

1879
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1879 / A.I. 2409

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,
AT THE
ANNUAL CONVOCATION
HELD IN THE
CITY OF MONTGOMERY.
1879.



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BARRETT & BROWN, STEAM PRINTERS AND BOOK BINDERS.
1880.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
ON THE 14TH MARCH 1881

IN THE
MONTH OF MAY 1881
BY THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
ON THE 14TH MARCH 1881

PRINTED BY
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PROCEEDINGS.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama held its Fifty-third Annual Grand Convocation at the New Masonic Temple, in the city of Montgomery, on Tuesday, the 2d day of December, A. D. 1879, A. L. 5879, Anno Inv. 2409.

PRESENT:

JAMES HERVEY JOINER.....	Grand High Priest.
LUCKY W. JENKINS.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Grand King.
WILLIAM DWIGHT WADSWORTH.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM HENRY DINGLEY.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Grand Secretary.
ALEXANDER McCOLLISTER.....	Grand C. of H.
HENRY F. MULLEN, <i>as</i>	Grand P. Sojourner.
JOHN W. BUSH.....	Grand R. A. C.
WILLIAM R. HORN, <i>as</i>	Grand M. 3 V.
WILEY W. BLOODWORTH.....	Grand M. 2 V.
DEWITT CLINTON WHITE.....	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 E. COBB.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES M. BRUNDIDGE.....	Grand King.
PALMER J. PILLANS.....	Grand Scribe.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS NEAR THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA

PELEG BROWN.....	Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee.
MYLES J. GREENE, M. D.....	Iowa.
JOHN G. HARRIS.....	Kansas.
HENRY F. MULLEN.....	Kentucky.
PALMER J. PILLANS.....	Louisiana.
JAMES E. COBB.....	Minnesota, Vermont.
WILEY W. BLOODWORTH, M. D.....	Nebraska.
JAMES H. JOINER.....	New Jersey.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Nova Scotia.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Oregon.
JOHN A. PADGETT.....	Quebec.
GEORGE P. HARRISON Jr.....	Wisconsin.

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

No. 11. Tusculumbia.....	Thomas T. Rowland.....	H. P.
" 13. Gainesville.....	Hannibal H. McNeill*.....	"
" 17. Wetumpka.....	Isaac W. Suttle.....	"
" 20. Livingston.....	John Gideon Harris*.....	"
" 21. Mobile.....	William S. Foster.....	"
" 22. Montgomery.....	Edmund R. Hastings.....	"
	Archibald L. R. Thompson.....	K.
	Emil Kulman.....	S.
" 23. Talladega.....	Joseph H. Johnson.....	H. P.
	Myles J. Greene.....	K.
	Alonzo G. Storey.....	S.
" 26. Union.....	John W. Bush.....	H. P.
" 28. Saint Johns.....	Henry F. Mullen*.....	"
	William W. McCollum*.....	K.
	John T. Cook.....	H. P.
" 40. Camden.....	Lucky W. Jenkins*.....	K.
	Frank P. M. Gilbert*.....	S.
	Josiah Jernigan.....	K.
" 54. Tyrian.....	Alto Velo Lee.....	H. P.
	Wiley E. Jones*.....	K.
	Daniel Smith.....	H. P.
" 66. Alabama.....	Oliver S. Beers*.....	K.
	James H. Garner.....	H. P.
	Benjamin F. Cassady*.....	K.
" 71. Landmark.....	Hugh L. Deshazo.....	S.
	Newell M. Thornton.....	H. P.
	Leroy R. Simms*.....	S.
" 73. Gordon.....		

No. 76.	Elyton.....	Sam Thompson.....	H. P.
"	80. Loachapoka	{ Lewis T. Wimberly.....	"
"		{ Julius C. Phillips.....	K.
"	83. Bell.....	{ Wiley W. Bloodworth.....	S.
"		{ John Reeves.....	H. P.
"	85. Gaston.....	{ Charles F. Threadgill.....	"
"		{ William R. Horn.....	S.
"	87. Moulton.....	{ DeWitt Clinton White.....	H. P.
"		{ Noble G. Delashaw*.....	K.
"		{ Pinkney M. Bruner.....	H. P.
"	90. Greenville	{ Jonathan L. Powell.....	K.
"		{ Albert. W. Metcalf*.....	S.
"	93. Columbus	{ Joseph A. Adams.....	H. P.
"	96. Daniel Pratt.....	{ Llewelyn Spigener.....	"
"	99. Thomas M. Bragg..	{ John A. Padgett.....	S.
"	100. Rock Mills ...	{ George W. Taylor.....	H. P.
"	101. Mineral City.....	{ William L. Gude.....	"
"		{ Andrew J. Litton.....	"
"	102. Cross Plains.....	{ John C. Boles*.....	K.
"		{ Alexander McCollister*.....	S.
"	103. Warrior.....	{ William T. Jones*.....	H. P.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal 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 James E. Cobb, it was referred to a special

COMMITTEE ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

James E. Cobb, P. G. H. P.

Joseph H. Johnson, of Talladega No. 23.

Palmer J. Pillans, P. G. S.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Companions of the Grand Chapter :

Through the mercy of a kind Providence, we are permitted to assemble in this, the Fifty-third Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Alabama. We meet under more favorable auspices than the previous year. Then our hearts were made sorrowful on account of the effects of a devastating scourge, which brought distress and gloom to all who came within the precincts of its terrible visitation. Under the blessing of our Supreme Grand High Priest, our own, as well as sister jurisdictions, with one exception, have escaped the disaster and desolation which marked the history of that period.

In this jurisdiction general healthfulness has prevailed among the whole people, and an increased prosperity is enjoyed by those engaged in industrial pursuits and enterprises.

It should rejoice the heart of every Companion that we are not called upon to lament the death of either a Past or Present Grand Officer since our last Convocation. Surely this manifestation of His gracious care and protection should stimulate each and all of us to "offer the incense of a pure and contrite heart to the great I Am.

But while we are permitted to be thankful that our jurisdiction has been thus highly favored, it is hoped that the members of this Grand Body will esteem it a melancholy privilege to mingle their sympathies with those upon whom the heavy hand of affliction has been laid. I deem it proper to call the attention of the Grand Chapter to the sad truth that our sister jurisdiction of New Jersey now mourns the death of one of her most skilled workmen in the quarries.

On the 10th of May, 1879, Past Grand High Priest, Thomas J. Corson,

was called from labor to refreshment, by the M. Ex. Grand High Priest above.

Companion Corson filled, with unusual ability, many exalted positions to which he was, from time to time, called by his brethren and companions, who appreciated his manly virtues and intellectual attainments. While this is true, it is said that "he was best known for the grace with which he held the pen, and led the Fraternity to an understanding of the organic structure and inter-State relations and land-marks of the Order. For a long series of years before and at the time of his death, he was Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence in that jurisdiction, and in that capacity contributed very largely to "disperse true Masonic light and knowledge" among the Royal Craft.

In my official correspondence during the past year, as well as my intercourse with Companions, no circumstance has been brought to my knowledge indicating a want of harmony among the Craft. On the contrary, from the evidence before me, "brotherly love prevails, and every moral and social virtue cements us."

As a proof that this pleasing state of feeling exists, but few applications have been made for official decision, and none that developed a disordered state of affairs, or a refractory element, in any of the Subordinate Chapters.

This argues well, not only for the existence of harmony, but also that the officers and members of Subordinate Chapters have a commendable knowledge of the usages, laws, and regulations of the Grand Chapter.

The following questions have been asked :

1st. "Can a minister of the gospel receive the Chapter degrees gratuitously?"

Ans. He cannot. See Art. IV, Sec. 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter.

2d. "Can a Royal Arch Mason visit a Chapter, when the *Lodge* of which he was a member has been suspended for the non-payment of dues?"

Ans. Any Companion Royal Arch Mason, in good standing in his Chapter, has all the rights and privileges of a Royal Arch Mason, not-

withstanding the *Lodge* of which he was a member may have been suspended for the non-payment of dues, or for any other cause; *Provided*, He was in good standing in the *Lodge* at the time of such suspension.

3d. "Can a non-affiliated Master Mason be made a Royal Arch Mason?"

Ans. He cannot. It has long been a settled law in this jurisdiction, that a candidate for the Capitular Degrees must be a member in good standing of a Blue Lodge, to authorize a Royal Arch Chapter to receive his petition. See Art. III, Sec. 6, of the By-Laws of the Grand Chapter.

On the 28th of December, I issued a dispensation to a constitutional number of Companions, *viz.*: John A. Sears and W. B. J. Stone and others, to form and open a Royal Arch Chapter, by the name of Weogufka Chapter No.—, in Coosa county. Their work will doubtless be submitted for your inspection.

On the same date, I authorized said Weogufka Chapter to use the jewels of Rockford Chapter until this convocation of the Grand Chapter—Rockford Chapter being in a state of suspension.

On the 27th of June and November the 3d, respectively, I granted dispensations to Talladega Chapter No. 23, and Livingston Chapter No. 20 to elect officers out of the usual time, satisfactory reasons being given, in both cases, why it was not done at the proper time.

On the 22d of August I was officially notified by the Grand High Priest of Iowa, of the appointment of P. G. H. Priest, Myles J. Greene, as the representative of the Grand Chapter of Iowa, near the Grand Chapter of Alabama. Companion Greene is in attendance, and at the proper time you will accord to him suitable recognition.

On the same date as above I appointed Companion Downing Baugh, to be the representative of the Grand Chapter of Alabama near the Grand Chapter of Iowa. I have no doubt but that he has been received and accepted as such.

On the 4th of October I granted a Dispensation to George D. Norris Chapter No. 91 to renew their labor, and hold an election for officers, but as yet I am not officially informed what has been done.

On the 27th of June, the 12th of July, and September the 3d, respect-

ively, I granted Dispensations to Union Chapter No. 26, Landmark Chapter No. 71, and Columbus Chapter No. 93, to confer the several Degrees on candidates at one convocation.

It will be seen that I have been rather free in the exercise of the *dispensing* power in this regard. I was induced to do so by the fact that representations were made to me that it would advance the interests of the Craft in these localities ; that a very great necessity existed that the work should be correctly exemplified ; and also that in nearly every case the Chairman of the Committee on Work—Companion H. Clay Armstrong—was to be present. No one is better qualified to instruct in the Work and Lectures than Companion Armstrong, and entertaining the opinion as I do, that one, if not *the* greatest impediment to the prosperity of Capitular Masonry in Alabama, is the want of a more general knowledge of the Ritual of the Order.

Here permit me to remark, that the Grand Chapter has adopted a plan for the dissemination of the Work and Lectures of the several Degrees, and yet the members fail, to a very large extent, to receive the benefit of it. After a long connection with the Grand Chapter, I cannot call to my mind a single instance when the Work has been reported in full. It is my privilege to know that it is no fault of the Committee. I am also cognizant of the fact that the Committee have labored, with praiseworthy energy, to discharge their duty to the full extent of their obligation. But in the too great hurry to close and get home, they have been denied the privilege of reporting as they desired. This, it seems to me, is unjust to the Committee, and a positive wrong to the representatives of subordinate chapters. Many, perhaps a majority of them, are sent from their chapters for the sole purpose of obtaining a correct knowledge of the Ritual. In view of the facts above stated, permit me to suggest that the highest interests of Royal Arch Masonry in this Jurisdiction demands that the Committee on Work be allowed ample time to make a full report, as it is the principal, if not the only means of disseminating the work of the Grand Chapter.

I am convinced, and doubtless many of the companions are, that the members of the Royal Craft are too frequently called upon to deplore the

evils arising from hasty and inconsiderate legislation ; and now that we are about to enter upon the discharge of the important and responsible duties of another convocation, let it be the fixed purpose of every companion, that sufficient time be allowed for due deliberation upon all questions claiming our attention. The prosperity of the Order, as well as the credit of those who compose this grand body demand it. Let all our work be such as will stand the test of the "Chief Overseer's Square," so that no defects be found in our speculative temple—which, for wisdom, strength, and beauty, has elicited the applause and excited the admiration of the wise and virtuous of every age. Let us endeavor to possess the same spirit which animated those of our ancient worthies who reared this sublime moral structure, and strive to imitate their noble example.

J. H. JOINER,

Grand High Priest.

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

CYRUS CHAPTER NO. 6.

Resolved, That Cyrus Chapter No. 6 be excused from the payment of Dues for 1878, on account of the town of Florence, in which it is situated, having been visited by the yellow fever during that year.

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

DELINQUENT CHAPTERS.

Resolved, That all Chapters the charters of which have been forfeited for the non-payment of Dues, be, and the same are hereby, authorized to re-organize, elect officers, and continue work, until the convocation of the Grand Chapter in 1880, when, if their dues are paid for that year, they shall be fully reinstated.

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

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

COMPANION ARMSTRONG'S RESOLUTION.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong moved to refer all papers to the committees to which they belong, without bringing them to the attention of the Grand Chapter, and it was so ordered.

CHARGES PREFERRED.

Companion Sam Thompson, of Elyton Chapter No. 76,

preferred charges against Mineral City Chapter No. 101, for breach of territorial jurisdiction, and they were referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans, of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented his report, and it was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings.

The Grand High Priest announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES:

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 1.—Thomas T. Rowland, Hugh L. Deshazo, William W. McCollum.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 2.—Newell M. Thornton, Hannibal H. McNeil, Andrew J. Litton.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 3.—Isaac W. Suttle, Henry F. Mullen, Charles F. Threadgill.

ON DISPENSATIONS.—John G. Harris, John T. Cook, William R. Horn.

ON FINANCE.—Wiley W. Bloodworth, Pinkney M. Bruner, Alonzo G. Storey.

ON BY-LAWS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND APPEALS.—Alto Velo Lee, Noble G. Delashaw, Leroy R. Simms.

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

Companion Isaac W. Suttle offered the following resolution, and it was adopted:

AS TO ROCKFORD CHAPTER NO. 62, AND WEOGUFKA NO. 104.

Resolved, That the petition and prayer of Companion John A. Sears, of Weogufka Chapter No. 104, that the Jewels and Furniture of Rockford Chapter No. 62, now extinct, be given to Weogufka Chapter No. 104, and also all the outstanding and uncollected debts of the said Rockford Chapter, to be collected and used by Weogufka as though they were its own property.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans offered the following preamble and resolution, and they were concurred in and adopted :

THE CHARTER MUST BE PRESENT.

Whereas, The improper and, as we believe, pernicious doctrine, that a Chapter may be legally opened though the charter of the same be not in the Chapter Hall, or Building, is advocated by some Grand Chapters, and may be adopted by others ; *therefore*, the Grand Chapter of Alabama is impelled to adopt the following—

Resolved, That no Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be opened or holden at any time, unless the Warrant from this Grand Chapter shall be present in the Chapter Hall at the time ; and any Chapter holden under other circumstances shall be esteemed irregular and its doings void.

REPORT ON THE M. M. DEGREE.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong, of the Committee on Work, made report on the M. M. 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 to-morrow morning at 8½ o'clock.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

* WEDNESDAY MORNING, December 3, 1879.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8½ o'clock, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, James H. Joiner, 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 Isaac W. Suttle, 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 having carefully examined the Returns submitted to them they find the following

CORRECT :

Bell.....	No. 83	Daniel Pratt.....	No. 96
Gaston.....	" 85	Rock Mills.....	" 100
Greenville.....	" 90	Cross Plains.....	" 102
Columbus.....	" 93	Weogufka.....	" 104

INCORRECT :

Moulton No. 87.—Seal upside down, no postoffice, High Priest's name written where the name of the Chapter ought to be.

THOMAS M. BRAGG No. 99.—No dues extended in the column for dues, seal not plumb, no Postoffice, date *A. Inv.* not filled out.

MINERAL CITY No. 101.—No seal, certification made before the end of the masonic year, year A. L. not filled out, no seal, no dues paid for 4 members—due Grand Chapter \$3.00.

WARRIOR No. 103.—Caption not filled out, name of 1 suspended N. P. D. put down as a member in good standing, but no dues paid for him. All of which is fraternally submitted.

I. W. SUTTLE,
H. F. MULLEN,
C. F. THREADGILL,
Committee.

Companion Thomas T. Rowland, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 1, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in :

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 1.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

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

CORRECT :

Cyrus.....	No. 6	Montgomery.....	No. 22
Tuscumbia.....	" 10	Talladega.....	" 23
Gainesville.....	" 13	Eufaula.....	" 24
Wetumpka.....	" 17	Union.....	" 26
Livingston.....	" 20	Saint John's.....	" 28

INCORRECT :

TUSCALOOSA No. 1.—Begins and ends on the same day of the year.

MOBILE No. 21.—Certification not dated. No Postoffice.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

THOMAS T. ROWLAND,
Chairman.

On motion of Companion Henry F. Mullen the Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Officers for

the ensuing Masonic year, Companions William W. McCollum and Wiley W. Bloodworth acting as tellers, and the election resulted as follows :

ELECTED GRAND OFFICERS.

JAMES HERVEY JOINER.....	Talladega	Grand High Priest.
LUCKY W. JENKINS.....	Camden	Deputy G. H. Priest.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Mobile.....	Grand King.
WILLIAM DWIGHT WADSWORTH..	Montgomery	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY.....	Montgomery	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Montgomery	Grand Secretary.
LEROY RILEY SIMMS (Rev).....	Abbeville.	Grand Chaplain.
ALEXANDER MCCOLLISTER.....	Cross Plains....	Grand C. of H.

The Grand High Priest *elect* announced the following

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS :

WILEY W. BLOODWORTH.....	Loachapoka.....	Grand P. Sojourner.
JOHN W. BUSH.....	Uniontown.....	Grand R. A. C.
HENRY F. MULLEN.....	Selma	Grand M. 3 V.
JAMES H. SAVAGE.....	Cross Plains.....	Grand M. 2 V.
DEWITT CLINTON WHITE.....	Moulton	Grand M. 1 V.
JAMES DAVIDSON.....	Montgomery	Grand Sentinel.

INSTALLATION.

The presiding officer then proceeded to install the Grand Officers, elect and appointed.

Companion Myles J. Greene offered the following resolution, and it was adopted :

REMOVAL OF ZERUBBABEL CHAPTER NO. 56.

Resolved, That Zerubbabel Chapter No. 56 be authorized to remove from Waverly to Camp Hill.

Companion John G. Harris, from the Committee on

Dispensations, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in.

REMOVAL OF GASTON CHAPTER NO. 85.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama ;

Your committee to whom was referred the petition of a majority of the companions of Gaston Chapter No. 85 asking that they be permitted to remove their Chapter from Gaston, Sumter county, to Desotoville, Choctaw county, submit the following report :

We recommend that the Grand High Priest be authorized to grant a Dispensation for the purposes asked for in the petition, whenever the consent of Choctaw Chapter No. 44 is given, it appearing that the removal of Gaston Chapter will be within the jurisdiction of Choctaw Chapter. Your committee beg leave to state further, that out of sixteen names, appended to the two petitions, twelve are in favor and four opposed to the granting of the removal of said chapter. There is also in the hands of the committee a petition, from seven non-affiliated companions asking for the removal of said chapter, that it may be within their reach, and stating that they will affiliate as soon as the chapter is removed.

Respectfully submitted.

J. G. HARRIS,
J. T. COOK,
Committee.

Companion James E. Cobb, from the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in.

REPORT ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

Your Committee, to whom was referred the Address of the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, beg leave to report—

We find the decisions made by the M. Ex. Grand High Priest to be in accordance with our law and usage. The true masonic spirit pervading the address commends it to the careful consideration of companions ;

and we trust that the recommendations made will be regarded by this Grand Chapter.

We sympathize most heartily with our Chief in his expressions of deep sorrow at the loss sustained by companions of the jurisdiction of New Jersey in the death of Companion Thomas J. Corson.

The decease of one so wise and strong, and yet so prudent and tender; so firm in maintaining the dignity of our Order, and so zealous in promoting its best interests; and, withal, so considerate and charitable, leaves in our ranks a void not easily filled.

