviewed, his comments being judicious and kind, while we regard his views of Masonic law as exceedingly sound, perhaps because they agreed with ours.

The same officers were continued.

TENNESSEE.

The forty-eighth convocation of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee was held on 16th November, 1876, M. Ex. A. S. Currey, G. H. Priest, presiding.

We extract the following letter of the M. Ex. G. High Priest to sundry brethren of one of the subordinates, which had probably forfeited its Charter, only because it gives a faithful view of the complaints arising from many of the jurisdictions, more especially of those in our section; and it exhorts so eloquently to be "at work" to provide for those in want and distress:

"I am gratified to learn that the Companions at Winchester are becoming 'aroused,' and manifest a disposition to resume labor, either *de novo* or as members of the Old Chapter. It would afford me pleasure to comply with their wishes, and aid them to the full extent of my power, but I do not conceive that it is in the power of the Grand High Priest, in the absence of any authority or precedent, to remit the dues of subordinate Chapters or of individual members. In a time of great pecuniary distress like the present, when few escape its depressing influence, and feel able to meet *all* the demands made upon them, and when the dues of Companions may be expected to accumulate against them from non-payment, were such a dangerous power evoked in one instance, it might, with equal propriety, be claimed by numerous others. By generous forbearance on the part of the Grand Chapter and its subordinates toward delinquents, and even of Companions toward each other, some relief might be afforded in not exacting the full amount of indebtedness at present, but in granting every possible indulgence until a time of greater prosperity. No one, certainly, can feel himself so destitute, even at the present crisis, as to withhold the means of meeting current expenses and of responding to the calls of those who have a prior claim upon our assistance. When we consider the condition of the widowed and fatherless, who are helpless in their destitution, as contrasted with our own, how important is it that every Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery in the State should be *at work to provide for them*. Now is the time, if at all, we should be active in the discharge of every duty to the full extent of our power. Our stated Convocations should be regularly held, without remissness on the part of a single member, either in his attendance or his quarterly con-

ment which some may declare is all that underlies our chosen institution, but let it be a life labor of love to demonstrate to ourselves and to the world that true Christian beneficence which should ever shed a halo of light about our altars and scatter blessings on the race. Thus shall we make Free Masonry a power for good throughout the land, and render our names and those of our posterity honorable in the history of men. Thus only shall we fulfill the destiny to which we are beckoned by every consideration of duty, and by all the noblest feelings of our better nature, while we thus attain our mission to be

Free, equal and fraternal,
In God's own way and time;
To live the life eternal,
And to love the love sublime.

Companion Poland again reported for the committee on correspondence, giving us full notice. He misconstrues our position on the right of the Tiler to vote, for so far from thinking that he ought not to vote if a member of the Chapter, we (in our report for 1875, the same being under review by the Companion,) said: "We are at a loss to imagine on what grounds he could have decided the last (question) otherwise, and regret that the dissenting member of the committee on jurisprudence has not assigned his reasons for his difference." This is the rule, here and everywhere, we believe. Companion Poland's report is written "*currente calamo*," giving to the Green Mountain Masons a very correct view of what may be doing in other jurisdictions, and of what differences there may be in decisions.

Companion Dana was re-elected M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Wm. H. S. Whitcomb Grand Secretary.

VIRGINIA.

Sadly and mournfully do we take up the pamphlet containing the proceedings from this jurisdiction for the convocation held 14th of December, 1876, for the first page reminds us of the death of that very Nestor in Masonry, the punctilious, devoted, Christian Mason, whose name has so long been there as Grand Secretary. We mean Companion John Dove.

Companion Wm. H. Lambert was M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Wm. B. Isaacs, whose name is not unknown to us, fills the place of Grand Secretary.

The G. H. Priest opens his address thus:

"COMPANIONS:

As the mariner, who for many weary months has been sailing o'er tempestuous seas, and when homeward bound is nearing that haven of rest where loved ones are, and is anxiously anticipating tidings of the past, whether of weal or woe; so we, Companions, have looked forward with pleasure and with deep sadness to this our Grand Annual Convocation—

with pleasure, to greet old and dear friends, to draw closer together those ties which have so long united us, to renew our friendships, and counsel together for the future; with deep sadness, to feel that the afflicting hand of an all-wise God has been laid heavily upon us as a Grand Body, that those places which for so many years have been occupied by old and well tried veterans, yea, our fathers in Masonry, are now vacant; and when we contemplate the dark and lowering clouds which envelope us as a nation, well may sadness fill our hearts."