We have cause to remember Companion Corson, and we will miss his words of sympathy and cheer.

We recommend that, in recognition of our appreciation of his worth, and of our brotherly esteem, a page suitably inscribed to his memory be inserted in the proceedings of this Grand Chapter.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

J. E. COBB,
P. J. PILLANS,
J. H. JOHNSON,
Committee.

Companion Newell M. Thornton, from the Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 2, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in.

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 2.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

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

CORRECT.

Camden.....	No. 40	Landmark.....	No. 71
Choctaw.....	" 44	Gordon.....	" 73
Tyrian.....	" 54	Loachapoka.....	" 80

INCORRECT.

CLAYTON No. 63.—Name of one member in initials, no seal. Under head of Remarks, the Secretary says that the seal can not be used.

Your committee respectfully suggest that the Chapter should procure a seal.

CENTRAL No. 64.—The name of one member is inserted twice, the word none not inserted where it should be; four members reported suspended N. P. D. on the 24th of November, for whom dues should have been paid at this convocation—dues short \$3.

ALABAMA No. 66.—Caption of Returns not filled out; no date to verification.

ELYTON No. 76.—Amount of dues not added up, year A. D. not filled out, not signed by the Secretary.

Fraternally submitted.

NEWELL M. THORNTON,
Chairman.

Companion John Gideon Harris, from the Committee on Dispensations, offered the following resolution, and it was adopted.

CHARTER TO WEOGUFKA NO. 104.

Resolved, That the Committee on Dispensations, having examined the minutes of Weogufka Chapter No. 104, and finding them correct, recommend that a charter be granted.

Companion Myles J. Greene offered the following resolution, and it was adopted.

AUTHORITY TO ELECT OFFICERS.

Resolved, That all the Chapters, the charters of which have been forfeited, and which shall be revived under the resolution adopted by this Grand Chapter—remitting the dues of said chapters—shall be authorized to elect officers, should necessity require such action.

REPRESENTATIVE OF IOWA.

Companion Myles J. Greene was presented to the Grand High Priest as the duly commissioned representa-

tive of the Grand Chapter of Iowa near the Grand Chapter of Alabama, and cordially welcomed.

Companion Peleg Brown, from the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in.

REPORT FROM MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

To the M. Ec. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence have had before them a complaint made by Elyton Chapter No. 76, against Mineral City Chapter No. 101, for violation of jurisdiction, by conferring the degrees of the Chapter on Robert Stephenson, who resides within the jurisdiction of Elyton Chapter, without the consent of said chapter. From the evidence brought before us, we find this is a clear violation of Article III, Section 8, of the By-Laws of the Grand Chapter, and renders Mineral City Chapter liable to censure for so doing—and said Mineral City Chapter should be required to pay the fee to Elyton Chapter.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

PELEG BROWN,
Chairman.

Companion Myles J. Greene, from a Special Committee appointed at the last Annual Convocation, made the following report.

TESTIMONIAL TO P. G. H. P. JAMES E. COBB.

To the M. Ec. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

The committee appointed at the last annual convocation of this Grand Chapter, to procure a suitable testimonial to be presented to P. G. H. P. James E. Cobb, beg leave to report that they have discharged the duty assigned them. They have provided, for the purpose above indicated, a beautiful Tea-service, which is ready for presentation at your pleasure.

MYLES J. GREENE,
DANIEL SAYRE,
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY,
Committee.

And the presentation was made in eloquent words by the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, which were replied to in a most felicitous manner by the learned and distinguished recipient.

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.

THURSDAY MORNING, December 4, 1879.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8½ o'clock, the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, James Hervey Joiner, 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, from the Committee on Finance, made report, and the report was received and concurred in. (*See Appendix.*)

REPORT ON WORK.

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

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

ON WORK.

Henry Clay Armstrong.....	Notasulga.
Joseph H. Johnson, M. D.....	Talladega.
Lucky W. Jenkins, M. D.....	Camden.

CUSTODIAN OF THE WORK.

James Hervey Joiner, *virtute officii*.....Talladega.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

Peleg Brown.....Mobile.
Myles J. Greene, M. D.....Talladega.
Palmer J. Pillans.....Mobile.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer J. Pillans.....Mobile.

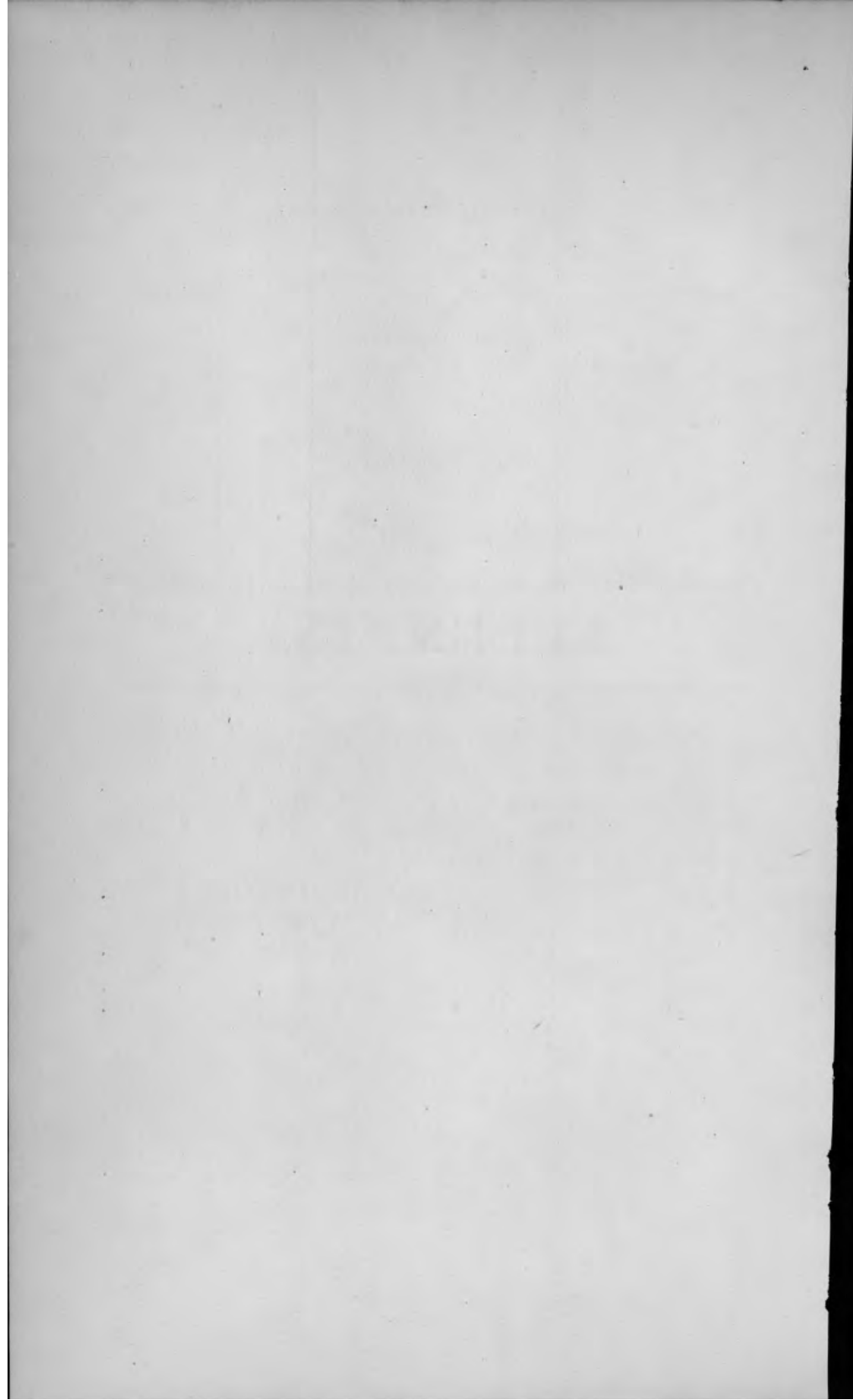
MINUTES READ.

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

CLOSED.

And then, after solemn prayer to the Throne of Grace by the R. Ex. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, Companion Leroy Riley Simms, the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama was closed in AMPLE FORM at 5 minutes to 12 o'clock, A. M.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.



APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE
LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON FEBRUARY 1, 1890
RELATIVE TO THE
LANDS BELONGING TO THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.,
PRINTERS,
1890.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Officers and Members of the

Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama :

Again we lay before you rich viands with which to nourish, encourage, and strengthen you. May you partake of and well digest them that they may be productive of good. We have reviewed the following proceedings, forty in number :

Arkansas.....	1878	Mississippi.....	1879
California.....	1879	Missouri.....	1878
Canada.....	1878-1879	Nebraska.....	1878
Colorado.....	1878	New Hampshire.....	1879
Connecticut.....	1879	New Jersey.....	1878-1879
Delaware.....	1879	New York.....	1879
District of Columbia.....	1878	North Carolina.....	1879
England and Wales.....	1879	Ohio.....	1878
Georgia.....	1879	Oregon.....	1879
Illinois.....	1878	Pennsylvania.....	1878
Indiana.....	1878	Quebec.....	1878
Iowa.....	1878	Rhode Island.....	1879
Kansas.....	1878	South Carolina.....	1879
Kentucky.....	1878	Tennessee.....	1878
Louisiana.....	1879	Texas.....	1878
Maine.....	1879	Vermont.....	1879
Maryland.....	1878	Virginia.....	1878
Massachusetts.....	1878	West Virginia.....	1878
Michigan.....	1879	Wisconsin.....	1879

ARKANSAS, 1878,

Held, on October 10th, its Twenty-Ninth Annual Convocation, being presided over by R. E. M. McGuire, D. G. H. P., three Chapters only being represented. On the 6th, there being no quorum, the Grand Chapter was adjourned over until this day, when it was again adjourned until 9th January, 1879. On this last date it was again opened by the D. G. H. P., the M. E. G. H. Priest having been called from labor on 24th June, 1878. The R. E. D. G. H. P. in his address eloquently alludes to the pestilence which so wasted a part of our stricken South,

and deals in a very business-like manner with the various matters of interest to the Craft in Arkansas. In it, he says "Capitular Masonry has taken no backward steps during the past year. Many of the Chapters are in a more prosperous condition now than they were at our last session."

At this Convocation the plan of surrendering the Cryptic Degrees by the Grand Council to the Chapters was adopted, and *ipso facto* the Grand Council ceased to exist. Thus one by one the Grand Chapters accept control of those degrees, and one by one the Grand Council lights are extinguished. By this method, only can these degrees be preserved, we think.

When we look at the Grand Treasurer's report and see a balance of only \$336 00, and then see a resolution to absorb every dollar beyond actual expenses in the payment of mileage and per diem *pro rata*, if the treasury has not enough to pay in full, we feel great apprehension for the happiness and prosperity of our sister. An empty treasury begets discontent among the members, as an empty pocket does on the whole body. We, by no means, advocate amassing any large sum, unless to be invested in some permanent charity, but the Grand Chapter should never be in the attitude of a beggar.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances had nothing before them. Good.

Of 76 Chapters on the roll, 35 are in arrears for dues, and some of them for several years.

There was no report on Correspondence. Companion M. M. McGuire was made M. E. G. H. P., and Companion L. E. Barber continued Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA, 1879.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Convocation was held on the 8th of April, 1879, with Companion John Mills Browne as Grand High Priest. The M. E. Companion was gratified in visits made by him to various Chapters "with what was seen and heard."

We confess ourselves at a loss to discover any good reason why he should refuse to allow a Chapter to provide trustees for its permanent fund. To encourage every subordinate to accumulate such a fund should be the desire and aim of every G. H. Priest. We fully coincide with the opinion of the Committee on Jurisprudence on this subject, notwithstanding the Grand Chapter thought proper to sustain the G. H. P.

Your committee regret to disagree with the M. E. Grand High Priest in this matter, but believing that there are rights reserved to the con-

stituent Chapters, and that one of the most important of these rights is the power to dispose of, and most especially to protect and secure the funds intrusted to it by its members, and believing that this right should not be sacrificed for a desire for uniformity, and that the members of a Chapter are the best judges of the guards necessary to be thrown around their treasury, we respectfully recommend that the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest be not concurred in, and that the amendments adopted by *San Francisco* Chapter be and they are hereby approved.

From the address we learn why Companion Wiggin is no longer either Grand Secretary or Reporter. He is the second Grand Secretary who has used the funds of the Grand Chapter, and yet the Grand High Priest and the Grand Chapter think that a Chapter should not be allowed to guard carefully funds destined for higher purposes—for charity.

Companion Nathan W. Spaulding was elected G. H. P., and Companion Thos. H. Caswell, Grand Secretary.

Companion Caswell submitted the report on Correspondence, which, having been previously published, is inserted in the body of the proceedings, though not read. We do not find in it Alabama.

He is averse to coupling the Council and Chapter degrees—thinks the burthen of preparation for conferring them in addition to those of the Chapter too much for a High Priest. He doubts the wisdom of placing new difficulties in the way of Masonic intercourse between us and companions who do not so merge the degrees.

The report is an excellent one, calmly and judiciously phrased, yet we miss the vim and spirit of the late reporter.

CANADA, 1878-1879.

We have the proceedings from this, our nearest foreign sister, for the years 1878-1879. We do not understand why every alternate year these proceedings should fail to reach us in time. But so it is, and we would rather hear late from her than never.

The Convocation of 1878 was held on the 14th of August, Companion Fred. J. Manet, G. Z., presiding. Companion Manet says:

The marked progress in the dissemination of the great truths of Masonry, as evidenced by the numerous additions made to Lodges and Chapters, is extremely gratifying, and well bears out the assertion that has so frequently been made, "That Masonry—cultivating as it does in the highest degree the virtues of charity and good-will to all men, and a firm belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, who, having given us a guide to our faith, requires obedience to his commands, and in the future will judge us by our acts—has ever flourished in times of peace"—and many are the proofs that, when discord and strife have arisen among the universal brotherhood of mankind, it has ever lent its kindly aid towards relieving distress and promoting reconciliation.

He calls attention to the circular of H. W. Walter, G. H. Priest of Mississippi, in reference to merging the Council degrees with the Chapter, and is himself averse to any such amalgamation.

From the reports of the Grand District Superintendents, it is apparent that Capitular Masonry is alive and vigorous in Canada, and her treasurer shows that she is in most admirable condition financially.

We see that like a kind and considerate parent she gave her daughter of Quebec five hundred dollars of her abundance to aid the young woman in setting up her house-keeping.

Companion Manet was re-elected G. Z., and Companion David McLellan, Grand Scribe E.

Companion Henry Robertson made the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of forty Grand Chapters, and many of these for two and three years. He ought to be commended for his industry, for in no particular has he shirked his duty. Alabama we find there.

As we have never received a copy of the proceedings from Ireland, and our companions would doubtless like to hear from her, we extract his remarks in full as follows :

IRELAND.

Through the kindness of Companion James H. Neilson, of Dublin, the eminent Masonic Archaeologist, we have been favored with a copy of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and several pamphlets, from which we obtain the following information :

The principal Grand Officers for 1878, are :

Hon. Judge Townshend, LL. D., King.

Chas. C. Macnamara, Deputy.

Chas. A. Cameron, High Priest.

John F. Goodman, Chief Scribe.

S. B. Oldham (Dublin), Registrar.

The Grand Chapter meets in Stated Convocations four times in each year, in the months of February, May, July and November. The Board of General Purposes meets on the Friday preceding each quarterly Convocation.

They have also a Grand Chapter of Instruction, which meets six times in the year ; and a Grand Committee of Inspection, meeting monthly. With all these meetings they should be kept in good order, as no doubt they are ; but as they do not publish their proceedings, we are left in the dark about many things which we would like to know.

The receipts for 1877 were £537.3.0. Among the items we notice, Fees of Officers, £99.7.0 ; Certificates and Registry, £278.6.3 ; and Fines, £35.12.0. The expenses were £386 1.8 ; besides appropriations of £150 each, to the Masonic Female Orphan School, and the Masonic Orphan Boys School, and the purchase of £800 worth of India 4 per cent. stock.

Three new Warrants were issued in 1877 ; one for a Chapter in Ber-

muda, and the other two in Ireland. Six Chapters surrendered their Warrants, one in Constantinople, two in Australia, and three in Ireland.

From the Constitution, we learn that the chief officers in the Chapter are, King, High Priest and Chief Scribe. The Grand Master, if a Past King, is the Grand King, otherwise one is elected.

No Chapter can be opened or remain open, unless six Companions are present, one of whom must be a King or Past King. There are six subordinate officers, viz.: Captain of the Host, Superintendent of the Tabernacle, Royal Arch Captain, and three Captains of Veils.

All candidates for Exaltation in Dublin must be approved of by the Committee of Inspection. This Committee consists of all the Grand Officers, and the King of every Dublin Chapter. Their duties appear to be solely to decide upon the admissibility of candidates, and they do not consider any case, until after the candidate has been balloted for and approved in the Chapter he proposes to join. This furnishes an additional safeguard against the admission of unworthy members, but it would not suit in this country at all.

The Mark Degree is worked under the Chapter, but not the Past or Most Excellent Master.

1879.

The Convocation of 1879 was held on 13th August, the G. Z. being present and presiding. From his decision of the only question submitted to him, we find that the principle which governed him is the one which, a few years since, we declared was a growing one. This growth is cropping out more and more, annually. The principle alluded to is that each grand body, with its subordinates, is entirely independent of the others, and is only so far connected with the others that its members equally with theirs are members of the same fraternity. In this jurisdiction, we hold that all combined go to make up one vast and beautiful Temple; that Blue lodge masons constitute the bottom—the foundation stones of this Temple—and that if any of these be pulled out, the superstructure falls; that one cannot be a suspended lodge mason and yet exist as a chapter mason, nor do we exactly see how the master masons, aware of the suspension of one of their number, can very well communicate *masonically* anywhere with him, so long as this should last. It may be, however, that when the entire independence of each body shall have been established, a method may be devised of calming conscience.

Companion Henry Robertson again reported on correspondence, and under North Carolina he says, in relation to the above question :

Companion James Southgate reports on correspondence. He thinks that expulsion from the Lodge necessarily carries with it expulsion from the Chapter. We deny this proposition. He says that is the general and common law, which we also deny. Where such a regulation is in force, it has been made the law by constitutional enactment. There is no such provision in the unwritten or common law of masonry. We

have a clause in our Constitution governing such cases; but it preserves to every companion the right to a fair trial, either in his Chapter or in Grand Chapter; and it does not *necessarily* follow that because a companion is suspended or expelled by a lodge, that the same punishment must be inflicted by the Chapter. The two bodies are separate and distinct, and membership in the one does not depend upon membership in the other.

And under Quebec :

"Companion Robertson considers us doubtful of his position as to the effect of lodge suspension on Chapter's membership, but is open to conviction, and refers us to his remarks upon this question under Maine and Oregon. We have read them with pleasure, and fully appreciate them. This, however, is not quite clear to our mind yet; will Companion Robertson please enlighten us on the following? In Quebec, and we presume in Canada, a brother suspended for non-payment of lodge dues, being debarred from visiting his own or any other lodge, we cannot associate with him masonically in the lodge. Why should we be compelled to do so elsewhere, more especially when he has been deprived of that essential to Chapter membership, 'good standing as a Master Mason,' which alone entitles him to a seat in a R. A. Chapter. We trust we have made our meaning clear, and await Companion Robertson's reply. We, at the same time, agree with our Canada Companion that independent Chapter action is absolutely requisite to effect Chapter suspension, but we also hold that the fact of lodge suspension of a companion being fully vouched for to a chapter by a companion in good standing, should be a sufficient ground for Chapter action."

It appears to us that Companion McMinn has answered his own question very clearly in his last paragraph. If independent Chapter action is requisite to effect Chapter suspension, then the companion is certainly in good standing in his chapter until such action; and he would be entitled to associate with his companions in the chapter until he was suspended by the chapter.