Of Companion Dove the Grand Chaplain says:

"Another sad stroke of the setting-maul was given, and the venerable Grand Secretary, who had long passed his four score years of pilgrimage, and had come nearly to his three score years of continued service in this Grand Chapter, the faithful receiver, the accurate recorder, the neat scribe, the orderly workman, the punctual officer, the embodiment of Masonic law and usage, the only living actor in the organization of this Grand Chapter, the reliable Mason, the inborn gentleman—Eminent Companion John Dove—ripe in years, in honor, in experience, in service, and equally so, we trust, in piety, fell—fell on the 16th of November, as falls the mighty oak of the ancient forest, having withstood the blighting storms of many winters, ever towering in majesty above his fellows, and in its fall making the earth to tremble with the shock. The fall of one so learned in Masonic lore, so true to his post, and so faithful therein, not once absent during the fifty-eight years of service, and books present and ready, and papers all filed, could not but make our whole Jurisdiction and every member thereof feel its force. His fame was far beyond. Not only America, but Europe knew and honored him. To him Masonry in Virginia looked as a foster father."

The Chairman of the Committee, Companion Isaacs, acknowledged the receipt of Grand Chapter proceedings, and said:

"As Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, he can only express his regrets over his inability to present his usual annual report. That regret is much increased, not only in consideration of the very complimentary resolution passed by the Grand Chapter at its last annual convocation, but for the cause which prevented. It has been our custom to obtain possession of the proceedings for revision in November of each year. This year parental ill, and daily declining health, claimed our undivided attention. Fully realizing the gradual, solemn approach of the last inevitable, and this unceasing watching, waiting, waiting, watching for a human soul, the soul of a life-long Mason, the soul of an aged Christian warrior, take its eternal flight, incapacitates the human mind for other labor. This we offer you, Companions, as our apology, with every assurance of its appreciation and acceptance by you."

And surely, Companions, we can all excuse and sincerely sympathize with him.

Companion W. H. Lambert was made M. Ex. G. H. P., and Companion Isaacs, Grand Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA.

And now for the younger Virginia Grand Chapter, held 16th of November, 1876, M. Ex. Companion H. McS. Gamble, G. H. P.

A new constitution was adopted.

A suitable expression of grief at the death of Companion Dove was made.

There was no report on correspondence, nor do we see any provision for one next year.

WISCONSIN.

The twenty-seventh annual convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 20th of February, 1877, M. Ex. Companion Wm. C. Swain, G. H. P., and Companion John W. Woodhull, Grand Secretary.

We commend the following views of the G. H. P. to our Companions:

"The idea seems to generally prevail, that the sole object of our Masonic Bodies is to make Masons. We theoretically deny this, but practically admit it, by calling those bodies dead, which have no candidates. When we disabuse our minds of this impression, and adopt other means of making our Convocations interesting, we shall hear no more complaints of lack of attendance, or of indifference, and shall have no dead bodies clinging to our skirts.

"One of the results of this prevailing impression is, that comparatively few Masons have any idea that there is any practical meaning attached to our ritual, and, while seeing our symbols, have little knowledge of what is symbolized; and it is to this that we owe, in a great measure, the levity and innovation which have been introduced into our work, and which, I am happy to say, owing to the wise counsels and exertions of my predecessors, is being rapidly done away.

"As one method of awakening the interest of Companions, and of diffusing Masonic light and information, I suggest that the proceedings, constitution, edicts, &c., of this Grand Chapter should be read aloud in the Convocations of subordinates. At present, the knowledge of our deliberations and laws is confined to very few members of the Royal Craft. To the great mass of Companions they are a sealed book. Our Foreign Correspondence, upon which so much labor is expended, and which gives us an epitome of what is being transacted throughout the Masonic world, is written for very few besides reporters. Give all the Companions the benefit of these Proceedings, and soon discussions will arise upon questions involved, which will lead to further search for light, and the introduction of candidates will come to be looked upon as an interruption.