We do not regard "good standing as a Master Mason" as essential to Chapter membership. That is one of the fallacies by which confusion is introduced into the arguments on this subject. It may be essential to admission to the Chapter in the first instance, but it is not at all essential to the continuance of membership in the Chapter. After a companion has once become a member of a chapter, he can only lose that membership by action under the laws and regulations of that chapter, or of Grand Chapter. Membership in any society depends on the laws of that society, and not on the laws of some other body; so that the Lodge action of itself cannot effect Chapter membership. Our Chapter regulations make Lodge action a foundation for Chapter proceedings; but they also expressly reserve the right to discipline their own members, and do not allow any other body to do it for them.

Some brethren appear to have a holy horror at the idea of sitting in a chapter with a mason suspended by his lodge; as if there were contamination in the very air of the room while he was there. We do not see anything so very terrible about it. If he is very bad, or really deserves punishment, the Chapter can easily take action and get rid of him. But if, by any possibility, he should have been harshly treated by the Lodge

(and we have known such cases), we can then sympathize with him in the Chapter, and not perpetuate a wrong.

In some cases, this position comes in very conveniently. We may instance Quebec. Before the Grand Lodge of Quebec was recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada, we were debarred from meeting in Lodge with many of our former companions, who had been suspended by the Grand Lodge of Canada. But we met them in the Chapter, and sat with them in the Grand Chapter, and right glad were many of us to have the opportunity of doing so.

Companion Daniel Spry was elected Grand Z., and Companion D. McLellan re-elected G. Sec. E.

COLORADO, 1878.

On 19th September, 1878, the Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by Owen H. Henry, M. E. G. H. P., with representatives from all of its subordinates present.

The address of the G. H. P. treats of matters of local interest only, though, in conclusion, he generalises thus :

In this world, where good and evil are intermixed, we have nothing but these principles to guide us in our path. They have led mankind along thus far in an even ascending career of civilization and advancement. Without them, the highest achievements of science, the most brilliant productions of the human intellect and invention, are worthless and would become the more powerful engines of evil. But, guided by a pure morality, controlled and directed by virtue and truth, every advance in knowledge is a step forward in the path of real progress, which shall lead us at last to that perfection which we are all striving to attain. Mankind is endowed with infinite capabilities of improvement, yet it is only through these principles that such advancement can be reached, and the institutions of our Order devoted to proclaiming these principles and illustrating them in the lives of its members, deserve the hearty support of all. Let us, then, one and all, with unflagging energy, devote ourselves to the perpetuation, spread and development of Royal Arch Masonry, that our lives may be of use to our fellow men, and when we pass into that undiscovered country whence no traveler returns, we may go with a sustaining consciousness of duty well performed to receive the reward reserved for the faithful.

The Committee on Jurisprudence say, and the Grand Chapter approve this, which we commend to our Canadian Companion.

While all will agree that expulsion or suspension in the Blue Lodge for a Masonic offense, affects the standing of Chapter members, I am of opinion that the standing of a member in his Chapter, whose name is stricken from the roll of his Lodge for non-payment of dues, ought not to be affected thereby.

Companion Edward H. Collins was elected G. H. Priest, and Companion Edward C. Parmelee was elected Grand Secretary.

Companion W. N. Byers made the correspondence report, reviewing 41 Chapters for two, and some for more years, which compelled great conciseness. It is, however, a fair view of the opinions of sister jurisdictions, while expressing very few himself, because, as he says, "The individual opinions of your committee were not considered important, since they are not makers or expounders of Masonic law, and but few are indulged in."

CONNECTICUT, 1879.

The proceedings of the Eighty-First Annual Convocation, held on the 13th of May, 1879, are before us. M. E. Companion Dwight Waugh, G. H. Priest, in the East. The address of the Grand High Priest rises into eloquence, while speaking of the mighty Masonic dead of the preceding year, and the desolation and mourning of a portion of our country.

He thinks much good would result from a proper system of Grand Visitations of the subordinate chapters, and calls the attention of Grand Chapter to the propriety of providing for the necessary expense.

He recommends some action by Grand Chapter in relation to the conferring the Chapter degrees on unaffiliated Master Masons.

The Grand Chapter made provision for the expense that might be incurred by grand officers in making visitations, and also forbid "receiving applications of non-affiliated masons" for the Capitular degrees.

Companion Dwight Waugh was again elected G. H. P., and Companion Joseph K. Wheeler, Grand Secretary.

Companion Barlow made the report on correspondence. We like the views expressed by him under Kentucky, "that the ancient constitution requiring unanimous consent for the admission of every candidate cannot be too rigidly enforced."

Under Ohio, he says: "Past experience has taught us that the injudicious (or unlawful would be the better word,) use of the ballot has been fatal to the prosperity of the Craft in keeping good men out as in letting bad men in."

DELAWARE, 1878.

The Eleventh Convocation was held on the 15th of January, 1878, A. G. Cox, M. E. G. H. Priest, presiding, and with all the subordinates represented. Companion Cox, alluding to the condition of R. A. masonry in Delaware, says:

During the Masonic year which has just closed, and which we have met to review, the most pleasant and harmonious relations have existed among the workers in our mystic temple, and, so far as I know, not a single note of discord has disturbed the good feeling which prevails throughout the entire jurisdiction.

We admire the frank position taken in the following :

Inasmuch, then, as the purity of our Order is vastly more important than any other consideration, the old leaven of intemperance, especially, to say nothing of other irregularities which may have crept in among us, should be purged out, and a reformation thereby secured. And if there be those among us who will not listen to the voice of warning, let them be cut off ; that the boasted purity of masonry may thereby be preserved unsullied, and its excellent teachings fully vindicated.

The business of the Grand Chapter was of entirely local character, and rapidly and harmoniously transacted.

Companion J. Thomas Budd made quite a chatty and pleasant report on correspondence, not, however, having Alabama among the proceedings reviewed.

Companion Cox was again elected G. H. P., and Companion Geo. W. Stone, Grand Secretary. Companion S. P. Allmond having declined reelection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The proceedings of this Grand Chapter, held December 11, 1878, come to us shorn of their usual proportions. There were two special convocations and the semi-annual one. The special convocations were for the exemplification of the work. At the semi-annual meeting resolutions expressive of the grief of this Grand Chapter at the death of R. E. Companion George Frank Gouley were passed, and the committee appointed to present to the Grand Chapter of Maryland the old record book containing the history of the formation of that Grand Body made their report.

Companion Joseph S. McCoy, M. E. Grand High Priest, opened in ample form the annual convocation on the above mentioned date, all the subordinates being present. We extract from the address a singular case—reading as follows :

“On November 1, 1855, Companion T. B. J. Frye, at that date a member of Potomac Chapter, was on motion dropped from membership and his dues remitted.

On the 12th of February last, Companion Frye made application for restoration. In that connection, the question was raised whether, in view of the remission of the companion's dues, that remission did not operate to restore him to membership as of the date he was dropped.

The case was presented to me by M. E. Companion Brice, High Priest of Potomac Chapter, for decision.

An examination of the records of that Chapter relating to Companion Frye was made. The minutes for November 1, 1855, simply recite that on that date, 'On motion of Companion Cropley, Companions T. B. J. Frye and * * * were dropped as members and their dues remitted.' The specific cause for this action on the part of Potomac Chapter does not appear.

Companion Frye states that he was dropped by reason of non-payment of dues, and as his statement has not been questioned, I decided it from that standpoint.

Potomac Chapter dropped Companion Frye for a non-compliance with a Masonic obligation, and it could not restore him by a simple remission of dues, because, in cutting off his membership, it enforced a penalty and a consequent disability—the penalty being a forfeiture of membership; the disability an ineligibility to apply for membership to another Chapter while such disability remained. The remission, in my judgment, merely removed the disability, without in any way setting aside the penalty. In other words, while Potomac Chapter cut off his membership, it remitted his dues and left him at liberty to apply to any other Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for membership, when his circumstances would admit; and, while in these days such peculiar action by a Chapter might be questioned, it seemed to me far too late, after twenty-two years and more, to impeach as irregular the action then had by Potomac Chapter.

I returned the case to the Chapter with the decision that the remission did not restore Companion Frye to membership, and that, as a preliminary therefor, his petition was correct and necessary.

On his petition, Companion Frye was duly elected, and is at this date a member of Potomac Chapter."

Had he been guilty of a gross masonic offense and been dropped in consequence, then to have remitted his dues would have been wrong—and if he was dropped because he did not pay his dues as soon as the resolution was adopted he owed nothing and the cause for which he was punished removed. It is a singular case any way. We are astonished that any Chapter should ever have had the power of expelling or suspending a member by a simple resolution, for the above action is in effect the same as expulsion. The companion was no longer a member of that chapter, nor could he become the member of any other because he could not obtain a dimit. It is a singular case, and none the less so because the companion should have slept so long in that condition while being deemed worthy to be reinstated when he applied for it.

The business of the Grand Chapter was entirely local—there was no report on jurisprudence—no report on correspondence.

Companion Matthew Trimble was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Charles W. Hancock, Grand Secretary.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

We have before us the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales for 1879. These proceedings have come to us since the recognition of this Grand Body by the G. G. Chapter our superior. It delights us to get them, handle them, read them, and know and feel they are from those from whom we derived our masonic life and inspiration.

A Lodge of emergency was held on 18th February, 1879, for an expression of the deep sympathy felt by all loyal Mark Master Masons with Her Majesty Queen Victoria in the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, and a suitable address to Her Majesty was adopted. This Communication was presided over by the Right Honorable Lord Skelmersdale, M. W. G. M. M.

On 3d June the half yearly communication was held, but in consequence of recent illness Lord Skelmersdale was absent and the Right Honorable the Earl of Limerick, P. G. M., presided.

The business of the Grand Lodge is fully attended to in recess by what is denominated the General Board, a committee annually appointed by the M. W. G. M. M. These carefully digest and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge, and in consequence the same debate may ensue on some of their recommendations, yet they are usually adopted and the business is rapidly completed, when a good time is had over a well prepared banquet. The finances are in good condition, and care seems to be taken to improve them for educational and charitable purposes. This is as it should be.

GEORGIA 1879.

The Grand Chapter of this State was opened on 30th April, 1879, by Companion William J. Johnson, M. E. Grand High Priest.

He congratulated the craft on the prosperity which was apparent on every side, and the increased activity of all occupations—regretted that in our social and political relations sectional strife and feelings of wrath, envy, hatred and oppression were still found, but believed “that the charity which is the corner stone of our masonic edifice, is at last to be the peace-maker.”

He declared the finances to be in “a deplorable state,” and coincides with our P. G. High Priest Cobb in recommending that the presentation of jewels to retiring Grand High Priests be for the present abolished, quoting the eloquent words of M. E. Companion Cobb. And we are

grieved to see that the Grand Chapter resorted to the issuance of scrip for the payment of part of mileage due representatives,

Companion J. W. Oslin was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion J. Emmett Blackshear, Grand Secretary.

The report on correspondence was again submitted by Companion Lawrence. He compares the reporter to one "who uncovers the glass and shows the inner working and industry of the Brethren within their several hives." Among his remarks on Alabama, after quoting our remarks under Pennsylvania on the subject of charity and the establishment of asylums for the destitute, he says, and we fully agree with him—

"Such a provision made and constantly increasing, as it would increase, in every jurisdiction, would do more for the honor and the good of masonry than all the grand halls, and the shabby halls that have been, or ever will be built."

In defense of his position that the Texas practice of allowing visitors to vote on applications for the degrees is right, he well says:

"If the Lodge or Chapter, in the plenitude of its private family powers, could keep all the bad eggs its lays at home, perhaps it would. But as the fact stands they lay their eggs for all as well as for themselves, and all should have some right to determine whether they are fit for market."

We like the way in which he deals with the powers of a Grand High Priest, and by a single question indorses our position that his powers are derived from the constitution, and that he is as much bound to obey its mandates himself as he is to require his subordinates to do it. His question is, "Has a Grand High Priest any *prerogatives*?"

We copy one paragraph on negro masons to say that his feelings toward them are those which actuate all of us who have been with them from birth—

"Thus saith the Preacher. But glancing only at the self-complacency with which he sets aside the verdict of all the masonic writers of note, and persists in calling the 'African Lodge' '*perfectly legal*,' we would respectfully ask Companion Melish, Who are they that are throwing stones at them? Now, but for this stone-throwing part of it, we agree with him that "the situation is best as it is." But not from us will come objection to a change when the times are ripe, and the legality proven. All our prejudices run in their favor. Born in their midst, reared in their midst, having to do with them all of our life, from infancy up we have received nothing but the most respectful, kind and considerate attention at their hands, and we have learned to love them as a race, and could select individuals from them with whom we would sooner sit in a Lodge, and hail them as brothers, than with some scaly 'white folks' we wot of. So far as 'stones' and the 'cullud pussons' are concerned, for the injury they have done them, some of their psuedo white friends deserve stoning at their hands. These be hard words, but we believe them true; and think we can speak for the Masons of Georgia, and of the South, as well as for ourselves."

ILLINOIS 1878.

The twenty-ninth convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 24th October, 1878, Companion James C. McMurtry presiding. The address is confined to matters of business exclusively, and is consequently short and to the purpose in hand.

The business of the Chapter was promptly expedited—nothing of general interest appearing.

Companion John D. Hamilton was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, Companion Gil W. Barnard, Grand Secretary.

Companion Gurney made a very interesting report on correspondence, fearlessly, though courteously, uttering his opinions on all questions arising. He notices Alabama fraternally.

We quote at length his views in relation to the effect of expulsion or suspension from the Lodge, upon membership in the Chapter because it is the first declaration of independence, which we have for some time been anticipating. We do not copy because we approve. Under California the committee on jurisprudence thus respond :

"Your committee on jurisprudence, to whom was referred the question proposed by the representative of Libanus Chapter No. 17, having considered the same, report: That a Master Mason expelled by his Lodge has become, for all masonic consideration, dead. And as a man can not die in one locality and continue his existence in another, in this terrestrial body, he is dead also in his Chapter, no matter whether he was returned as excluded or included.

'Restoration by the Grand Lodge restores him to his rights and privileges as a Master Mason, but not to membership in his Lodge. Can it restore him to membership in his Chapter? We think not; and that he can get back only in the way provided for the newly born—by petition for affiliation, and ballot.'

There has always existed a variety of opinion on this subject, because Masons whose views are recognized as good authority have persistently declined to accept facts that seem to lie at the foundation of the difficulty.

Heretofore we have been deterred by various influences from speaking upon this subject above a whisper; but we are now of the opinion that the anomaly in our self-imposed relations to Craft Masonry should be discussed, better understood, and we relieved from servility.

In the first place, there are no official relations existing between Capital and Craft Masonry that are remotely recognized by the latter. All such claims or suggestions by us is entirely gratuitous, and founded on a purpose on our part, so to unite the bodies that the chapter should be known as a section of a general system.

To accomplish this, when the chapter was instituted as a distinct organization, it carried with it so much of the esoteric work of the Lodge as should make the assumption plausible. This is also true of the half-score of organizations that have had a similar origin with the

chapter, and which, with equal propriety and for like reasons, assume to be the continuation of a body that turns a deaf ear to all such claims or pretensions.

We now put the question squarely:—By what authority from the Lodge do we, as Royal Arch Masons, employ or make use of any portion of its esoteric work—*signs, grips* or words?

Our objective point is this:—If the chapter should abandon that part of Craft Masonry which it now usurps in violation of obligation, then the difficulties growing out of discipline would be removed, and we left at liberty to exercise the functions of an independent, sovereign body.

It has not been our purpose to discuss this subject at length, but rather to draw attention to our true relations to masonry, in the expectation that its importance will attract attention."

He ventilates an opinion under Colorado with which we agree, on the subject of suspension for non-payment of dues without trial—

"Companion John H. Barlow presented his Report on Correspondence, reviewing the transactions of thirty-seven Grand Bodies. Under Arkansas, he agrees with Companion Eakin, 'that suspension for non-payment of dues, by the mere operation of a by-law, without charges or trial, is not suspension from masonry.' We go farther than this, and insist that it is palpably unmasonic to deprive a mason of any masonic right in the absence of formal procedure. We might with as much propriety execute a man for murder, or imprison him for larceny, without trial, simply because the law provides the penalty (even with guilt unquestioned), as to impair a mason's rights because a lodge record *says* he is delinquent. In his review of California he takes issue with Companion Wiggin on the propriety of suspending for non-payment of dues, preferring 'dropping from the roll.' We believe that a mason that can and *will not* pay should be ousted, and driven as far from the fold as it is possible to get him. But if a companion can not pay, then it is a *duty* to relieve him of the embarrassment."

We are pleased to find the following reproof for the use of unmasonic language in correspondence. We do not recollect the passage alluded to nor have we the means at hand of referring to it, but presume that it is not without sufficient provocation. We well recollect noticing some discourteous remarks in relation to our esteemed Grand High Priest in the same review, and we characterized the report as racy but displaying a taste in many passages we did not like.

"Under Louisiana, and commenting upon the address of the Grand High Priest, the language of Companion Shaffer is offensive and unpardonable. It is not good masonry to treat brethren with disrespect; neither is it in harmony with our profession, or with any claim to the respect of mankind, to emphasize our disapproval of men's opinions or methods (in or out of masonry) by calling them hard names. We are not apprehensive that this blast from Companion Shaffer will disturb the equanimity of our distinguished Companion of Louisiana, or the gentlemen named; still, this transfer of epithet from slum to temple, will not enlist the sympathies of good men in our behalf, and should never be tolerated."

INDIANA 1878

Held its Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter on the 23d October 1878, with Companion Simeon I. Johnson, Grand High Priest, presiding.

He opens his address with the announcement that "less than two months after the close of our last convocation, Past Grand High Priest Harvey G. Hazelrigg, one of the best known and most prominent masons of Indiana, died." We of this jurisdiction may well remember the visit of this deceased companion to our Grand Chapter. He was zealous, with a heart full of kindness and charity. His whole manner betokened the earnest mason. And we find that Indiana mourns his loss as almost irreparable.

The decisions of the Grand High Priest are generally in consonance with the rulings of our jurisdiction.

In speaking of the General Grand Chapter, he says:

"At the session of the General Grand Chapter in Buffalo in 1877, the following resolution was adopted as 'the sense' of the General Grand Chapter—

Resolved, That there must be present nine Royal Arch Masons to open any of the bodies under jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter; but five may work as a Lodge of Mark Masters, seven as a Lodge of Past Masters, and seven as a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters.—(Proceedings of 1877, page 98.)

"This doctrine, in my opinion (with all due respect for the General Grand Chapter), is absurd and illogical. With what dignity, formality or propriety could five Royal Arch Masons confer the Mark Masters Degree? and the idea of requiring seven to confer Past Masters Degree is equally as peculiar.

I am also of the opinion that such a resolution and decision does not govern a State jurisdiction—only affects the subordinates chartered direct by General Grand Chapter.

I think this resolution was offered and adopted in haste and without consideration.

JULY 18, 1878—I addressed a letter to Most Excellent General Grand High Priest John Frizzell, Nashville, Tenn., *respectfully asking* his views upon the extent and force of this resolution. I regret to say no reply has been received to my communication."

The finances of this Grand Chapter are by no means in a sound and healthy condition, its receipts being less than its necessary expenses, and yet the Grand High Priest says, "I am strongly opposed to increasing the annual dues of subordinate chapters, if any other remedy for the disease can be found." The annual expense is \$2,300, of which \$1,400 is for per diem and mileage. Our plan seems best—Let each chapter provide for her representative.

Companion Martin H. Rice was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion John M. Bramwell continued Grand Secretary.

The Grand High Priest made the report on correspondence, which was referred to the committee on correspondence, who approved it and recommended that it be published with the proceedings. In it we find Alabama for 1877 duly noticed. We regret that our 26 lines on Indiana should have *disgruntled* our Indiana companion. We entirely co-incide with him in his view of the powers and pre-rogatives of a Grand High Priest, as expressed under Colorado, as follows:

"The Grand High Priest announced that he had issued a dispensation to a subordinate chapter to hold election of officers December 18, when By-Laws prescribed the 25th of December, because 'it was represented that under their by-laws the election of officers would fall on the evening of Christmas day, and that it would be impossible to secure the attendance of the members at that time. In view of the circumstances I deemed it a proper occasion for the exercise of this prerogative.'