"While upon this subject, I call your attention to the desirability of allowing a Master Mason time to digest the Masonic food he has already received, before rushing him to a new feast, and gorging him with the Capitular degrees when he is already loaded to repletion. To do this, it is necessary to *choke off* the recruiting officers from the Blue Lodges, and

allow the candidate to go higher, "of his own free will and accord." I consider it fully as unmasonic, to solicit a Master Mason to advance into the Chapter, as to urge a profane to apply for initiation. A Master Mason should be discouraged from applying to the Chapter, until he has advanced far enough into the S. : S. : to comprehend the designs upon the Trestle Board."

Companion J. C. P. Cottrill again came forward with the report on correspondence, made in his usual full and complete and judicious style. We can't help it, but must clip his quaint method of settling the question of Negro Masonry, just, proper, and Masonic, just what we have contended for elsewhere :

"He speaks of the recognition of colored R. : A. : Masons, and recommends it. We agree. If a man is lawfully and Masonically a R. : A. : Mason he ought to be recognized as such; and that seems to us to be the whole of the question. Of course this implies regular making, in a lawful Chapter, and in full form. That done a man is a R. : A. : Mason, whether white, black, spotted or otherwise as to skin, or as to anything else. But at the bottom of it all he must be regularly made, in lawful manner, and in a lawful Chapter, holding fealty and receiving its charter from a lawful Grand Chapter. It is stated in the address that the newspapers say that a Chapter of colored R. : A. : Masons has been organized here; but if it has not been organized by the authority of the Grand Chapter of Iowa, that ends the question as to its members. The action taken was merely a recommendation that the Grand Lodges convene by delegates and settle the question, which we have for some time supposed had been settled by universal agreement as above stated."

SCOTLAND.

We have received "the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland's Reporter," bearing date March, 1876, which gives us great pleasure, it being the first record which has reached us from this distant portion of the Craft. From it we learn that Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart, Baronet, is First Grand Principal.

The Rt. Hon., the Earl of Mara Kelly, Second Grand Principal. The Hon. and Rev. A. C. Baillie Hamilton, Third Grand Principal, who, we presume, answer to the Grand Council in American Grand Chapters.

We find a few of our Grand Chapters have Representatives there, and we believe that if all of them exchanged representatives we might become better acquainted.

On the roll of Chapters we find some owing allegiance to this Grand Chapter in all quarters of the globe, India, Africa, Asia, and America.

We find at the date of 16th June, 1875, the Supreme Chapter does not recognize the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.

June 16th, 1875.

"*Eo die*—The Grand Scribe E. read a letter from the P. Z. of the

Kilwinning in the East, Chapter Calcutta No. 64, as to a member of that Chapter alleged to have been expelled by a Craft Lodge in 1860, and who had filled the Chair of Z. in the Chapter in 1866, inquiring if the sentence had been removed. The Supreme Chapter unanimously resolved not to order any inquiry into the matter." This is not the way we would do things here.

In committee meeting of 7th July, 1876, information was determined to be given to the Provincial Grand Superintendent of New Zealand, not to allow any of the Chapters in his jurisdiction to recognize any as M. Masons who might receive the degrees in any Lodge working under a warrant from a body styling itself the Grand Orient of Egypt, which was indorsed unanimously by the Supreme Chapter at quarterly meeting, 1st March, 1876.

The Supreme Chapter seems to look through a committee which meets a few days before the quarterly meetings, and reports to Grand Chapter. We have no way of telling whether this committee be large or small.

This Grand Body has a very pleasant Bank account, and seems in no danger of want.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

We have also before us the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter for the year 1877. It convened at Buffalo on the 21st of August last. Alabama was represented for the first time since 1859.

The address of the General Grand High Priest, Companion Elbert H. English, is long and interesting. Thirty-five Grand Chapters are members of this August Body, leaving out, we believe, only Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The Convocation seems to have been an interesting one. John Frizzell, of Tennessee, was elected General Grand High Priest, and Christopher G. Fox, of New York, was re-elected General Grand Secretary.

Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That whereas the General Grand Chapter is averse to laying burdens upon the companions of the place in which it may meet, it hereby requests that no arrangements be made for any festivities or excursions at its next convocation.

But of course it was rejected, although Alabama cast its four votes in favor of it.

There are Subordinate Chapters under the immediate jurisdiction of the G. G. Chapter in Dakota, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Washington,

Wyoming, and Utah Territories. Also one in Chili, one in the Hawaiian Islands, one in Smyrna, (Turkey,) and one in China, at Shanghai.

The next Triennial Convocation will be held in Detroit, on the 4th Tuesday in August, 1880.

Your committee had selected some decisions of the General Grand Chapter to be included in this report, but as most of them can only be identified by reference to the address of the G. G. H. P., they are omitted.

Thus your committee have brought their labors to a close. Harmony, but depression, is found almost every where among the Craft. Few jurisdictions do not tell of hard times and great want, and in all them is mourning. The past year seems to have been peculiarly fatal to many of our most prominent, gifted, and esteemed companions. Mourning is on every side! Then, Companions, let us so live and act as to be at all times ready for the call.

P. J. PILLANS,
Chairman.

GRAND SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

MONTGOMERY, December 4, 1877.

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

I herewith submit to the Grand Chapter my account for the expiring Masonic year.

The unexpended balance of the Contingent Fund, amounting to three hundred and fourteen dollars and fifty-five cents, has been paid over into the hands of the Grand Treasurer, and his receipt is herewith submitted.

Fourteen (14) copies of the Chapter Code have been sold since my last report, leaving now in the office of the Grand Secretary three hundred and twenty-five (325) copies.

All of which is most fraternally submitted.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

In account with DANIEL SAYRE,

Grand Secretary.

1876.

CR.

Dec. 3.	By Dues at this Grand Convocation.....	\$ 768 00
" 26.	" Contingent Fund.....	400 00

1877.

BACK DUES.

Mar. 5.	By Gordon Chapter No. 73.....	\$44 25
May 25.	" Choctaw Chapter No. 44.....	21 00
July 13.	" Mineral City No. 101.....	13 50— 78 75
	" 14 Codes.....	14 00
		\$1,260 75

1877.]

APPENDIX.

73

1876.

DR,

Dec. 26. To paid Grand Treasurer.....768 00

1877.

Mar. 2. To paid James Davidson..... 2 50

April 30. " " Armstrong & Co., Printers.....144 00

May 2. " " Postage..... 15 00

June 20. " " Dues to G. G. Chapter..... 13 45

Sept. 1. " " Barrett & Brown, Printers..... 2 50

" 1. " " Expressage..... 75

Nov. 27. " " Grand Treasurer.....314 55—\$1,260

DANIEL SAYRE,

Grand Secretary.

MONTGOMERY, December 4, 1877.

GRAND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

In account with WILLIAM H. DINGLEY,

Grand Treasurer.

1876.

CR.

Dec. 7.	By Balance.....	\$ 570 95
" 26.	" Received from Grand Secretary.....	\$768 00

1877.

Nov. 27.	" Received from Grand Secretary.....	314 55— 1,082 55
		1,653 50

1876.

DR.

Dec. 7.	By Committee on Work, J. H. Johnson....	45 00
" 7.	" " " " L. W. Jenkins..	25 00
" 7.	" " " " H. C. Armstrong..	24 25
" 7.	" " " on Foreign Correspondence.....	150 00
" 9.	" Grand Sentinel.....	15 00
" 26.	" " Secretary.....	400 00
" 26.	" " " Contingent Fund.....	400 00

1877.

Aug. 15.	" Representative to General Grand Chapter.	100 00
" 15.	" Grand Treasurer.....	100 00— 1,259 25
Dec. 4.	Balance on hand.....	394 25
		\$1,653 50

WILLIAM H. DINGLEY,
Grand Treasurer.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., Dec. 4, 1877.