With equal propriety might the Grand High Priest have violated law and issued a dispensation for an election before the time prescribed, in order to allow the companions an opportunity to attend a circus, enjoy the comforts of a base-ball game, or the delights of a horse race.

It is a new doctrine that a Grand High Priest has any *power, authority, or right* to make law for himself, or *authorize* a subordinate chapter to *violate* its own by-law for any *cause*. Any election held under such a dispensation is illegal and void. And a still worse feature: there was not found any one in all that Grand Chapter to question such a proceeding."

From his conclusion we learn that 'action has been taken by some thirteen of the Grand Jurisdictions, uniting the Chapter and Council organizations into one body.' The scheme then seems to be gaining ground, and we honestly think that it is the only method by which the Council degrees will be preserved in this jurisdiction.

IOWA 1878.

Annual Convocation held October 15, 1878, M. E. Grand High Priest Abel W. Daugherty presiding. The address is concise and pertaining to business only. The decisions of the Grand High Priest strike us as eminently correct—they concur with the usage in our jurisdiction.

The finances of this Grand Chapter are in a fair condition, yet we find that the finance committee make the following recommendation, which we think would end, as in another instance, in disappointment.

"Your committee find that the cost of writing and printing the reports on foreign correspondence, for the past two years, has cost the Grand Chapter over nine hundred dollars, which we consider, owing to the fact that they are read by so few, a useless waste of the funds of the Grand Chapter. We therefore recommend that hereafter no reports on foreign correspondence be made or published; but that the Grand Representatives of the several jurisdictions near this Grand Chapter be

requested to present, at each session, a short and concise report of the doings of the several Grand Chapters which they represent."

This Grand Chapter assumed, by consolidation of the council therewith, control of those degrees.

Companion A. W. Daugherty was re-elected Grand High Priest, and Companion W. B. Langridge, Grand Secretary.

Companion T. R. Ercanbrack made the report on correspondence this year. He says he is young—we know him to be new in the corps—yet we find a very thorough report giving a correct view of other jurisdictions, and not slashing right and left. He gives extended quotations from our last report, thus at least placing us in no false position before our companions of Iowa.

We take the liberty of transferring his compilation, a tabular statement of the Grand Chapters of the United States for the information of our companions in Alabama, and thank him for his industry. We place it at the end of this report, and agree with him that "this table is of as much value as the rest of the report."*

KANSAS, 1878.

We are gratified at again finding the proceedings of this Grand Chapter before us. This convocation was held on the 14th of October, 1878, Companion Moses S. Adams, M. E. G. H. Priest. We quote from his address, commending these remarks to the companions of our own jurisdiction :

And now, in conclusion, allow me to remark that the influence and usefulness of our beloved Order depends upon the lives our members lead and the example they set before the world. As citizens of this young and rapidly developing Commonwealth we ought to take a lively interest in the education and training of our youth, the building up and strengthening of all literary, scientific, moral and religious institutions, which are so planned and conducted as to develop a higher order and type of manhood, and thus tending to the growth of the moral and social virtues, the pride and boast of Masonry.

Let us never forget that to be good Masons we must be pure and good men, whose example, outside the Lodge and Chapter, shall be such as will challenge the admiration of all honest and well meaning citizens. Let our lives be devoted to the practice of all Masonic virtues, and carefully avoid the vices so common at the present day among the masses of mankind ; then indeed it may be truthfully said that when a person is said to be a Mason, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrows, to whom distress may prefer its suit, whose hand is guided by justice, and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.

*NOTE. The Grand Secretary regrets that he has been compelled to leave out this statement.

Companion Albert Pike, a Nestor in Masonry, was a visitor at this convocation.

Finances healthy—good sign.

Companion E. T. Carr, who, from the inception of the Grand Chapter has been its Secretary and reporter, at this meeting asked to be relieved from both. So the Grand Chapter made him D. G. H. Priest, and the G. H. Priest placed him second on committee on correspondence. His report for this year is boiled down, to use his own phrase, and four pages are well employed in noticing a few questions and making his bow. We dislike losing our companion, though we know how it is ourself this desire to be relieved. We conscientiously believe our Grand Chapter would be benefitted by a change, but so long as the duty is imposed we will try and find time to perform it.

Companion Daniel W. Coxé was made M. E. G. H. P., and Companion John M. Price, Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY, 1878,

Comes to us with Companion James B. Blue, M. E. G. H. Priest, and a host of representatives of subordinates, who assembled in the Grand Chapter on the 21st of October, 1878. In the address, it is well said that it is not alone in the administering of material aid in cases of destitution, but in the exercise of that broader charity that from love counsels in perplexity, sustains in adversity, and will shield and defend when we are hounded by persecution, that the true teachings of Masonry are made manifest and the influences of the Order extended.

The G. H. Priest alludes to the increasing number of "drones" in our hive. He thinks that "they do not work, neither should they eat," and hopes the Grand Chapter may devise some remedy.

He urges the adoption of some plan to produce uniformity in work, and asserts: "It is a well known fact that it is with considerable labor a companion in one portion of the jurisdiction can work his way into a chapter in another." This is indeed deplorable, and calls loudly for some action on the part of the G. G. Chapter.

The Grand Chapter, the Grand Council concurring, resolved to take the Council degrees under their care.

Companion G. D. Buckner was elected G. H. Priest, and Companion Joseph H. Branham continued Grand Secretary.

The report on correspondence is again made by Companion Henderson. From him we copy the following approvingly. We have always been at a loss to understand the term "lower degrees," as applied to the

first three degrees. Do they not now, as surely they formerly did constitute the great masonic building? and are all the "higher degrees" so called, other than the ornaments to the building, adding perhaps to its beauty, but not to its strength or its usefulness :

We confess but little patience with those Masons who, created and dubbed Knights, lose all interest and affect contempt for what they are pleased to call "the lower degrees." Lower than what, and in what respect? If Masonry is to survive and do its grand work in the future, as she has performed it in the past, it must be done mainly through the agency of the Lodge and Chapter. Only on the symbolic and capitular platform can a universal brotherhood rally and marshal. Chivalric Masonry is Christian, and in the present unconverted state of the world many noble spirits, who can aid in making the earth brighter and better, can not con the creed of the Knightly Orders.

The following is the best argument we have seen for allowing those maimed, from whatsoever cause, who were Master Masons, to receive the Chapter degrees ; though we must differ :

Now we have this question and answer which we do not like so well ; "Can a brother, made a Master Mason before the late war, and who lost a leg in battle—being amputated below the knee—receive the Chapter degrees? To this question, while sympathizing with the applicant, I was compelled to give a negative answer." We have heard all that has been said objecting to our views, but we are of the same opinion. We contend that the vigorous exactions of the Symbolic Lodge do not apply to the Chapter. A Master Mason is *promised* the lost word if ever found, but if he is so unfortunate as to lose a limb while doing his duty, then this *promise* is to be broken. Suppose the Craft a practical instead of a speculative one. A faithful Master engaged upon the temple is crushed by a stone and loses a limb. He suffers a great privation in consequence. He ascertains that the lost word has been found and applies for it. He is informed, that in consequence of the painful accident befalling him while doing his duty he can not be advanced and exalted. Imagine the feeling of that brother ! The brave soldier who perils his life for his country loses his Masonic rights as a Master when he loses a leg. Who *can* think so? We are answered that he can not meet the conditions of the work. No, not physically, but he can mentally. Ours is a speculative Craft. We do not believe in that strict construction which applies purely material tests to an ethical subject. Does not every one know that should an accident happen to a Craftsman while engaged on a building, that, if intellectually fit, he would, in all probability, be made an overseer of the work? A Master disabled by the loss of a leg can not make himself known literally upon the five points of Masonry, but would he be denied recognition on this account? Our point is this, that a Master is promised the lost word if ever recovered, and that no calamity, merely physical, can forfeit the *right* of the brother to that word if ever found.

From this report we find that that great and noble charity, the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, is completed, and that the dedication

took place on the 23d of October, 1878. Let this result of perseverance stimulate us companions to emulate our brothers of Kentucky.

LOUISIANA, 1879.

We have before us the proceedings of the convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on the 11th of February, 1879, Companion William Robson, M. E. G. H. Priest, presiding. From a perusal of these we find that our friends over there are still under the pressure of poverty and consequent depression. With them we heartily and sincerely sympathise. We also have felt, and are yet feeling these difficulties, but we hope that a better day is near for both of us and all others similarly situated. The G. High Priest thus speaks of it:

I am sorry, companions, that I cannot speak to you as cheerfully as I could desire to do on topics which, while not directly associated with the interests of masonry, do, most certainly, indirectly and greatly affect those interests. Temporal adversities still press heavily upon the people of Louisiana; commercial, agricultural, and financial trials and embarrassments still try the patience and depress the energies of our people, and hope, so long deferred, has made sick the hearts of many. It is not to be wondered at, that under these circumstances all the higher institutions of civilization, those that affect the educational and religious condition of the people, should languish for the want of that material support which an impoverished people are not able to give; or that masonry should share with these in the injurious effects of such a state of affairs. Still it is my happiness to congratulate you on the signs which are evident, that masonry is in as healthy a condition now as it has been for years past among us. If we do not progress rapidly, we certainly do not retrograde. And tokens are not wanting of the earnestness and zeal with which many of our subordinate Chapters labor to promote the good of the Order, nor of the measure of success which attends their labor.

The business of the Grand Chapter possessed only local interest.

The M. E. G. H. Priest elected was Companion Wm. S. Benedict, Companion Jas. C. Batchelor remaining Grand Secretary.

Lack of funds prevented the report on correspondence from being printed. This is no small loss to us, for Companion Horner is always bright and good.

MAINE, 1879.

Companion A. B. Marston, M. E. G. H. Priest, presided over the Convocation held on 6th May, 1879. His address shows that Capitular Masonry in Maine is in a sound, healthy, and harmonious condition. Some few chapters have weakened, and their altar fires are dimmed, but the

true spirit is there, and the zeal of the others will soon revive them. The finances are sound, and its "charity fund" increasing.

Companion Joseph M. Hayes, was elected G. H. P., and Companion Ira Berry, who had already been Grand Secretary for more than a quarter of a century, was continued in office.

At this Convocation, it was determined that chapters should hold their regular convocations at times to be specified in the by-laws, and be left no longer at the pleasure of the High Priest.

Companion Drummond made the report on correspondence, and as you, my companions, we know would rather listen to him than ourself, we will make liberal use of the scissors to give you his views on several points. Companion D. is doubtless the best historian of masonic doings in the dim days of the past, at least among our corps, and his relation of facts is always pleasant and kind.

In his review, we find Alabama for 1878 kindly noticed. In it he agrees with the G. C. of New York, that the charter need not be present, and thinks that the definition of a lodge, as given in the first degree, does not require the presence of that instrument, but that it "must have a charter or warrant." The language is the same in regard to the great light, and if it does not require the *presence* of the one, how does it require the presence of the others? And we hardly think that Companion D. will go so far as to allow of their absence. We know he is thoughtful as well as learned, but hardly think him stubborn; so look for some modification of his views on this point.

We give his views on lodge assessments, which have sometimes exercised us in this locality :

He holds that a chapter cannot legally lay an assessment, as such; we must differ from him in this. If a chapter is in debt for its ordinary expenses all the members are holden as partners for its payment, and we hold that under the civil law and the masonic law both, an assessment may be levied to pay this debt, and that no member is entitled to a dimit until his assessment is paid. We have had occasion to look into this, and are satisfied beyond question, that the civil law liability alone authorizes the assessment, as certainly the *masonic* law will not excuse a man from liability on a debt which, under the civil law, he honestly owes, or allow him, by calling for a dimit, to throw it upon his associates. Of course, we agree with him that assessments for any other purpose than to pay debts or make up a deficiency in the ordinary and necessary expenses, are not valid.

As we had something to say under Canada as to the effect of suspension or expulsion by a lodge on chapter membership, we give what Companion D. has to say :

It is not whether a non-affiliated mason is in good standing; it is not whether the members of the chapter are not as well qualified to try an accused as his lodge; but it is whether an expelled mason—one no longer a Master Mason in any sense of the term—*can be* a Royal Arch Mason. When a *part equals the whole*, he may be—and not till then. We perceive that he is defending the express provisions of the constitution of his Grand Chapter; but we believe that no case has ever happened in which a chapter, or the Grand Chapter, has ever reversed the decision of the Grand Lodge, and ventured to declare an expelled Master Mason to be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing, and what is more, we don't believe *the case ever will happen*. The Chapter degrees do not *alone* make a man a Royal Arch Mason; it takes *all seven degrees*, and no man is a Royal Arch Mason who does not possess and *cannot lawfully use* all the degrees, from Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch, inclusive. It is true that it seems a hardship that a companion may lose his chapter rights by action of his lodge. But such is the nature of the institution, and arises from building on degrees over which we have no control. If we build upon the foundation of another, over which we have no control, we must not complain if he removes it and tumbles down our house without our consent. It is no real hardship, for we understood the situation when we builded, and we accepted the consequences. We must still ask our esteemed Companion, "can one, who is not a Master Mason, be a Royal Arch Mason?"

Under Texas, we have the following in relation to the G. G. Chapter, and give it entire, that our companions may be enlightened by his research :

The committee, to which the invitation of the General Grand Chapter to be represented at its next convocation was referred, made two reports; two of the committee (Companions Philip C. Tucker and B. B. Richardson) reported in favor, and the other four reported adversely; and the majority report was adopted, with only one dissenting vote, the representative of one chapter being excused from voting.

We regard the report of the minority of the committee as an unanswerable argument in favor of the position that the Grand Chapter of Texas is under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, and has no more right to throw off its authority than any subordinate chapter in Texas has to throw off the authority of its Grand Chapter. The chapters which formed the Grand Chapter of Texas were chartered by the General Grand Chapter; the Grand Chapter was formed by its express authority, and upon the condition that the Grand Chapter, to be formed, "*shall conform to and abide by the Constitution, Rules and Edicts of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.*" (See Proc. Grand Chapter of Texas for 1850, page 4.) Thus allegiance to the General Grand Chapter became a perpetual condition to the legitimate existence of the Grand Chapter of Texas.

Accordingly, a constitution was unanimously adopted, which recited that the Grand Chapter was "created and established by the authority of the General Grand Chapter," and that, "pursuant to the powers vested in us by the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter," that constitution was adopted; it provided that every candidate on his admission, and

every officer at his installation, should take an obligation to support the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter. And even when it undertook to throw off its allegiance, it did so upon the assumption that a political separation had taken place which justified it; but that separation never was consummated.

From this historical statement, it is evident that the relation between the Grand Chapter of Texas and the General Grand Chapter was precisely of the *same nature* as the relation between a chapter and its Grand Chapter. The *nature* of the relations are the same, although the *extent* of them is different.

It follows, therefore, that the Grand Chapter could throw off those relations only by consent of the General Grand Chapter, or, possibly by a political separation of its jurisdiction from that of the General Grand Chapter.

We were curious to learn how the majority of the committee met these positions; a careful examination of their report shows that they did not meet them at all.

It is a matter of history that in 1841, the Grand Lodge of Texas issued charters for three chapters: that these chapters formed the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas; that the General Grand Chapter declared that these chapters and this Grand Chapter were illegal: that thereupon these Bodies were all dissolved, new charters taken from the General Grand Chapter, and the present Grand Chapter of Texas formed. The committee hold that this action of the General Grand Chapter was a grievous wrong, and base their argument largely upon that! It reminds us of the story of the sailor, who attended a Christian meeting for the first time, and heard of the crucifixion of Christ by the Jews: coming out, he happened to meet a Jew, and without any preliminary ceremony knocked him sprawling in the gutter; to the inquiry of the astounded Jew, what that was for, the sailor replied, "Yon, Jews, crucified Christ:" "Mein Gott," was the reply, "dat was two thousand years ago." "I don't care for that," said the sailor, "I never heard of it till to-night!"

But suppose that action was as wrong as is claimed, what has the present Grand Chapter to do with it? Does it propose to dissolve and resuscitate the old one? Can those who, with a full knowledge of the facts, yielded, and accepted authority from the General Grand Chapter, now rescind their action? Nay, more, can they *hold* the authority thus granted to them and deny the validity of the grant? Or, rather, can they hold the authority granted, and repudiate the allegiance coupled with it on the ground that the grant was wrong?

The committee say that the report was hastily prepared: we regret this, as otherwise these questions might have been considered, and also they might have avoided grave errors into which they have fallen.

They say that until the year 1797, "a competent number of Companions, under the sanction of a warrant from a lodge or Grand Lodge, exercised all the rights and privileges of a Royal Arch Chapter." We do not so understand it: no Lodge, so far as our reading shows, *ever* issued a warrant for a Chapter, and the action of the Grand Lodge of Texas, in 1841, was the first and only instance in which a Grand Lodge *ever* issued a warrant for a Chapter, of which we ever heard or read: and we do not believe that such a case can be cited by our Texas Companions. It *was*

held by some that *any* charter for a Lodge authorized the holding of a Chapter, *appurtenant to a Lodge*, to confer the Royal Arch as a kind of *side degree*. We have never seen a charter which, *in terms*, gave authority for conferring the Royal Arch degree, or even mentioned it. In St. Andrew's Lodge, in 1769, this degree was conferred: but the charter, granted in 1756, does not mention the Royal Arch degree, while it gives authority, in express terms, to enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts and raise Master Masons. Indeed, the lodge applied to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for authority to confer the Royal Arch degree, but received no answer to this request: for the reason that that Grand Lodge (formed in 1736) has *never* recognized the Royal Arch degree in any manner whatever, and, of course, has never claimed to exercise any jurisdiction over it. And no Grand Lodge in this country ever, so far as we can ascertain, undertook to grant warrants for Chapters: on the contrary, it was declared in 1797, by THOMAS SMITH WEBB, that "it is an opinion generally received, and we think well authenticated, that no Grand Lodge of Master Masons can claim or exercise authority over any Convention or Chapter of *Royal Arch Masons*."

But, before 1797, many *voluntary* Chapters were formed, and existed by their own authority, or by charter from some other Chapter. There was a Chapter (Washington) in New York City which existed from an early date, and granted charters for other Chapters: unfortunately its records are lost, and no history of it can be found, except various charters issued by it and still in existence. In 1783, members of St. John's Lodge, in Middletown, Connecticut, who were Royal Arch Masons, met and formed a Chapter and worked as such, without any charter, till 1796, when it took one from Washington Chapter, *under which it still works*, or did down to as late as 1875. Washington Chapter also chartered in Connecticut, Hiram Chapter in 1791; Franklin Chapter in 1795; Franklin Chapter (another) in 1796; and Solomon Chapter in 1796, which, however, had previously existed, but for how long a time, it is not known, as a record in 1795 shows that it was then working as a regular Chapter. It should be stated that the Chapter organized in 1783 styled itself a Grand Chapter. Another Chapter in Connecticut is said to have been chartered by the Grand Chapter of New York in 1796, though it had been previously working as a Chapter: but as the present Grand Chapter of New York was not then formed, it was probably chartered by a Chapter styling itself a Grand Chapter. Still, a Convention of representatives of Chapters was held in Connecticut in July, 1796, and a committee appointed to write to the "Grand, and Washington Chapters in New York, and others having authority to grant charters, * * informing them of the Convention of this committee and of their unanimous desire, that no charter constituting a Royal Arch Chapter, be hereafter issued to any persons in this State, unless in pursuance of a recommendation from the Royal Arch Chapters aforesaid, or from their committee duly assembled."

Washington Chapter granted charters in New York and other States, also, and yet we look in vain in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodges of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire or Virginia for any mention of the Royal Arch Degree, so far as a somewhat minute and careful investigation shows. When the present Grand Chapter of New York was formed there were a large number of Chapters; Washington Chapter was not represented, and the only mention of it we find in the

early Proceedings in No. 2, sent in a communication of such a nature that the Grand Chapter declined to have any further correspondence with them. It is a matter of great regret that their records have been lost.

In Pennsylvania, no charter for a Chapter was ever issued by the Grand Lodge. Chapters were held appurtenant to lodges: in 1795, an attempt was made to form a Grand Chapter: thereupon the Grand Lodge decided that "ancient masonry consists of four degrees," and that therefore "every regular warranted Lodge possesses the power of forming and holding Lodges in each of those several degrees: the last of which, from its pre-eminence, is denominated, amongst masons, a *Chapter*:" it was further decided that no Chapter could be held without the consent of the Lodge.

It follows, therefore, that the charters for Chapters, granted by the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1841 were in violation of masonic law and usage: and the Bodies formed thereunder were properly declared illegal by the General Grand Chapter. We have noticed this matter mentioned by our Texas Companions heretofore, but did not suppose that they attached any importance to it: but, as they now formally set it up, we deem it important to show the "true inwardness" of it.

The committee can ascertain, the fact that the General Grand Chapter was, so far as they the Grand Lodge, first Chapter "constituted anywhere independent of the Grand Lodge." What we have already said will show them that their conclusion is erroneous.

They say that in 1806 the General Grand Chapter assumed jurisdiction over all the United States, "despite the fact that other Grand Chapters then existed in other parts of the Union, which did not then, and do not now, acknowledge allegiance to the so-called General Grand Chapter of the United States." Not exactly: there was then only one "so-called" Grand Chapter in the United States, viz: Pennsylvania; and that was not a Grand Chapter save in name, and was merely a committee of the Grand Lodge, its powers being to elect its officers (except Grand High Priest) and hear appeals from Chapters: it could not grant charters, correct the work, or exercise any of the prerogatives of Grand Bodies, save to hear appeals. For example, it adopted a regulation providing for a committee to visit Chapters, but repealed it on the ground that it was an infringement of the prerogatives of the Grand Lodge. We therefore say that when the General Grand Chapter extended its jurisdiction over the United States, there was no other real Grand Chapter in existence.

The spirit in which the committee discuss these questions is shown by the allegation that the General Grand Chapter would overlook any irregularity in the organization of a Grand Chapter, provided it gave in its allegiance to itself. They say, "This is but cited as an evidence of their utter disregard of masonic usage." They do not show wherein the action in regard to Louisiana (the case referred to) was in disregard of masonic usage, and they cannot. They also allege that a charter was issued to two Companions in Texas by the General Grand Chapter: we beg their pardon for saying that the record shows no such thing, but the reverse: the record says that a petition of Comps. SAMUEL M. WILLIAMS, JAMES C. MILLER and other Royal Arch Masons of Texas, &c., and a charter was granted to issue to Comp. WILLIAMS, as High Priest, and MILLER, as King, with authority to fill up other offices. The Deputy Grand High

Priest of New York *was* authorized to install Comp. WILLIAMS : while we do not believe in the propriety of this, it is justified by the practice in many jurisdictions. Was it *necessary* for the committee to misrepresent the action of the General Grand Chapter to make out their case? Their object seems to be to show that the General Grand Chapter has violated masonic usage, and apparently searched through its proceedings, and these two alleged instances are the fruit of their investigations!

They also claim that the Chapters and Grand Chapters of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland were organized just as those in Texas had been : but we have already shown that this was not so.

The logic of the committee is, the old Grand Chapter of Texas was legally formed, and the act of the General Grand Chapter in declaring it illegal was a gross wrong, therefore, the Chapters and Grand Chapter, which were created by the General Grand Chapter upon the condition of remaining in allegiance to it, may repudiate the allegiance! The conclusion is *rather* a forced one, but when the first premise turns out to be erroneous, what shall we say of it?

Again, the General Grand Chapter, without right, assumed jurisdiction over the whole United States, therefore, the obligation we have taken to support and maintain its Constitutions may be rightfully broken!

These are the legitimate results of the reasons they give for their course: it seems to us, that it would have been "greatly to the credit," if they had said "our own sweet will" is our reason. It will be seen that they, in no manner whatever, meet, or undertake to meet, the arguments of the minority of the committee.

We would have been greatly *pleased* to have had our Texas Companions acknowledge the allegiance which they owe to the General Grand Chapter : we would have been *content* if they had remained silent : but when they cast such imputations upon the General Grand Chapter, they assail all its members, and we do not propose to hold our peace when their statements of fact are erroneous and their conclusions of law absurd.

A curious idea seems to have prevailed in relation to the virtue of a warrant : the actual *document* seems to have been considered of more importance than what was in it. In 1790, St. Andrew's Lodge voted "That the Royal Arch Lodge be indulged with the use of the charter of St. Andrew's Lodge, so long as the majority of the members of the Royal Arch Lodge are members of the St. Andrew's Lodge." In 1795, when Molan undertook to form a Grand Chapter in Pennsylvania, he and his associates got *three* lodge warrants into their possession for the purpose : they "arched" one Brother from Maryland and one from Georgia, and thus made up, in their view, the five Chapters which they then held to be required to form a Grand Chapter. They seemed to hold that the *mere presence* of a warrant of a lodge was authority for any Body to work under it.

And with this extract, we must lay aside this interesting and instructive report.

MARYLAND 1878.

There were two convocations of this Grand Chapter during the year, one special, on 31st January, for the purpose of receiving the committee

from Grand Chapter of District of Columbia, who were charged by their Grand Chapter with the delivery of an old and recently found book of records, showing the date of the formation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland; and the other the annual, on the 12th November. Over both Companion Tyson, Grand High Priest, presided. The special meeting was an exceedingly interesting one, and illustrated how the zeal which actuated the three weary sojourners when impelling us, may rescue from among the rubbish which time accumulates articles of inestimable value to the craft.

From the Grand High Priest's address we clip his argument in relation to the powers of the G. G. Chapter, based upon a resolution of G. G. C. We give it entire for what it is worth, for the information of our companions, and because at the next meeting of that body amendments materially altering and perhaps remodeling their constitution will be proposed. We find, however, that this Grand Chapter, in adopting a new constitution, adopted a provision in accordance with the opinion of G. G. C., which settles this question in that jurisdiction.

"I have been called upon to decide whether a candidate for advancement who has been rejected by a chapter in the city of Baltimore, may, after six months from the date of such rejection, be lawfully advanced in another chapter in this city, without the consent of the rejecting chapter.

The General Grand Chapter, in 1874, adopted the following: 'Doubts having arisen in reference to the question, as to the right of any chapter to confer the Capitular Degrees upon a candidate previously rejected by any other chapter, it is declared by this General Grand Chapter, as the true law upon such subject, that no chapter under this jurisdiction shall confer the Capitular Degrees on any candidate previously regularly rejected by any other chapter, without first procuring the consent of such rejecting chapter, provided such chapter be in existence.'

In reporting this action to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, in November, 1875, our Grand High Priest said: 'This will necessitate the query to each candidate who applies, as to whether he has been rejected or not. I call especial attention of the representatives to this resolution, as it is mandatory in its character.'

It certainly is 'mandatory in its character,' but the committee on the address of our Grand High Priest does not appear to have considered it obligatory, for they deem it necessary to report an amendment to the constitution of this Grand Chapter confirming the enactment of the General Grand Chapter. No action, however, has ever been taken by this Grand Chapter on the proposed amendment, or on the subject of which it treats.

Considering the question independently of the action of the General Grand Chapter, there can be no doubt that the law in this jurisdiction permits any rejected candidate, six months after rejection, to apply to any chapter within whose *territorial* jurisdiction he may reside, and to be advanced therein, without the consent of the rejecting chapter. Such

has heretofore been the practice, fully sanctioned by constitutional provisions, Article XIII, Sections 7, 10, 11. Such being the case, I am very clear in my opinion, that the General Grand Chapter has no authority to enact a law on the subject, especially such a law as would affect the question as between two chapters under the same Grand Chapter. My reason for this opinion is the simple fact, that the constitution of the General Grand Chapter, Article I, Section 2, expressly declares that it shall not have *'any legislative powers whatever not hereby specially granted,'* and no where in its constitution is there any *special* or even *implied* grant of any such legislative power as that now in question. It may, perhaps, be argued that, the General Grand Chapter was not exercising *legislative* power, but rather a *judicial* power, by declaring what the law *then* was. At first sight there may appear some foundation for this construction, since the resolution in express words purports to declare the law, but instead of declaring what the law *IS*, it proceeds to declare what the law *SHALL BE*, ('that no chapter under this jurisdiction *SHALL* confer,' &c.) and to declare what the law *shall be* is to enact a law. But even if the resolution had declared in apt terms, what the law *then* was, it would have had no validity; for the same section of the constitution of the General Grand Chapter above mentioned, declares that all masonic powers not hereby granted to it, are reserved to the Grand and Subordinate Chapters of the several States, or to Royal Arch Masons individually.

The same section also specifies under what circumstances the General Grand Chapter may exercise judicial power, viz:

'It shall have power to decide all questions of masonic law, usage and custom, which may arise between any two or more Grand Chapters, or in any of the subordinate chapters under its own immediate jurisdiction, and all that may be referred to it for its decision by any Grand Chapter by formal vote.'

The *decision* in the case under consideration, if it be a *decision*, was not made under any of the circumstances requisite to give it validity. It appears by the record of the proceedings of the G. . G. . Chapter, [1874, page 45,] that the question arose upon a resolution offered by Companion Cassidy, of New York, upon his individual responsibility.

It is true that the Grand Chapter of New York, in 1874, passed a resolution [see Grand Chapter of New York, 1875, page 17], requesting the General Grand Chapter "*to adopt regulations upon the subject,*" but this resolution does not appear to have been presented to the General Grand Chapter. If it had been so presented, the case would not have been altered, since the General Grand Chapter, as already shown, has no authority to "*adopt regulations,* (that is to say, *legislate,*) upon the subject.

Companion E. T. Schultz made report on correspondence, giving considerable space to Alabama, and we think more credit to ourself than we deserve.

We find, under Maine, that his position in reference to the proper and imperatively necessary place for the Charter when the Chapter is open, coincides with ours, as expressed last year and again this, in reply to Companion Drummond. We would copy, but fear too great enlargement of our report.

In his conclusion, alluding to the disposition being evinced of introducing innovations into the body of masonry, he says:

"In our humble opinion the reasons why Freemasonry has stood these many years, surviving political revolutions and change of governments, are that its teachings are adapted to the needs of every condition of humanity; and also, and to a great degree, to the fact that its peculiar laws and regulations are adapted to any age, to any country, and to every form of government. If the regulations, regarding the operative feature of masonry, be taken from the very oldest printed regulations of which we have any knowledge, they will answer fully for all the requirements of the present age, and, we believe, for all future ages. Every one, therefore, who loves the institution of Freemasonry and desires its perpetuation, should frown down all innovations, come from whatsoever source they may.

Companion Edwin L. Parker was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Wentz continued Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS, 1878.

We now have the proceedings of this Grand Chapter before us—whose work is usually good, square, and true.

This Grand Chapter holds quarterly and annual meetings. At the quarterly convocation of June 11, the committee to whom had been referred a proposed amendment to the general regulations, looking to making all Past High Priests of subordinate chapters, so long as they remain members of their chapters, permanent members of the Grand Chapter, made a very full and able report. The report is full of statistical information from the records of the several chapters of Massachusetts, of no particular interest to us, but evincing great labor on their part and necessary for the argument urged against it. They show that it is in the power of members anxious for personal distinction, to hold the position of High Priest for one term only, and thus become permanent members of Grand Chapters, and thus enable one chapter which, perhaps, has found great difficulty in getting a High Priest with the necessary qualifications, to obtain a large influence in the general legislation, whilst one which is well served by a competent High Priest will not have; and, perchance, in due time the permanent members may outnumber the delegates from the chapters, and thus destroy the representative character of the Grand Chapter. They say—

"That the adoption of this proposed amendment may be so used by individual pleasure, that 68 permanent members can be added each year, not only enough to change the current of events in Grand Chapter annually, but also creating a privileged class, which, without a constituency, may yet exact all laws, lay all taxes, control all legislation, and so entirely

absorb all rights of representatives, that the chapters will be overwhelmed in the exercise of their representative functions.

* * * * *

Under such a condition of things, it becomes evident that the subordinate chapters, on whom alone taxes are laid, and who are the sources of income to this Grand Chapter, would be unable to manage their financial system through their immediate and annually elected representatives, who would be out-numbered and out-voted by a class which the adoption of this amendment proposes to create, and who, exempted from any taxation themselves, could yet control every dollar assessed or expended, and increase or decrease the amounts at any specified convocation.

Be it also observed, that the adoption of this amendment introduces to Permanent Memberships, by a wholesale vote, a majority of men illy qualified to legislate for the best interests of this Grand Chapter, for the reason that they so neglected the interests of their respective chapters as representatives, that they can now scarcely rise above a special care of their own."

They recommended its rejection, which was unanimously adopted. With this conclusion we fully concur.

The annual convocation was held on the 10th December, 1878, M. E. Grand High Priest, Smith B. Harrington, presiding. The work in the several degrees was exemplified.

From the address and reports of the several District Deputies, capitular masonry seems to be alive and active.

Companion E. Thomas Waterman was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Zeph H. Thomas, Grand Secretary.

Companion J. W. Dadmun's report on correspondence covers ninety-odd pages and has the proceedings of all of the Grand Chapters save Ohio. He is more fortunate than ourself, for write as we will, there are always many which we miss.

We find him with us on the forced affiliation question. He says, in relation to the opinion of the Grand High Priest of Delaware, that "actual presence in the body of the chapter," is the only allowable obedience to a summons. "Now suppose the party had been sick and could not attend in person, would it not answer, if he should send his dues by a second person?"

He is opposed to the absorption of the council degrees by the chapter.

MICHIGAN, 1879.

The thirtieth annual convocation of this Grand Chapter was held 21st January, 1879, with Companion Charles J. Kruger M. E. Grand High Priest. The G. H. P. congratulates the companions of Michigan upon the growth of capitular masonry in that jurisdiction and upon the character of its material there. This is evinced by the generosity of the sev-

eral chapters towards their brethren in the fever stricken district during 1878. The address is devoted to matters of local interest, and the committee on jurisprudence in their report on the decisions of the Grand High Priest, take positions in accord with the usages of this jurisdiction.

Companion David C. Spaulding was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion William P. Innes continued Grand Secretary.

Companion Innes comes forward with the review of the several proceedings received, among which we are pleased to find Alabama. The notice of our jurisdiction is kind, fraternal, and full—indeed the whole report shows industry and a high masonic taste. From all of the proceedings reviewed, he has culled the best things for his companions, and laid them before them in a truly fraternal style. We wish we had the judgment, skill and time to imitate him. We give however but few extracts :

UNIFORMITY OF WORK.

On the uniformity of Esoteric Work, as exemplified by the General Grand Chapter ; that is, the *“Uniform” manner in which every “fellow” “uniformly” done his “uniform” work in his own “uniform” way, he says :*

The subject of the Esoteric Work is one which demands attention at our hands. The General Grand Chapter at its late session at Buffalo, succeeded as well as heretofore in what attempts it made for uniformity, being unable to agree upon anything, except that there must be nine present to open a Lodge of Mark, Past or Most Excellent Masters, as well as the Chapter ; entirely contrary to the usage which has always obtained here.

Under Mississippi we find the following inscription on a memorial page, and there is also a similar one for Tennessee :

To the countless number of

FAITHFUL COMPANIONS,

who gave up their lives, for their fellow men, and labored unceasingly during the existence of yellow fever, in their midst, this memorial is

AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

How nobly ! How affectionately ! How impressively uttered ! A great many years since while musing on the frailty of life, and idling a little time in one of the old cemeteries of our sister city, New Orleans, our attention was attracted by a lofty pile, on which were inscribed, in golden letters, the virtues of some one who had filled some space in the world ; and, after leaving this, reflecting on the vanity which follows even to the grave, our eyes fell upon a small slab, before which were a few faded

flowers and this inscription, "Poor Caroline—only two and twenty." We were immediately bowed down with sympathy for those left by the lost one, and contrasted this evidence of a broken spirit with that which had prompted the erection of this lofty pile.

In his conclusion, he says :

To our plague-stricken Sister States of the South we tender our heartfelt sympathy, and assure them that though miles intervene, in their affliction and distress, the tears of the North mingle in the troubled waters of the South.

The loss to Masonry in the land of the Magnolia is the loss to Masonry in the region of the Lakes.

MISSISSIPPI, 1879,

Held its Thirty-First Annual Convocation, on the 13th day of January, 1879, having been opened by Companion R. B. Brannin, D. G. H. Priest, at the afternoon session however the M. E. G. H. P. John S. Jones was present in the East. The jurisdiction was subjected, in part, to the scourge of 1878, and the M. E. G. H. P. beautifully and feelingly alludes in the following terms to "our dead," who illustrated the teachings of our Order :

Since our last Convocation, our Jurisdiction has been visited by the most desolating pestilence in the annals of our history, and we are painfully reminded that the dread summoner has appeared in our midst, and called from our number many of those whom we had learned to love and honor. Our Grand Chapter has met an irreparable loss in the death of our well-beloved P. G. H. Priest H. W. Walter. On the 19th day of September, 1878, our beloved and honored companion was called from labor to rest. At this sad announcement a pall of gloom settles over the many Chapters, and sorrow reigns supreme in many once happy homes within our Grand Jurisdiction. His manly form will no longer be seen, and the sweet, enrapturing notes of his eloquence will never again be heard. He has gone from us forever.

In order to properly appreciate the magnanimity and heroism of our companion, it will be necessary to recur briefly to the desolating scenes which surrounded him during the closing days of his life. During the latter part of August the yellow fever was declared epidemic at Holly Springs, the place of his home. For many long and weary weeks it raged with great malignity and violence. A long life of good works and charitable deeds had endeared Companion Walter to the good people of Holly Springs, and many urgent appeals were made by loving friends that he should go away and seek a place of safety. But his eagle eye comprehended the situation. At once he gathered his little band about him, resolved, with his people, to share every danger, and, if necessary, meet death that they might live. At his own request he was made Chairman of the Committee on Nurses, and it was in this capacity that his services were invaluable. At every home in the afflicted city he was seen. In the

still, quiet hours of the night, it was he that gave the soothing draught ; his voice that whispered consolation in the ears of the dying ; his hand that soothed the fevered brow. At the bed of the sick, at the grave of the dead, in the home of the mourning, our companion was a constant visitor. What a life was his ! At his side stood the Falconers, the Fants, the chivalrous Holland, and last, but not least, three of his own manly sons. The battle is over now ; the dark banner is fallen ; the black host of the unseen foe have retreated before the advancing frosts and gales of winter. But we look in vain for this honored band. Not one lives—all are dead ! Noble, generous, gifted companions ! In the halls of State, the temples of Masonry, and at the altars of the church, you will be missed. But in the Great Lodge above you have gone to reap your reward. Thine image will always hang in the halls of Masonic memory, and from thy grave will go forth the story of glory and usefulness. I would recommend that a memorial page be set apart to the memory of our beloved and lamented companion.

He dwells earnestly upon the necessity of fostering the finances in order to preserve and increase the usefulness of the Grand Chapter, and urges a change in the pay of mileage and per diem of representatives, and the Grand Chapter acting on the suggestion declared that representatives shall be paid their actual expenses by the several subordinate chapters, and Grand Officers their actual expenses, but of Grand Chapter funds. This is our plan in all the Grand Bodies, and we have never heard any complaints. Some years since our Grand Lodge tried the experiment of paying representatives, but although the subordinates readily voted for the constitutional amendment making this change, they rejected the one requiring larger dues to the Grand Lodge to enable it to comply, so the next session a repeal of the provision was recommended by the Grand Lodge and adopted by the subordinates. We notice that the greatest financial depression, with rare exception, exists in those Grand Chapters which provide for payment of these allowances.