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 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 March 27, 1877,	
amounted to.....	\$ 1,653 50
Expended to December 4th, 1877.....	1,259 25
Leaving balance on hand.....	394 25
Estimated receipts at this Convocation.....	750 00

Estimated amount in the Treasury.....	\$1,144 25
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Your Committee recommend the following appropriations to be made 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.....	300 00
	\$ 950 00

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

WILEY W. BLOODWORTH,

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.	Rec'd and Ack'd.	Exalted.	Affiliated.	Rejected.	Dimitted.
1	Tuscaloosa	31	\$							
6	Cyrus	29								
9	Clinton	15	11 25							
10	Tuscumbia	37								1
13	Gainesville	26	19 50	3	3	3	3	2	1	
17	Wetumpka	15	11 25					1		
19	Mount Moriah	28								
20	Livingston	26	19 50							
21	Mobile	41	30 75	3	3	3	3			2
22	Montgomery	50	37 50	3	3	3	3		1	3
23	Talladega	24	18 00					1		
24	Eufaula	34	25 50	4	4	4	4	3		1
26	Union	16	12 00							
28	Saint John's	47	35 25	3	3	2	2	2		5
35	James L. Daniel	18	13 50				1			
37	Concord	23	17 25							2
40	Camden	22	16 50							
44	Choctaw	16	12 00							6
63	Clayton	36		2	2					1
64	Central	13	9 75							
66	Alabama	32	24 00	4	6	6	6			7
71	Landmark	43	32 25	3	3	3	3	2	1	4
73	Gordon	24	18 00							
76	Elyton	23	17 25	3	3	3	3			
80	Loachapoka	12	9 00					3		1
81	Jefferson	25								1
85	Gaston	23								1
87	Moulton	24	18 00							

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
90	Greenville.....	21	\$31 50	3	3	3	3	1		3
93	Columbus.....	15	11 25							
94	Cowikee.....	9								
96	Daniel Pratt.....	20	15 00							3
98	Oxford.....	17	12 75							2
99	Thomas M. Bragg	17	15 75							2
100	Rock Mills.....	34	20 50	2	3	4	5			1
102	Cross Plains.....	24	18 00		2	2	2			
103	Warrior.....	22	33 00	9	9	9	9			1

AT REST.

"After Life's Fitful Fever, they Sleep well."

John T. Appling, Dec. 22, 1876....	}	Tuscaloosa	No. 1
Thomas P. Lewis, February 29....		Livingston	" 20
Lewelen Lewis, Apr. 16.....		Montgomery	" 22
Frank B. Henderson, Jan. 30....	}	Saint John's.....	" 28
John Linton, Apr. 8.....		Camden	" 40
Edwin F. Grisct, Oct. 14.....		Central	" 64
Enoch H. Cook, Jan. —.....		Alabama.....	" 66
Jethro D. Rhodes, Aug. 14.....		Elyton	" 76
John H. Hargrove, Sept. 29.....		Loachapoka	" 80
Nathaniel Hawkins, Mar. —.....		Jefferson.....	" 81
James M. Allen, Sept. 17.....	}	Greenville.....	" 90
William W. Gilmore, Jan. —.....		Daniel Pratt.....	" 96
John P. Amerine, May 11, 1876...		Warrior.....	" 103
James H. Dunklin, May 21.....			
Nathaniel M. Morris, Oct. 22.....			
Andrew Simbler, May 3.....			

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

- CLINTON No. 9.—Henry T. Snow—1.
LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Boanerges C. Hunter—1.
MONTGOMERY No. 22.—Cadwalader H. Beale, Timothy L. Jones—2.
TALLADEGA No. 23.—Edwin C. Turner, Albert O. Kirksey, J. Morgan Smith, Newton J. Skaggs—4.
UNION No. 26.—C. P. Whitt—1.
SAINT JOHN'S No. 28.—John Ehrhart, Columbus C. Gayle, Richard M. Nelson—3.
CAMDEN No. 40.—William A. George, Edward N. Jones, Felix Tait—3.
CHOCTAW No. 44.—Thomas W. Coleman, David H. Smith, John C. Chapman, Walter D. Campbell, Thomas J. Wilson, Thomas Bonner, William H. Johnson, Robert M. Hearin, David J. Wyth, Charles Nicholson, Asbury M. Stroud, John D. Ryan—12.
ALABAMA No. 66.—Charles C. Cowles—1.
LANDMARK No. 71.—George H. Thomas—1.
LOACHAPOKA No. 80.—John B. Ross, John I. Nelms, Thomas D. Hart—3.
JEFFERSON No. 81.—Timothy G. Cornish, Bryan W. Whitfield, C. W. Dustan, Benjamin T. Hart, Edward A. Taylor, Emanuel Adler—6.
GASTON No. 85.—Nathaniel A. Gilmore—1.
COLUMBUS No. 93.—Benjamin Dowd—1.
OXFORD No. 98.—James M. McLane—1.
CROSS PLAINS No. 102.—Adolphus M. Keer—1.

REINSTATED.



CYRUS No. 6.—Hezekiah Call—1.
MOUNT MORIAH No. 19.—Robert H. Williams—1.
LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Socrates Parker—1.
EUFULA No. 24.—Patrick O'Byrne—1.
CONCORD No. 37.—Robert T. Smith—1.
CAMDEN No. 40.—Malcomb McNeill—1.
CHOCTAW No. 44.—Harrison R. Callis—1.
CLAYTON No. 63.—Richard Reynolds, Henry Bradly—2.
ELYTON No. 76.—William F. Hanby, Henry F. Fancher, Robert J.
Vann—3.



EXPELLED.



Daniel W. Chandless.....Tuscumbia.....No. 10



SUSPENDED FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT.



Joseph H. Hampshire.....Mobile.....No. 21
R. C. Stewart.....Clayton.....“ 63

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that made returns.....	37
Chapters that paid dues.....	33
Chapters that were represented.....	29
Members reported at this Convocation.....	932
Estimate of membership not reported.....	127— 1,059
Dues received at this Grand Convocation.....	\$565 75

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced.....	42
Presided.....	47
Received and Acknowledged.....	45
Exalted.....	47
Affiliated.....	15
Rejected.....	3
Dimitted.....	47
Died.....	16
Expelled.....	1
Suspended for U. M. C.....	2
Suspended for N. P. D.....	42
Reinstated.....	12

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

Chapters square upon the books.....	32
Chapters under Dispensation.....	0
Chapters Delinquent.....	17
Charters forfeited.....	54
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 1877.

DELINQUENT IN DUES.

Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1	Farrierville.....	No. 67
Eunomia.....	" 5	Midway.....	" 72
Tuscumbia.....	" 10	Bell.....	" 83
Mount Moriah.....	" 19	Gaston.....	" 85
Fulton.....	" 32	George D. Norris.....	" 91
Lebanon.....	" 57	Mineral City.....	" 101
Russell.....	" 65		

DELINQUENT IN REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1	Russell.....	No. 65
Eunomia.....	" 5	Farrierville.....	" 67
Tuscumbia.....	" 10	Midway.....	" 72
Mount Moriah.....	" 19	Jefferson.....	" 81
Union.....	" 26	Bell.....	" 83
Fulton.....	" 32	Gaston.....	" 85
Concord.....	" 37	George D. Norris.....	" 91
Lebanon.....	" 57	Mineral City.....	" 101

MAKING NO RETURNS:

Tuskegee.....	No. 43
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CHARTERS FORFEITED.

Numbers 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 68, 69, 70, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 82, 84, 86, 88, 89, 92, 95, 97.

MEMORANDA.