The Grand Chapter refused to provide a Grand Lecturer.

It discountenances the use, by chapter, of halls with bodies not masonic, though no rule on the subject was adopted.

The Grand Secretary says : "The total amount contributed by Royal Arch Masons through me (for the relief of the smitten and destitute of 1878), is \$2,124 40, a detailed statement of which will be included in my report, to be submitted to the Grand Lodge. We copy the well merited compliment to Grand Secretary J. L. Power because these well-worked officials are rarely so rewarded, though to them and their care and unremitting industry we are so much indebted :

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of Mississippi :

Your Finance Committee, to whom was referred the report of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, respectfully report that they have care-

fully examined said reports and find them, as usual, correct in every particular. Your Committee cannot close this report without inviting the attention of the Grand Chapter to the zeal and efficiency of these most excellent officers during the dark days of bankruptcy and insolvency through which we have but just passed, and while congratulating the Grand Chapter upon its present financial status, we beg to remind you that this happy state of affairs is due in no small degree to the energy and indomitable perseverance of the Grand Secretary, whose most strenuous exertions for the past nine years have been directed to this end.

Fraternally submitted.

E. GEO. DELAP,
J. J. BEAUCHAMP,
WM. S. PATTON,
Committee.

Companion Robt. B. Brannin was elected M. E. G. H. Priest, and Companion Power, Grand Secretary.

No report on correspondence.

MISSOURI, 1878.

These proceedings were upon our table last year, but they reached us so late, that, having reviewed the proceedings of 1877, we deferred their examination until this report. The convocation was held on the 10th of October, Companion Joseph S. Browne being M. E. G. H. Priest.

The G. H. Priest had occasion to issue his dispensation for the election of a H. P., King, and Scribe to a Chapter—the first having moved beyond the jurisdiction and the two latter having died. An occasion like this for the exercise of the dispensing power is exceedingly rare.

Visitations by the G. H. Priest were made to many of the Chapters those north of the Missouri river, and he says that if the Grand Visitation was made more general by our Grand Officers in all Grand Bodies, much good would result. We think so too.

This address is signed by W. R. Stubblefield, G. H. P., while the list of officers present at this opening gives Companion J. S. Browne as the G. H. P. How is this? We said last year that the delivery to correspondents of the proceedings was "quick work," and we are now reminded of the old adage that, "Haste makes waste." In fact Companion Stubblefield opened the Chapter, so companions you must substitute, for we hate to go backwards or scratch out.

The Grand Chapter adopted the following, which we think should be the rule in all jurisdictions :

Resolved, As a standing regulation by this Grand Chapter, that when a Companion Royal Arch Mason, hailing from another Grand Jurisdiction, affiliates with a constituent chapter in this State, he brings with him, as

of right, all the official honors, rights, and privileges, to which he would be entitled had the same been conferred upon him in this jurisdiction; and that such official honors, rights, and privileges be and are hereby fully acknowledged and recognized and respected by both the constituent chapters in this State, and by this Grand Body.

Companion Noah M. Given was elected G. H. Priest, and Companion Wm. H. Mayo G. Secretary.

The report on correspondence is from the pen of Companion Luke, whose labors were performed amidst the "dark sorrow of personal bereavements, from a sense of which incessant labor could alone divert the mind in the silent hours of night which were of necessity devoted to this work." Truly do we sympathise with our Companion, and in grieving with him, we grieve for ourselves, for this is his last report. To lose one whom we had just learned to love, brings sorrow the keenest.

We find Alabama for 1877 in his review, of which he takes kindly notice.

Under Nevada, he so fully expresses our difficulty, that we copy :

We are somewhat inclined to believe that these complaints were well founded. We found the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Nevada for 1877 amongst other proceedings, and in our innocence we reviewed it, but since then have been troubled with serious misgivings that we had committed a *faux pas*, as we could find in the Grand Secretary's office no proceedings of Nevada for previous years, or any account of the organization of the Grand Chapter of Nevada, or its recognition by Missouri, and we fear that we are not on speaking terms without some formal introduction. Will some of our Companion Mutuals tell an unsophisticated one what ought to be done in this emergency?

NEBRASKA, 1878.

On the 17th December, 1878, this Grand Chapter held its Twelfth Annual Convocation, Companion E. F. Warren, M. E. G. H. Priest, presiding. In the address, he thus cautions the Companions :

Our Order has been enduring a period of depression. It seems almost over; but we should remember that the lower the ebb, the higher will be the flow of the tide, and there will be more of actual danger to the fraternity from that than from adversity.

He recommends merging the Council in the Chapter, and the G. Chapter took the necessary steps for accomplishing the object, the committee from the G. Council having notified the G. Chapter that that body had determined to surrender the degrees.

Beneath is his estimate of the value of the reports on correspondence :

It has been my pleasant privilege, during the past two years, and espe-

cially the last, to read the proceedings of our sister jurisdictions, and not the least interesting, and by far the most instructive portion of the various little volumes have been the reports of the committees on foreign correspondence. One cannot fail to be greatly benefitted by reading and studying the opinions of such able Masonic writers and reviewers as—not to be invidious when so many bright lights shine—Drummond, of Maine; Corson, of New Jersey; Horner, of Louisiana; Patton, of Oregon; Parvin, of Iowa, and others. But the majority of our companions are debarred this privilege because such reviews and reports do not come within their reach. I, therefore, strongly urge upon you the desirability of having a review of the doings of sister Grand Chapters prepared for insertion in the printed proceedings of this convocation, for the instruction of our companions. Now that we expend nothing for mileage and per diem to our members, the finances of this Grand Chapter will soon, if not now, be in shape to meet the demand without burdening us; and I know of no way in which our revenues can be so profitably expended, as in *paying for* and printing such a report.

This Grand Chapter repealed the constitutional clause which allowed the degrees to be conferred on clergymen without fees.

Companion Francis E. White was elected M. E. G. H. P., and Companion William R. Bowen G. Secretary.

From the pen of the latter comes the report on foreign correspondence, which is the first for some years. We hail this as an omen of good, more particularly as we are informed that it is in consequence of our sister having put her house in order, and being free from financial indebtedness.

He reviews Alabama, giving it quite sufficient notice, and laughs at our G. H. Priest for speaking, in his address, of our *worthy* Grand Secretary. Well, now, we know he is worthy; then why should we not say so, if we wish? To be sure, our G. H. P. knew that his proper Masonic title was R. Ex., but there might be many Right Excellents of whom we would perhaps not say they were worthy. Now, mark you, we say *there might be*—not that *there are*.

He thinks suspension for non-payment of dues should have the same effect as any other suspension; so does our Grand Lodge.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1879.

This G. Chapter met on 20th May, 1879, Companion John I. Bell, M. E. G. H. P., presiding, who, in his address, said: "The difference in the work of the different chapters is so great as to require action at the hands of the Grand Chapter." He, therefore, urged the adoption of some plan for producing "uniformity in work." The condition of the chapters was usually good.

The finances are engaging the attention of the G. Chapter, when the same time ought to be devoted to other matters. They had borrowed last year \$266 00, and authority was granted this year for borrowing \$300 00 more.

Notwithstanding the embarrassed condition, however, we have a report on correspondence from the pen of Companion A. S. Waite, and in it we find Alabama for 1877. We hold with him as to the prerogatives of a Grand Master in the abstract, but recognize that these may be restricted by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge; but we can see no resemblance in the position of G. Master and G. H. Priest—one was from the beginning, the other is the creation of the Constitution. We copy, however:

We have heretofore expressed the opinion that the prerogatives of the Grand Master are inherent in him, and can neither be taken away nor limited, either by the Grand Lodge or any other body of Masons. We were early taught that it was a landmark of Masonry that the order must have a governing head, which, in our English, is called the Grand Master, to whom, when elected, certain prerogatives necessarily attach and inhere without being conferred upon him by any legislative authority or power, and which, themselves being also landmarks, are not the subjects of innovation or change. We must, to use the words of Companion Wiggin, be living in "degenerate days" indeed, if the essential features of ancient Masonry have become the subjects of Grand Lodge caprice. We are, indeed, an admirer of Young America, but we will none of him in Freemasonry. Let him be as rampant as he pleases on his own ground, but he has no legitimate place in Masonry, and we would doubly bar the doors to keep him out.

We wish we felt at liberty to copy also his remarks on the position of Companion Dadmun that the organization of the Chapters being "*entirely independent*" of all other Masonic bodies, therefore suspension or expulsion by the Lodge should not operate on membership of the Chapter "without trial." His closing remark, however, is:

We are fully satisfied that our institution can be maintained on no other ground than that which regards it as a unit, the higher branches built upon and sustained by the Lodge, independent of which they can have no existence, and accepting its judicial determinations as conclusive upon the institution at large.

Of committees on correspondence, he says:

It is doubtless true, that committees on correspondence are neither makers, nor expounders of Masonic law. Our observation, however, has convinced us, that they have come to be to a very large degree the conservators of the Masonic law, and that as such their office is hardly less in importance than that of making or expounding the law, and that it is their proper province to give the craft the benefit of such views as they hold upon the current doctrines coming under their review.

We have now before us his last report. This we most sincerely regret, for in it we have found a bold, fearless expression of his views always tempered with courtesy, and we are not saying too much when we state that it is one of the best, as well as most interesting, we have met with. With reluctance we bid him adieu.

NEW JERSEY, 1877.

We should have had these proceedings last year, and ought now to have those for 1878, but so it is we had them not, and we believe in the truth of the old adage "better late than never." We confess to great unwillingness to take up the pamphlet, for we had learned before reaching this that the brilliant, fluent, witty writer, conscientious and devout christian, Grand Secretary and learned Mason, Thomas J. Corson, is no more. We have loved him tho' we never saw him. He was one of the few men whom we wished ardently to have become personally acquainted with. His brilliant reports we shall all miss, for is there another fit to wear his mantle !

However, notwithstanding he is gone, we will not mourn, for did he not teach us that we mourned G. Frank Gouley when "a generous heart would rejoice because he had gained." Has he not told us that he is

"Lost, 'tis true,
In the light that shines for you,
But in the light you cannot see
In undisturbed felicity,
In a perfect Paradise,
In a life that never dies."

The world moves on in its appointed sphere, even though those we love are lost and leave us to despair.

On the 12th September, 1877, was held the twenty-first Grand Annual Convocation, Companion Edward Goeller being M. Ex. Grand High Priest.

The address was eloquent on the beauties contained in our degrees and dwelt at some length on the importance of every companion, not merely taking them, but contemplating their mysteries, finding "new fields of discovery, new beauties, new thoughts and sentiments, will inspire him with a higher conception of truth."

At this convocation the Grand Chapters of Nevada and Quebec were fraternally greeted.

Companion Martin M. Drohan was made M. Ex. Grand High Priest, and Companion Thomas J. Corson Grand Secretary.

On reading the report on correspondence, we were gratified at the kind words of the writer as to ourself. We copy the following to show our companion's estimate of what he considers a bad report. Hear him quoting from our report for 1876—

“He says that Companion Emmons, of Maryland—

‘Deservedly compliments Companion MacGrotty for his report, and congratulates the companions of the District of Columbia upon the information given therein to them, *provided they read the reports.*’

Men who, having the opportunity to do so, refuse or neglect to read such reports as are presented by MacGrotty, Pillans, Drummond, Wiggin, Lewis, Dadmun, Robertson, Ogden, Cottrill, Patton and others, are unfit, from lack of intelligence and unwillingness to receive instruction and accept light and information thus freely offered to them, to be members of any masonic organization. But there be reports—at least things which are called reports—which never ought to be read, except as a punishment for some heinous sin; and which never are read, except by the reporters, who are compelled to do it. In reading these, composed, as they are, entirely of facts, figures and names, unenlivened by any originality and unbrightened by a single gleam of life or humor, we can sympathize with the drowsy Scotchman, who, partly from heat, but chiefly from the soporific effects of the dry discourse, fell asleep in full view of the minister. ‘Sandy, Sandy,’ called the irate dominie, ‘it’s unco hard work to preach to a sleepy congregation.’ Poor Sandy, awakened at once to a sense of duty and of the situation, and still inclined to give back as good as he received, answered: ‘It’s a darned sight harder, dominie, to listen to a sleepy sermon.’”

In the following, we have Corson as we have pictured him to ourself—full of fun and full of kindness :

“Either from our inability to construct a joke properly, or a misunderstanding of it by the person alluded to, some things which we have written have given offense where none was intended, and have even caused pain when we intended to convey pleasure. When Nature built us, she put in our composition a very large amount of love of fun, and we have sometimes been careless and thoughtless in our hasty expressions. But we solemnly aver that we have never written a single word for the purpose of inflicting pain; and we hope that our hand may become as powerless as our lower limbs now are, before our pen shall write a single word to wound the heart of a Brother or Companion.”

Under New York he replies to some remarks of Companion Ogden on New Jersey. We give below the remarks of both, because they may bring a smile to our companions:

“We greet with satisfaction, not to say pleasure, the neat pamphlet now on our table, purporting to be the ‘Proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of New Jersey.’ Well, what is New Jersey but a kind of appendage to New York, a suburb of the great metropolis? We do not mean to claim this neighbor as a dependent of ours, for it is venerable with age, has a marked and brilliant history of its own; but it is so cozy-like snuggled down by our side, we love to think of it as a kind

of second part of ourselves. Besides, the ancestors of the reporter now writing came from this grand old State, and that endears it to us personally and closely."

"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 (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.'"

He adheres with the pertinacity of Corson to his opinions, frequently quoted by us, adverse to the generally received doctrine of the effect of objection after ballot.

NEW JERSEY, 1878.

After writing the foregoing, and in time for us to examine them, we received the proceedings of Convocation held on 11th September, 1878, over which Companion Martin M. Drohan, M. E. Grand High Priest, presided—and the following ode, by Companion Burrows, Grand Scribe, was sung:

AIR—DUKE STREET.

As Pilgrims oft-times pause to rest,
And view the way from mountain crest;
From *rugged roads*, with weary feet,
We here our choice Companions meet.

We come to greet with stately march
The wondrous *keystone* of the arch!
To bear the *ark*, the pledge of grace
And worship, towards the *holy-place*.

We come to hear, with reverent hush,
The Voice from out the *burning-bush*!
To see, redeemed from Error's maze,
The *long lost word* with splendor blaze.

Our Father's God, to Thee we come—
 Pilgrims and strangers from our home—
 Still toiling on, impatiently,
 The veils to pass, Thy glory see.

Jehovah! from thy *mercy-seat*,
 With helpful grace our spirits greet,
 Until, from toil and care released,
 We dwell with Thee, our Great *High Priest!*

The Grand High Priest recommends exemplification of the work by the Grand Officers annually—the disuse of all frivolity and nonsense (we have none of these)—greater care in issuing of summonses by the High Priests—that no unaffiliated R. A. Mason “be allowed to visit a chapter more than once as an unaffiliate”—that candidates be examined in lecture of each degree before passing to the next. He hopes no one will vote against making Past High Priests members of Grand Chapter (we recommend the report of Massachusetts’s committee on this subject to his perusal). The amendment to the constitution making them members, was unanimously adopted.

Companion George H. Jones was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion Corson Grand Secretary.

Oh! what a noble daughter our friend has—to account for delay in getting out the proceedings, he says—

“The severe and long-continued sickness of the Grand Secretary, will account for the unusual delay in the publication of these proceedings. The entire work of preparing the MSS. for the press has been performed by his daughter, under necessary directions; as, even at this date (November 4th) the Grand Secretary is unable to perform any manual labor.

T. J. CORSON,

Grand Secretary.

Companion Corson again made the report on correspondence. Under California, replying to Companion Wiggin, who holds to the doctrine which governs the decision of our Grand Lodge, that one suspended for non-payment of dues, in order to reinstate himself, must pay not only the dues for which he was suspended, but also all that may have accrued since as punishment, he says:

“To our mind, this is grossly unjust. The man is suspended—temporarily dead—from ‘all the rights and privileges of masonry,’ and yet is required to bear its burdens. Why should he pay? During suspension he is debarred from *receiving* anything, and it is unjust and dishonest to require him to *contribute* anything. If he is *out* of the Lodge or Chapter, even for a definite time, the Lodge or Chapter, during that time, certainly has no claim on him. How can you require a man to pay dues to a masonic body of which he is not a member? And certainly he is not a

member during suspension. His membership has been taken away for a certain time, and he is, for that time, to all intents and purposes, dead. Would you expect a corpse to pay its own funeral expenses? This is 'crowding the mourners' rather sharply."

With this we close, grieving at our loss, and wishing and hoping all good things for that lovely daughter who so well became her father's right hand. May she live long and enjoy the blessings which we hope may be bestowed upon her.

NEW YORK, 1879,

Held its eighty-second annual convocation on 4th February, 1879, which was opened in ample form by Comp. David F. Day, M. E. G. H. P. there being present representatives from one hundred and eighty-three subordinates.

The G. H. Priest took a retrospective view of the Grand Chapter and showed the very great growth of it and added:

"But, Companions, let us not forget, that, however gratifying to us may be our connection with an institution, the history of which is so honorable, that connection can bring to us no honor except we tread in the footsteps of the worthy "who have gone this way before us," striving earnestly and well to maintain its principles unimpaired and its name untarnished, so that in the years to come it may still continue a most potent instrument and minister of good."

We commend the following to those self-satisfied individuals who are too apt to think that what they do not know is not worth knowing, and who continually preach that human nature is continually erring, but themselves never:

"Here, I think, I may with some propriety advert, for a moment, to the attitude, sometimes of disfavor, sometimes of positive hostility, which has been assumed towards us by several religious bodies, in this country and elsewhere. Our disclaimer has been upon record, for many generations, that we dictate articles of faith to no one. We have proclaimed it always, that, as Masons, it is our duty to treat with entire respect the convictions of all good men. It has therefore brought me surprise, as well as pain, whenever Prelate or Church has used towards us terms of reprobation. Why have they not believed us when we have told them that Masonry neither usurps nor seeks to usurp the place, the function, or the office of the Church? That it simply seeks, in its own peculiar way, to do something for the cause of poor humanity? Is it possible that they fear that their own sacred mission is thereby endangered? Do they adjudge us to be rivals? That were as though Jupiter should, in his wide orbit, grow mutinous and revolt, because there are other planetary bodies, which revolve with him around the great Central Luminary, and are fed with light from that abundant and unfailing source."

He deploras the large number suspended for non-payment of dues, and

curtly says this should not be. "If a member is able he should pay, if he is not able, they should be remitted."

But alas! who can decide?

He laments the position taken by France in declaring the belief in the existence of God, non-essential to masonry, but recommends mild, measures, and an appeal to the brethren there to retrace the step—thinks the action of some Grand Chapters in cutting off all intercourse with the masons of that jurisdiction too severe, and as calculated to punish the innocent with the guilty, but the Grand Chapter acted as we had done.—See the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Grand Orient of France, having thus repudiated and abandoned a principle which, through all the years of Masonic history, has been preserved by the Craft as one of the highest importance and value, and, upon which alone, in the judgment of this Body, the character of the institution can safely rest, this Grand Chapter, profoundly regretting the occasion which compels the step, hereby declines to hold any further Masonic relations with the Grand Orient of France, its subordinates and members.

We give below the report of committee on jurisprudence, on two questions submitted to them, and beg to file our dissent to the soundness of the last. It, however, supports the decision of a similar committee of the year previous on a similar question. But if the presence of the charter be not necessary, if it is as efficient in the pocket of the absent High Priest as if he had it in the hall, then it would be equally efficacious if it were in Europe or in the pocket of Mr. Stanley in Africa. Its efficacy must then result from the fact that it was issued, and its issuance recorded in the archives of the Grand Chapter, and the proceedings being published all the masonic world is supposed to know them. If this, then, be the case, why issue duplicates when perchance any of them are destroyed? If the knowledge of the fact that the Chapter had a charter is sufficient, it is apparent that once having had one, renders its preservation of no importance. We doubt not those who wrote this report, unless very young, (and we know Comp. Lewis, Chairman, is not), were experimentally taught when passing the chair, that its bodily presence was absolutely necessary. This is enunciating a new doctrine, and we know not where we are to drift.