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 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.
John A. Padgett	Rutledge.	Quebec.
George D. Norris, M. D.	New Market.	South Carolina.
Peleg Brown	Mobile.	Tennessee.
James E. Cobb	Tuskegee	Vermont.
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.
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.
Rocky P. Earhart	Salem	Oregon.
Angus Grant	Montreal.	Quebec.
Augustine T. Smythe	Charleston.	South Carolina.
Jonathan S. Davis	Paris.	Tennessee.
Justus W. F. Washburn	Montpelier	Vermont.
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.	CONVOCACTIONS.
1	Tuscaloosa.....	Tuscaloosa.....	Tuscaloosa.....	Tuscaloosa.....	John M. Martin.....	Luther S. Skinner.....	1 Wed
6	Florence.....	Florence.....	Lauderdale.....	Florence.....	Alexander C. Christman.....	James R. Price.....	Mon of or bfm
9	Guntion.....	Atlanta.....	Limestone.....	Athens.....	Lewis B. Thornton.....	Samuel Tanner.....	1 Sat
10	Tuscumbia.....	Tuscumbia.....	Colbert.....	Gainesville.....	Edward N. King.....	John N. Green.....	Mon of 2 Sat
12	Gainesville.....	Gainesville.....	Suiter.....	Wetumpka.....	Isaac W. Suttle.....	Robert G. Neilson.....	Thurs afm
17	Wetumpka.....	Wetumpka.....	Elmore.....	Etowah.....	Charles Coleman.....	William S. Penick.....	Fri b 8 Sun
19	Mount Moriah.....	Etowah.....	Greene.....	Etowah.....	Robert D. Webb.....	James T. Smith.....	3 Fri
20	Livingston.....	Livingston.....	Suiter.....	Livingston.....	Thomas T. Roche.....	Isaac C. Brown.....	3 Fri
21	Mobile.....	Mobile.....	Mobile.....	Mobile.....	William D. Wadsworth.....	Wright O. Smith.....	1 & 3 Thurs
22	Montgomery.....	Montgomery.....	Montgomery.....	Montgomery.....	Myles J. Greene.....	Calvin W. Sayre.....	2 Sat
23	Talladega.....	Talladega.....	Talladega.....	Talladega.....	James Milton.....	Henry H. Hamill.....	3 Fri
24	Etowah.....	Etowah.....	Barbour.....	Etowah.....	John W. Bush.....	John C. Thomas.....	1 Sat
26	Uniontown.....	Uniontown.....	Perry.....	Uniontown.....	William W. McCallum.....	John H. White.....	1 Thurs
28	Saint John's.....	Saint John's.....	Dallas.....	Glennville.....	Malachi W. Davis.....	Adolph Jacobson.....	4 Mon
35	James L. Daniel.....	Glennville.....	Russell.....	Glennville.....	Benjamin J. Foster.....	Sowell C. Woolfolk.....	2 Sat
37	Concord.....	La Fayette.....	Wilcox.....	Camden.....	Lucky W. Jenkins.....	James E. Scarbrough.....	1 Mon
40	Camden.....	Camden.....	Choctaw.....	Camden.....	Alanson J. Gray.....	DeForest Richards.....	Fri bfm
44	Choctaw.....	Butler.....	Choctaw.....	Clayton.....	Edward G. Walker.....	Oliver C. Ulmer.....	1 Mon
63	Clayton.....	Clayton.....	Barbour.....	Montevallo.....	John Cortright.....	James J. Winn.....	Mon af 1 Sat
64	Central.....	Montevallo.....	Shelby.....	Mobile.....	James M. Bridges.....	William McMath.....	Mon afm
66	Alabama.....	Mobile.....	Mobile.....	Ozark.....	Newell M. Thornton.....	Gabriel L. Long.....	2 & 4 Fri
71	Landmark.....	Ozark.....	Dale.....	Abbeville.....	James W. Stokes.....	Mark A. Cook.....	3 Sat
73	Gordon.....	Gordon.....	Henry.....	Elyton.....	Sam Thompson.....	Robert A. Terrell.....	3 Sat
76	Elyton.....	Elyton.....	Jefferson.....	Loachapoka.....	Louis T. Wimberly.....	Wiley W. Bloodworth.....	2 Mon
80	Loachapoka.....	Loachapoka.....	Lee.....	Demopolis.....	William W. Harder.....	Morris Mayer.....	1 Tues
81	Jefferson.....	Jefferson.....	Marengo.....	Gaston.....	William R. Horn.....	John N. Gilmore.....	4 Thurs
85	Gaston.....	Gaston.....	Suiter.....	Monkton.....	DeWitt C. White.....	Asa M. Hodges.....	2 Thurs
87	Monkton.....	Monkton.....	Lawrence.....	Greenville.....	Joseph M. Thigpen.....	Albert W. Metcalf.....	2 Sat
90	Greenville.....	Greenville.....	Butler.....	Newton.....	Samuel H. Adams.....	William D. Vaughn.....	2 & 4 Sat
93	Columbus.....	Columbus.....	Dale.....	Prattville.....	Osmer P. Smith.....	John W. Comer.....	1 Sat
94	Coville.....	Spring Hill.....	Barbour.....	Harris.....	Stephen C. Williams.....	Mark Hirschner.....	1 Fri
96	Daniel Pratt.....	Prattville.....	Autauga.....	Prattville.....	George W. Jones.....	Thaddeus I. Robertson.....	Mon afm
98	Oxford.....	Oxford.....	Calhoun.....	Oxford.....	George W. Taylor.....	George A. Abertson.....	2 Tues
99	Thomson.....	Rock Mills.....	Crenshaw.....	Rock Mills.....	Alexander McClellan.....	Thomas J. Thomson.....	4 Sat
100	Rock Mills.....	Rock Mills.....	Randolph.....	Cross Plains.....	Benjamin M. Shurtell.....	Francis M. Savage.....	Sat b 1 Sat
102	Cross Plains.....	Cross Plains.....	Calhoun.....	Warrior.....	Secretary W. Chappell.....		Sat b 2 Sat
103	Warrior.....	Warrior.....	Jefferson.....	Warrior.....			4 Sat