1. In reply to the following proposition, viz : Under the resolution in regard to the Grand Orient of France, adopted by the Grand Chapter, can a Chapter in this jurisdiction receive a proposition from a brother made a Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France, but who expresses a belief in a Supreme Being, and can the degrees be conferred if he is elected?

The answer, in our judgment, must be in the negative. Cordially sympathizing with all brethren thus situated, we cannot overlook the fact

that *all* Master Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient are, by the action of our Grand Lodge, (the principle of which has just been indorsed by this Grand Chapter,) Masonically clandestine. The rule applicable to this class of brethren is, and must be, applicable to this case. The remedy is to be found in the action of these brethren individually if they desire to advance in the proper Masonic way, and we need not further suggest what their action should be. We subjoin a resolution.

2. In respect to the matter of RIDGEWOOD CHAPTER, No. 263, referred to us on the recommendation of the committee on Appeals and Grievances for our judgment upon the questions of Masonic law arising in the case, we say :

The clear and concise statement of the facts in the case as presented by that Committee renders it unnecessary for us to repeat them. There are two questions of Masonic law arising upon the facts as presented : First, as to the right of a King or Scribe of a Chapter to open and work it in the absence of the High Priest and its warrant; and Second, as to the power of a Deputy Grand High Priest to open, preside over and work a Chapter, its High Priest and warrant not being present.

The warrant of a Chapter is the highest evidence of its legal existence, and its preservation and custody are therefore matters of serious consideration. Masonic law has prescribed who shall be its custodian, (it can have but one custodian,) and, in case of his absence, to whom its custody shall be transferred; and there is therefore no necessity for us to consider that question, nor have we any disposition to qualify the rule further than to construe it in consistence with certain well-established principles. The High Priest of a Chapter is primarily the custodian of a warrant, and, in case of his absence, it is his imperative duty to transfer its custody to the King or Scribe in regular succession. If he fails in that duty he is amenable to authority; but, must his failure to comply with that rule suppress the work of the Chapter? Which is most important, that the work of the Chapter shall regularly proceed, or that the evidence of the authority for that work shall at all times be palpably visible to the senses? It has been held, and we think properly, that it is not absolutely necessary that it should be present in the Chapter, provided it is known to be in existence and under the control of its proper custodian. It is simply a question of evidence, the highest of which is of course its tangible, visible presence. But this does not exclude the idea of secondary evidence, provided it be satisfactory to the parties concerned; nor does it relieve the custodian from responsibility in case he has failed to discharge his duty. But the question returns, shall the carelessness or forgetfulness of the custodian for the time being arrest the work of the Chapter? We think this would be a very arbitrary construction of a well settled rule; it appears to us "grasping at the shadow and letting go the substance." The Chapter is in full vitality; it has parted with none of its rightful powers; it has simply been deprived by accident (as in this case) of the highest evidence of the possession of these powers. Our conclusion, therefore, is, that under the facts of this case, as presented to us, the King of RIDGEWOOD CHAPTER acted rightfully in opening and working the Chapter on the occasion referred to.

Companion David F. Day was elected G. High Priest, and Companion Christopher G. Fox, Grand Secretary.

Companion Ogden, in his report on correspondence, again gracefully notices Alabama and ourself and his pet theory as below ; though we think his views as now expressed are free from some of the objections urged by ourselves. We have rejoiced, and our companions of this jurisdiction and of this whole Southern land will rejoice in the improvement of the race. They are among us, and of us, and can be potent for good or ill, and the larger their improvement the more of the former and the less of the latter will result. But we protest against any Grand or Subordinate Chapter or member thereof holding any masonic intercourse with any one who, despite our ancient landmarks, may claim to be a Mason. How do we know them to be masons, or how can we ? That is all :

Companion P. J. Pillans makes the report of the committee on Foreign Correspondence. He has brains, and, as a consequence, there is always something worth reading in his reports ; if you cannot agree with him, you have to admit that he presents his views ably and exhibits skill in defense. He gives New York a good notice, and is quite complimentary to M. E. Companion Chaffee, and his address ; also to the committee on correspondence, although he does not agree with the chairman in all respects, and particularly on the subject of negro Masons, as stated two years ago in commenting on the subject. Reflection, or the arguments of those who differ with us, have not changed our views. Colored people have a right to be Masons ; if the institution is good for the white man, it is for the black man as well. They are essentially alike in physical structure, in mental and moral attributes, are both human, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights ; and yet, heretofore the status of each has been quite different ; and although now all are free, still some are white and some are black, and, either from natural feeling, or from the former condition of servitude of the blacks, or from both causes combined, it cannot be denied that there is a repugnance, call it natural or otherwise, and they will not and do not come together on terms of social equality, and do not associate intimately. In view of these recognized facts, we think it best that colored men should organize or meet in Masonic association by themselves, and white men by themselves. Such action, in our judgment, would best promote good feeling, mutual respect, and do the greatest good to the greatest number. In many places North it might be difficult to form Lodges, owing to the want of members ; but at the South there would be no difficulty of that kind ; and we submit whether the colored people, as they become intelligent and qualified, would not be elevated, improved and benefited by Masonry, its work, its principles, and its charity. Do you tell us "let them come together in common, and meet in Lodge without regard to color ?" While we do not believe that such action would be best *per se*, we are quite sure it will never be practiced, and the result must be to shut out all colored people from the benefits of Masonry—for not one out of a thousand will ever enter a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons if they are to be elected by white men ; therefore we would encourage and recommend the organization of separate Lodges by colored Masons.

We do not see, as does Companion Pillans, so many hobgoblins in regard to invasion of jurisdiction. A colored Lodge would to all intents and purposes, be to a white Lodge a foreign body, a separate jurisdiction; let it be so treated, that would not destroy its Masonic character or usefulness. Suppose such Lodges existed in Alabama, they would not necessarily be spurious, any more than those in the adjoining State of Mississippi or Louisiana. Color makes the line, and it is a very distinct line surely in the one case, and a geographical state line in the other; and yet beyond or within the line of either Masonry is the same, and an interchange of courtesies and fraternal relations could exist in both cases—does exist in the case of the geographical line, why not in the case of the color line?

We give one more extract on this subject. Having published extracts from the proceedings of the "First Independent African Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Missouri, he says :

We have given these extracts to indicate the extent of American Royal Arch Masonry in this country. It is evidently in a somewhat chaotic state as yet; nor is it easy to fix its exact status; but we cannot forget that there are four or five millions of Africans and their descendants in this country; that they now form an integral portion of the citizenship, the voting and governing power of the country, and so will remain in the future. In some of the States they are equal in number and more than the whites, and in many others they form a large part, and that everywhere a distinct mark, a dark skin, characterizes them. Besides, nine-tenths at least were once, or now are, the descendants of slaves. Has Masonry no mission to this large class of our people, and shall not the wise and discreet pale-faced Masons think seriously, and judge liberally and act wisely, as to the best and wisest action in view of all the facts in the case? It is perhaps hardly time yet to mature and settle down on a plan, but we can think of it and by-and-by the way will come with the will; perhaps the best of all ways will be non-action, simply to treat kindly and by word and advice encourage, and thus give them courage, hope and success; not turn from them scornfully as clandestine, but look upon them in charity and give to them the word of cheer; working with material which we do not court, there need be no strife or bad blood between us.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1879.

M. E. Companion Charles W. Alexander opened this Grand Chapter, on June 3d, 1879, and earnestly impressed upon the companions the importance of illustrating by their lives and deportment the beautiful and impressive teachings of our Order.

From his review of the history of Capitular Masonry there we learn that it is increasing in strength and usefulness.

He made a noble appeal for proper support of the Oxford Orphan Asylum :

This institution founded in Masonic charity and under the especial control of the Grand Lodge, nurtured and fostered by the churches and benevolent societies throughout the State, has grown into such importance that the last Legislature, with all its ideas of retrenchment and reform, actually made an annual appropriation of three thousand dollars for its support. The great State of North Carolina should have done even more than this many years ago.

I deem it only necessary to call your attention to this the grandest charity of the age, which so urgently appeals to every generous impulse of our nature.

In support of this asylum we are called upon as members of a common fraternity, to practice benevolence in its noblest and highest forms. As we partake of the blessings and privileges of the order to which we belong, in hours of social mirth and friendship, amid its festive scenes, its harmonious meetings, and its gay ceremonies, let us remember the orphan. We are called upon to bring into practice the noble duties, and to engage in the self-denying labors, of our profession.

When the flush of health is no longer upon the cheek, when home can no longer be the scene of hospitality, when sorrow broods upon the hearth, and calamity keeps guard at the portal, when a disconsolate wife and weeping babes count the last pulse of him who, once robust and strong, their guardian, guide, counsellor, husband, father, and friend, lies stretched upon the bed of sickness, soon to be that of death. When affliction's heavy hand is thus laid upon a sorrowing and suffering brother, then begins the office of a brother's benevolence, and again when the mortal remains of a brother have been committed to the earth, when the emblematic dust settles upon the coffin to sound the sentence of mortality—dust to dust—and ashes to ashes, when the last final period of earth is thus put to the life, which once so joyously ministered to the relief of others, there are still left to our charitable care, the widow and the sorrowing orphan. It is for the Royal Arch Mason to see, as far as in his power lies, that the children of his dead companions, are so trained as to do honor to their father's memory, by becoming good members of society, and that they are protected from the pinchings of want, and the frowns of a cold uncharitable world.

Masons point to the Oxford Asylum to-day with more pride than to any other fact in the history of masonry in this State.

Persevere Companions and Brethren and you may, yea will yet be inspired with the pride of our Kentucky brethren whose liberality and benevolence have reared that noble charity, the "Masonic Widows and Orphans Home" now completed. Would that every Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge throughout this broad land could be induced to go and do likewise.

The Grand Chapter adopted the following :

WHEREAS, This Grand Chapter holds that an expressed belief in God as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, is a pre-requisite qualification in candidates for the degrees in masonry, and whereas the Grand Orient of France has eliminated this fundamental principle from the constitution, therefore:—

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter hereby forbids its subordinates from holding any masonic intercourse with the said Grand Orient of France, or any of its outgrowth, and that we will not yield our assent to any weakening of this ancient regulation, believing it to be the basis upon which our perpetuity as an order rests.

Companion C. Van Orsdell was made G. H. Priest, and Companion Donald W. Bain, Grand Secretary.

We regret that sickness prevented Companion Southgate from making report on correspondence. He has our condolence.

OHIO, 1878.

We have the proceedings of the Sixty-second Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, which was presided over by the M. E. Grand High Priest, James M. Underhill, whose address is strictly a business document. In this he recommends that a bond be required of the Grand Treasurer, and this was acted on by the Grand Chapter subsequently. He recommended the recognition of the Grand Chapter of Quebec, which was also done.

The Grand Chapter refused to adopt a resolution averring that "the interest of Capitular Masonry would be advanced by having the Council Degrees conferred by the Chapter."

Companion Underhill was re-elected G. H. Priest, and Companion James Nesbitt, Grand Secretary.

Companion Thomas J. Melish made his bow as reporter on correspondence, reviewing handsomely, and what is better masonically, the proceedings of 34 Grand Chapters, the G. G. Chapter, the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, and the Supreme Grand Chapter of R. A. Masons of England. Alabama we find among the list, and of us he says: "He pitches into Companion Winslow, of Iowa, in his report on negro Chapters." We want our companions to understand that we never pitch into anybody, much less a companion. We may, with some firmness, express our views on certain subjects that ought not to have been so pertinaciously thrust upon the consideration of the fraternity, but "pitch in" never.

We agree with him when he says:

It may be said that there is a reason for requiring proficiency in the Symbolic Degrees which do not apply to others. When a man becomes a Master Mason, that confers citizenship in the Masonic state the world over; hence a Master Mason should be well grounded in the fundamental principles of the Royal Art. This does not apply equally to the subsequent grades.

Under Georgia, he says :

But yet we speak of French Masons, English Masons, Scotch Masons, American Masons—why is it not just as proper to say, Colored Masons?" provided they be Masons. They certainly form a separate class, and need a special designation. But the true reason is that Companion Lawrence is not prepared to acknowledge the colored folks to be Masons at all.

And, under Indiana :

We put the colored gentleman into the wood pile, and while we believe that it is best to let him stay there, we need not throw bricks at him. His independent position was forced on him by "de white folks," and we say let him alone, and work out his Masonic salvation in his own way.

As we never have the pleasure of receiving anything from the G. R. A. Chapter of England, we give you his entire report thereon :

We have the minutes of a Quarterly Convocation of this Grand Body holden at Freemasons' Hall, London, May 1st, 1878. It is the most meager Masonic document we have ever seen. The Rev. Charles J. Martin was present as Zerubbabel ; Samuel Rawson, as Haggai ; and Hugh D. Sandeman, as Joshua. Besides these there was a long roll of officers, including several unknown to American Chapters. What we call the King is the presiding officer of English Chapters, who are also called Principals.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K. G., was declared and appointed the Z for the ensuing year ; the Right Hon., the Earl of Camroon Pro Z. : the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, the H. ; the Right Hon. Lord de Tabley, the J.

Thirteen new Charters were granted at this convocation. The Grand Chapter was closed, as it had been opened, in Ancient and Solemn Form. Contributions of Chapters, £1408 11s. The numbers of Chapters run up to 1,615 ; but of these only about 370 are now attached to this Supreme Chapter.

OREGON, 1879.

The nineteenth annual convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 6th June, 1879, M. E. Companion J. B. Congle being Grand High Priest. The address is concise, pertaining simply to business.

We find in these proceedings a "History of the Grand Chapter," by P. G. H. P. Bayley, which is of great interest, for from it we learn that at one time the hostility to our order in Salem was so great as almost to prevent members of churches from becoming Masons.

We take the liberty of copying from the report of committee on correspondence on the death of our much esteemed Companion Thomas J.

Corson of New Jersey, one or two paragraphs, for they are as honorable to the writer as deserved by the deceased :

Although pain and suffering had been his constant companions, yet his words to his companions, were always the most cheerful, and none would ever suppose, for a moment, by reading his productions, that pain, grief or sorrow had ever left its footprints upon him. A few years ago, while suffering and almost blind, his report on correspondence was dictated by him, and written by his daughter Caroline. The encomiums of praise, from the Masonic world, for the devotion of that daughter in assisting her afflicted father in his labors, were meritorious and deserving, and were gratifying, alike to father and daughter. Since then, she has been called to another sphere—leaving a devoted father, mother and sister stricken with grief, and broken-hearted ; soon the wife and mother was called to join her daughter—leaving a husband and daughter in grief and sorrow. And now the sad news is wafted across the continent, that the last stay of this once happy and cheerful family circle, has been called home.

In his last words to Oregon, he refers to our report on correspondence, and makes allusion to his only remaining, faithful, devoted daughter, by comparing our report to the "sweetness of the boquet, which our little one (the link which binds us to earth, although pain and suffering are our constant companions by day and night), has just placed on our table." We have quoted these words in our report, and they should be treasured as precious words by all, as they are by us.

The Grand Chapter adopted the following resolution, and we confess ourself much at a loss to distinguish between heinousness of the offense of him who retails alcoholic liquors and of him who wholesales it, yet this distinction is drawn in the resolution. We might go further and also denounce him who hauls or transports the article, and him who sells the corn or rye or wheat to the distiller who manufactures it. We are as much opposed to its improper use as any one, and have as little use for the drunkard as any one, but we think that the consumer, not the seller, is to blame. There are none of the gifts of God to man, the inordinate and improper use of which will not prove injurious and degrading :

Resolved, That the habit of using profane language, and that of intemperance in the use of strong drink, or engaging in the keeping of saloons and retailing alcoholic liquors, or of indulging in the practice of gambling, by Royal Arch Masons, is in violation of the regulations of Royal Arch Masonry, and discreditable to the craft ; and, also, that it is a proper subject of Masonic discipline.

Companion Congle was re-elected Grand High Priest.

Companion R. P. Earhart continued Grand Secretary.

Companion Patton again brought forward the correspondence report, and we would have been disappointed if he had not, for he has indeed in this position been "honored with the universal compliment of all the Grand Bodies" he reviews.

He opens his report with the discussion of several questions such as "Are reports on correspondence worth what they cost?"

In his argument he handles Companion Parvin of Iowa, who said that "No one appreciates more highly than we the good they have done in the past, yet we fail to see any good *now* resulting from such labors and publications," without gloves, and brings innumerable pieces of evidence taken from addresses of Grand High Priests to prove that they at least differed from him. We can't extract the whole, and would only mar it by clipping, so we recommend every brother who can to step to the Grand Secretary's office and read it.

Another question handled is: "Is suspension for non-payment of dues a bona fide suspension?" On this subject we had uttered our own views, but our Grand Lodge settled that question for us, and settled us when it declared it must be so considered. The weight of authority is that way.

He treats of other questions of moment to the craft. Go and read the report, Companions.

Alabama is liberally considered by him, and in its review he says, alluding to our remarks last year to Companion Shaffer's intemperate stricture on portions of our M. E. G. H. Priest's address:

Living as we do, far remote from the Southern portion of our fair domain, we realize fully the truth of Companion Cobb's statement. We need look no farther than to the several annual proceedings of grand chapters and lodges. Since we have been honored with our present position as reporter, we have seen the South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee grand chapter proceedings, as full and complete as those of any other jurisdiction. We remember with pleasure the productions of Companions Birnie Patton, of Mississippi, Dawkins, Lawrence, and others; and even now these jurisdictions are struggling to maintain their organizations. We feel the general depression less, perhaps, than those in other localities; and while we realize what struggles they have passed through, we cannot but extend to each and all our sympathy, and express the hope that the time is not far distant when prosperity will gladden the hearts of all.

It has never been our good fortune to visit a single Southern State, except Virginia; but if we should realize our desire, we know and feel that we would receive as cordial a welcome from those we know by reputation as we would in any other locality. If life is spared us, we hope to see those with whom we have conversed so long and often, and with whom we have enjoyed such friendly relations.

To be sure you would, companion, just come along and try it, for our hearts are as warm to our friends as is our own Southern sun. Just come along and we promise to give you whatever of good this "Southern land" produces, for although Companion Shaffer may think there is no

"Southern land" in Masonry, yet you and we know that nevertheless there is somewhere a "Southern land." Come along and search for it, and like other sojourners you will doubtless find it.

We regret we cannot dwell longer with you, Companion Patton, but the "spondulix" must be considered.

PENNSYLVANIA, 1878.

Had her usual quarterly convocations. At that held on 2d May, 1878, we find an expression of opinion of this Grand Chapter touching the value of reports on correspondence directly uttered :

Past Grand High Priest, Companion Charles E. Meyer, moved that the committee on printing and publishing be directed to proceed with the printing of the annual proceedings without the report of the committee on foreign correspondence, which was not agreed to.

And this was proposed by the reporter himself.

At that held on 7th November, 1878, Companion William C. Hamilton was elected M. E. G. H. Priest.

At the annual communication held December 27th, 1878, Companion Alfred R. Potter, M. E. G. H. Priest, presiding, Companion Hamilton was installed. Previous to this, however, Companion Potter delivered a valedictory address, in which he congratulated his companions on the growth and prosperity of the craft. Companion Hamilton, in his address, utters some wholesome cautions, and the following will be as applicable to the companions of Alabama as those of Pennsylvania :

There is, I regret to say, a disposition among thoughtless companions to modernize ancient Masonry, by casting aside the usages and customs that have existed for years, and substituting that which would be most subservient to their individual interest ; this is indirect disloyalty to the institution, and equally subversive of that order, in the absence of which everything would rush into wild confusion. It is our duty to discountenance these attempts at innovation, and guard well our inheritance, and instead of trying to improve, study well that which has been handed down to us by the fathers in Masonry, until we shall become imbued with its principles, then, and then only can we become its true and faithful exponents.