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. Almond	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	Muscadine.
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	William P. Innes	Grand Rapids.
20. Minnesota	Azariah T. C. Pierson	Saint Paul.
21. Mississippi	John L. Power	Jackson.
22. Missouri	John W. Luke	Saint Louis.
23. Nebraska	William R. Bowen	Omaha.
24. Nevada	Samuel W. Chubbuck	Gold Hill.
25. New Hampshire	George P. Cleaves	Concord.
26. New Jersey	Thomas Johnston Corson	Trenton.
27. New York	Christopher G. Fox	Buffalo.
28. North Carolina	Donald W. Bain	Wilmington.
29. Nova Scotia	James Gossip	Halifax.
30. Ohio	James Nesbitt	Troy.
31. Oregon	Rocky P. Earhart	Portland.
32. Pennsylvania	John Thomson	Philadelphia.
33. Quebec	James T. McMinn	Montreal.
34. Rhode Island	William R. Greene	Providence.
35. South Carolina	James E. Burke	Charleston.
36. Tennessee	John Frizzell	Nashville.
37. Texas	Robert Brewster	Houston.
38. Vermont	William H. S. Whitcomb	Burlington.
39. Virginia	William B. Isaacs	Richmond.
40. West Virginia	Odel S. Long	Wheeling.
41. Wisconsin	John W. Woodhull	Milwaukee.
42. United States	Christopher G. Fox	Buffalo, N. Y.

Council of High Priests.

NINTH CONVOCATION.

MONTGOMERY, December 5, 1877.

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.

PRESENT:

MYLES J. GREENE.....	President.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Vice President.
MARTIN G. SLAUGHTER.....	Chaplain.
PALMER J. PILLANS, <i>as</i>	Treasurer.
GEORGE W. TAYLOR, <i>as</i>	Recorder.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Master of C.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	Conductor.
JOSEPH A. ADAMS, <i>as</i>	Herald.
STEPHEN H. BEESLEY.....	Steward.

Companions Peleg Brown and John G. Harris also present.

A Council of High Priests was opened in Ample Form.

Petitions for the Order of High Priesthood, accompanied

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

William B. Wood, of Cyrus Chapter No. 6.

Louis T. Wimberly, of Loachapoka Chapter No. 80.

Alexander McCollister, of Cross Plains Chapter No. 102.

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

The applicants, and also Companion William S. Ford, of Notasulga Chapter No. 92, (who had heretofore been elected,) 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 were duly elected:

OFFICERS:

MYLES J. GREENE	President.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG	Vice President.
MARTIN G. SLAUGHTER	Chaplain.
LOUIS T. WIMBERLY	Treasurer.
GEORGE W. TAYLOR	Recorder.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER	Master of C.
JAMES H. JOINER	Conductor.
JOSEPH A. ADAMS	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.

GEORGE W. TAYLOR,

Recorder.