We find Alabama noticed in the report on correspondence by Companion Charles E. Meyer, and we are gratified at his endorsement of "every word" of our comment on the address of the G. H. Priest of Iowa, in relation to a newly discovered negro chapter in that State.

Under Colorado we find, speaking of Companion Byers report on correspondence :

"Missouri also has another Grand Chapter, that of the First Independent African Grand Royal Arch Chapter." Verily Missouri is honored in her representative, since he seems to be in doubt of the legality of the Grand Chapter he represents.

Under Iowa we find the following to Companion Winslow's remarks in his address :

We would ask Companion Winslow, who has called to him for recognition? If they are Masons for whom he appeals let him direct that the doors of his Chapters be opened to them. It seems he is perfectly willing to *talk*, but *not to do*. Has the Grand High Priest of Iowa been guilty of visiting and holding Masonic communication with these spurious Royal Arch Masons, and does he now want to discuss the subject and ease his conscience, or can there be a political significance in the matter being referred to at all, if so, politics should not be brought into Masonry.

On the mergement of the Council with the Chapter, we have his views below :

The Chapters are now over-worked. The High Priests of Chapters outside of Pennsylvania have to study the degrees of Mark, Past Master, Most Excellent and Royal Arch, and it is proposed to add two more degrees—the Royal and Select.

Royal and Select Masters made in Chapters can only be known as clandestines, with no right to visit or be visited by the regular companions of those degrees.

It is a new hobby, a new day, and new duty, which we hope will be of short duration.

Companion John Thomson remains G. Secretary.

QUEBEC.

The second Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 25th September, 1878,—and we read the address of M. E. Companion J. H. Graham, G. Z., with, we believe, more pleasure and profit than any it has been our good fortune to meet with. For although it pertained to matters of prime interest only to the craft in the Province of Quebec, yet throughout there breathed such a truly liberal, catholic and masonic spirit, that we felt that it was good to have read it.

This Grand Chapter resolved unanimously to have a report on correspondence "regardless of expense." We are glad of this, for we should miss Companion McMinu.

Companion John H. Graham was re-elected Grand Z., and Companion James T. McMinu re-elected Grand Scribe E.

Companion McMinu presented the Report on Correspondence—noticing Alabama fraternally.

Under California he says—

“Companion Wiggin, calleth upon his brother reporters thus: ‘We will call upon our brother reporters throughout the land to speak for their respective jurisdictions, and let us see in how many it is now allowable to elect a Master from the floor of the Lodge.’

“For Quebec we speak—with us the ‘Ancient Regulation,’ first Warden then Master, remains in full force and effect; the rule prevails in the Chapter, the results are eminently satisfactory, and we strongly recommend its adoption everywhere.”

We hold to these “regulations” in this jurisdiction.

On the effect of suspension, he holds the following—

“Companion Robertson considers us doubtful of his position as to the effect of Lodge suspension on Chapter’s membership, but as open to conviction, and refers us to his remarks on this question under Maine and Oregon. We have read them with pleasure and fully appreciate them. This, however, is not quite clear to our mind yet; will Companion Robertson please enlighten us on the following. In Quebec, and we presume in Canada, a brother suspended for non-payment of Lodge dues, being debarred from visiting his own or any other Lodge, we can not associate with him masonically in the Lodge. Why should we be compelled to do so elsewhere, more especially when he has been deprived of that essential to Chapter membership, “good standing as a master mason,” which alone entitles him to a seat in a R. A. Chapter. We trust we have made our meaning clear, and await Companion Robertson’s reply. We, at the same time, agree with our Canada companion that independent chapter action is absolutely requisite to effect chapter suspension, but we also hold that the fact of Lodge suspension of a companion being fully vouched for to a chapter by a companion in good standing should be a sufficient ground for chapter action.”

The rule in Quebec in relation to the restoration of one suspended for non-payment of dues, is the same as in Alabama, i. e. that he shall be restored “without ballot on payment of all arrears owing at the time of suspension and of the regular chapter dues for the period he was so suspended.” This because our Grand Lodge has so declared.

Companion McMin, as the exponent of the usages of the craft in Canada, expresses in almost every instance the rulings to be found here. He, however, has stepped into the shoes of Companion Corson on the “objection” question, and keeps hammering away “quite lively like.” Good by, McMin.

RHODE ISLAND, 1879.

The eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was opened on 11th March, 1879, by M. E. Grand High Priest Rev. William N. Ackley, who in his address declares, “We can not guard too scrupulously the old traditional principles and landmarks, and a true spirit should lead the

officers of each chapter to seek the greatest possible knowledge and skill, though not at once liable to be called to instruct candidates in the sacred mysteries of our order."

Eight hundred dollars were added to the permanent fund of this Grand Chapter.

Companion Ackley was re-elected Grand High Priest, and Companion William R. Greene continued Grand Secretary.

The report of committee on correspondence, is by Companions Burnham and Carpenter, and in it we find Alabama—

"A scheme of 'beneficial endowment' was proposed and referred to a committee to report at next Annual Convocation. This seems to us a most extraordinary 'departure.' Such societies are, to our mind, excellent in their place, but have no place as an adjunct to a masonic body, which, as such, we believe, can not, without danger, adopt them. The principle upon which such societies are established, is totally at variance with that upon which masonic bodies are founded, and to introduce new elements and new principles so radically different from those now existing, it seems to us, must also introduce discord."

We assure our Companions that we agree with them, and we believe that few of the Companions of this jurisdiction will agree with this scheme or any other which tends so fundamentally to change the character of the institution. The countenance of the Grand Lodge was asked to a similar scheme some years since and it was denied, and this will meet with the same fate.

The committee's views on the temperance question are so entirely our's, that we give them, from their review of California. This has occupied too much space in the printed reports already—

"As to the discussion of the temperance question in Lodges. Being one of the cardinal virtues, it is prominently brought to the notice of the novice, in his initiation, and there the question pure and simple is discussed, and impressed upon the mind of every brother within the sound of the Master's voice, and so long as the lesson is heeded nothing more need be said on the subject. If the lesson be unheeded the matter then becomes a subject, not for public discussion, but private appeal, and finally discipline."

The committee believe that an objection should have the same force as a negative ballot. They advocate Honorary membership—

"The withdrawing element can well be spared; 'they came among us uninvited, and upon their departure there is no restraint.' Doubtless the many beneficial societies influence many withdrawals, but to the true mason these can not supply the place of the masonic body."

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1879.

This Grand Chapter held its Annual Convocation on 11th February,

1879, Companion W. G. DeSaussure M. E. Grand High Priest. The Grand High Priest says—

"Our night has been dark. A vast pall has fallen upon all the industries and pursuits, not alone of our country, but of nearly all the habitable globe. Fortunes have taken wings and fled away—great enterprises have crumbled—the fruits won by industry and hard toil, have scarcely returned to the laborer the expenditures made for their production. Pecuniary gloom and anxiety have pervaded the whole commercial world and its pressure and care has entered every household. We are sharers in this depression."

We find the following decisions—

1. Erasures from membership in a Lodge for non-payment of dues, does not affect his status in his particular Chapter.

2. A mason unaffiliated, by reason of erasure of his name from membership in his Lodge for non-payment of dues, can not be accepted as a candidate in any Chapter in this jurisdiction.

3. Such a mason holds his membership unaffected in his particular Chapter, but can not be admitted as a visitor in any other chapter while so unaffiliated.

If the first be correct the companion, as such, is in good standing, and we can not then see the correctness of the third.

We commend the following to our companions, only premising that it is our province to do our whole duty to God, each other and ourselves, and the day of revival will not be long postponed:

"You may ask, companions, of those whom you have appointed to preside over you, what suggestions they can make for the resuscitation of caputular masonry in South Carolina, and I frankly reply for the Grand Council that we are at a loss what to advise. We are depressed because the commercial world is out of joint. Statesmen and financiers have alike failed to discover the proper methods to be pursued to relieve the financial perplexities. A mighty ebb has followed upon the unexampled flow of apparent prosperity, and the human understanding can not fathom the depth to which the ebb will go ere it ceases and the flood be resumed. But the purposes of masonry, as we believe, are such as meet the approval of the Great Architect. In that wonderful law pronounced among the thunderings and smoke around Sinai, He summarized the duty of man to be love to God and love to man. Masonry eminently insists upon these as masonic duties, and its foundations rest upon that law. Reverently trusting in him, and that he will care for our institution, we may hope that the response to the inquiry is in the words of promise, 'The morning cometh.'"

Without doubt the amalgamation of the Council and Chapter will be effected in this jurisdiction, as the necessary provision was made therefor.

Companion W. G. DeSaussure was re-elected Grand High Priest, and Companion James E. Burke Grand Secretary.

No report on correspondence, because of want of funds.

TENNESSEE, 1878.

The fiftieth Convocation of the Grand Chapter, held on 14th November, 1878—a small pamphlet lies before us. Companion John S. Pride M. E. Grand High Priest.

A large portion of the address was devoted to "Our Dead," many of whom fell victims to the dread scourge which so ruthlessly raged in the western part of that State last season—a part to the financial condition of the Grand Chapter, which borrowed money last year and had to do so this.

Companion Benjamin F. Haller was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion John Frizzell continued Grand Secretary.

We find no report on correspondence, though one was made and ordered to be printed; but we suppose, under the circumstances, the Grand Secretary deemed it advisable to diminish the expenditures.

TEXAS, 1878.

A large pamphlet containing the proceedings of the Twenty-ninth Annual Convocation of this Grand Body lies before us. Comp. Wm. Bramlette, M. E. G. H. P., presided, opening the Grand Chapter on 12th December, 1878.

The address is of local interest only except where allusion is made to the invitation of the G. Grand Chapter to re-unite with it. The G. H. Priest on this subject, expresses himself as unalterably opposed to the measure, and gives quite strong reasons for his position. One sentence we may be pardoned for quoting: "Whatever may have been our action in the past, it forms no argument for our action now; while the evils that grow out of it may well be regarded as warnings not to yield to threats or cajolery."

There was a minority report from the committee to whom was referred this subject at the last convocation, which used the usual arguments for the connection and presented a resolution to that effect. And there was a counter report quite exhaustive against the measure. The first was tabled and the last adopted with only one dissenting voice. For ourself we have never yet seen any good reason urged for the existence of such a body as the G. G. C., and we have not yet seen that it is of use to the Craft. Its dissolution would not, we think, be very distressing to many of our Companions.

Comp. George M. McWhirter, was elected M. E. G. H. P., and Comp. Robert Brewster, Grand Secretary.

The report on correspondence is by Comp. Robert M. Elgin. Having

ourself been an early citizen of this State, and spent many years upon its frontier when Houston and Galveston were villages, and the Indian freely roamed where Sherman and Dallas (all cities now) are situated, we always have a feeling akin to that of a receipt of a letter from a dear relative when we take up these proceedings. But we look now in vain for the many familiar names, and are reminded year by year that they have gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns.

He takes kindly notice of Alabama for 1877.

There are many good things, we would like to copy, but as we wish to preserve the copy of these proceedings, we must forgo that pleasure, and leaving the scissors, we have not now the time to extract.

VERMONT, 1879.

The Sixty-second Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, was held on 13th June, 1879, being presided over by M. E. Comp. Edward S. Dana, G. H. Priest. In his address, of Comp. Corson, he says :

I announce to you officially, what many of you with great sorrow have already learned, the decease of Companion THOMAS J. CORSON, M. D., Past Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey. Few Masons in America were more widely known, and none whose sparkling and entertaining Reports on Foreign Correspondence were more thoroughly enjoyed. His death will be irreparable to the Grand Chapter of New Jersey, and to the Fraternity at large ; and Vermont would gladly strew flowers on the grave of the generous and true Mason, whose pen was as sharp as a Turkish cimeter, and yet whose heart was as tender as a child's.

Comp. Dana, like Comp. Bramlette of Texas, having declined a reelection, Comp. Alfred A. Hale, was made G. H. Priest and Comp. Wm. H. S. Whitecomb, Grand Secretary.

Comp. Edward S. Dana presented the report on correspondence, introducing his labors in the following graceful manner :

For the third time, at the request of the Grand Chapter, we have assumed the duty of preparing the Report on Foreign Correspondence. We have "burned the midnight oil" while sweetly communing with our many friends in the guild, widely scattered through the land, who have become endeared to us by their many noble qualities ; we have culled from many fields, and hope our gatherings will be enjoyed as fully by our esteemed companions in Vermont as they have been by us. And though this duty has brought difficult labor and many weary hours, yet it has had its compensation in the rich store of information it has brought to us, and the pleasure which the keen wit and racy style of many reporters has imparted has lightened the weariness of toil.

His review of Alabama is exceedingly short. This, perhaps, is due to the fact that our last report was so witty, for of it he says : "Comp.

Palmer J. Pillans, submitted the report on correspondence, and if brevity is wit, this is one of the most humorous productions for the year."

He reviews the proceedings of 35 Grand Chapters in a flowing style, making his report pleasant reading.

VIRGINIA, 1878.

On the 12th December, 1878, this Grand Chapter was opened in ample form by M. E. Companion Alfred S. Lee, G. H. P.

The condition of the craft, as indicated by the address, is not only harmonious but somewhat prosperous. The G. H. Priest, in one of his rulings, gives us his estimate of the value of an objection in these words:

If there was no objection raised he would be entitled to receive the degree to which he had been elected; any companion objecting, however, would be equivalent to a black-ball until the objection was withdrawn.

We are pleased to see great liberality extended to a weak and failing Chapter, and words of encouragement to aid in building it up again.

We decidedly agree with the committee on G. H. Priest's address, which says that "when a long period of time has elapsed after one or more degrees have been taken before another is desired, a petition should be sent in, which should recite the facts and reasons of the delay, and should follow the course of any other petition." This is the usage here, though we know of no declaration or ruling on the point.

Companion Alfred Stith Lee was elected G. H. P., and Companion William B. Isaacs Grand Secretary.

This last submitted the report on correspondence, written in his usual "devil-may-care" style, reviewing the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters. We find Alabama among the number, to which he devotes more space than we perhaps deserve. On suspension for non-payment of dues he says, among other things:

Spondulix is required to carry out the great object of our institution, and birds that *can* sing that tune must be made to sing, and those who *can't* fork over a note, are always relieved of the necessity when made known to the body of which they are a member.

And in another place that "expulsion or suspension is expulsion or suspension, nothing more, nothing less."

Once more:

Here comes in again that interminable "suspension for non-payment of dues" by a Blue Lodge. Will you please inform us how we can hold Masonic intercourse with a suspended Mason? For many years, say

from 1806, the date of the organization of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, to about the year 1830, the penalty in this Jurisdiction was "forfeiture of seat, and that amounted to simply a deprivation of the right to vote in the Chapter, giving all the other "rights and benefits" of the institution without any of its burthens. Masons are only human beings at last, and as so many availed themselves of the privilege, it was found necessary to inflict a penalty, which would induce the "drones" not only to enjoy all the rights, but pay their due proportion for them, or cease both at the same time, to-wit: burthens voluntarily assumed, and enjoyments more than commensurate for the burthens. That's the thing in a nut-shell.

Our individual views were with the opponents, but as stated herein previously, our Grand Lodge decided that suspension for whatever cause was suspension in its full Masonic sense, and this settled us.

Before leaving this report we will extract his estimate of Companion Shaffer's report for Iowa last year:

The report on foreign correspondence is rendered by Companion Shaffer, covering 113 pages. Our first glance at it strikes us unfavorably. It strikes us that there is a bitter national animosity, something after the "bloody shirt" order. His comments on Alabama—well, that sturdy old Body can stand it if he can. We think he must be—let us diagnose him—yes, he must be a dyspeptic; with such, nothing good can come out of Nazareth. But we take all of that back.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1877 AND 1878.

We are glad to have these proceedings again, for they do not regularly come to hand because they are not printed. The pamphlet before us contains the records of the convocations for 1877 and for 1878.

That for 1877 was held on the 15th November, M. E. K. D. Walker, G. H. P., who thinks that "a languid and feeble Masonic organization often does harm to the cause it is trying to promote." He wishes the P. M. degree to be eliminated from the Chapter. He says: "So far as my information extends, the past year has been, for Royal Arch Masonry in West Virginia, one of comparatively little progress." This we sincerely regret. "But the greatest evil," (he complains) "of all of which our Companions in West Virginia are afflicted, and the one of which I feel most disposed to complain, is that the Companions and Brethren do not read enough." Might not this same be said of most of the Jurisdictions?

The Grand Chapter adopted a resolution providing for visitation of the subordinates by the Grand Council, dividing the territory into three districts, one to be assigned to each of the first three officers.

At this convocation the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, and the Grand Chapter of Quebec, were recognized.

The convocation for 1878 was held on 14th November, with the same M. E. G. H. Priest. We regret to find the Grand High Priest so aptly characterizing the condition of the craft in this jurisdiction when he says of those of West Virginia :

To be frank with you my Companions, I do not regard the humdrum quietude of the past year as a favorable omen, or look upon it as in any sense an indication of prosperity. Masonry should not stagnate. But it is impossible to deny or disguise the fact that there is a lamentable lack of interest in Masonic affairs on the part of the vast majority of those who have assumed the vows of our fraternity. The number of those present at the regular convocations grows monthly less and less, and even among Royal Arch Masons, there is a sort of chilliness vastly at variance with the cheery companionship which should characterize the Chapter. There is an indifference soon succeeded by positive neglect, which is rapidly increasing the number of non-affiliated Masons, and there are thousands to whom the impressive ceremonies of the fraternity and the beauty of the moral teachings of Masonry, gave at one time an exquisite pleasure, but to whom these things have become tiresome, or in short an actual bore. They visit no longer the Lodge or the Chapter, they have forgotten whatever they knew about the traditions of the Temple, and the inner meaning of Masonic rites, and tired of paying annual dues for the support of an institution in which they have lost all interest, obtain dimitts, and their names appear no longer on our rolls. I was about to say they are seen no more of Masons, but upon reflection I have changed the expression. No men are more eager in demanding "the benefits of Masonry," none are so apt as they, when soliciting a Masonic customer in trade to make use of some conspicuous emblem, or obtrusive token, or lugged in word or expression to denote that they deal "upon the square," and none are so persistent as they to demand nursing in sickness, relief in poverty and Masonic funeral rites at death. These are unpleasant facts, Companions, but they are *facts*, nevertheless, and it becomes us as Masons to look them squarely in the face. We cannot ignore them, if we would, and we should not if we could.

The report of Grand Treasurer shows improvement in the finances.

Companion John W. Grantham was elected M. E. G. High Priest, and Companion Odell S. Long G. Secretary.

This Grand Chapter has no report in extenso on correspondence, from scarcity of funds, and for the same reason publishes its report but every two years.

WISCONSIN, 1879.

The twenty-ninth annual convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 18th February, 1879, M. E. Companion Oliver Libbey Grand High Priest. The address pertains to matters of local interest only.

The finances show a fair balance but the annual expenses had exceeded the receipts, thus diminishing the cash balance.

At the last convocation in 1878, the Grand Chapter adopted a resolution requiring the High Priest of a Chapter before installation to present the certificate from the G. H. Priest or Grand Lecturer, of his competency to perform the duties of the office and repealed it at this.

We find a somewhat lengthy, but very beautiful devotional service for the opening and closing of the Grand Chapter adopted. We think that bears the earmarks of one who sometime since was an esteemed and influential mason and divine in Mobile.

Companion Libbey was again elected G. H. Priest, and Companion John W. Woodhull continued as Grand Secretary.

Companion J. P. C. Cottrill again submitted the report on correspondence, which is enough to establish its excellence. In the notice of Alabama he pays his respects to us, objecting to our application of the term "quaint" to his report. Now lexicographers assert that it is derived either from the Latin word "cognates," acquainted, and when used it indicates that the writer was fully acquainted with the subject matter in hand, or from "comptus," "comtus," adorned, elegant, polished. Neither of these applications should have displeased the writer. We will not say that some of his positions were not *curious* or *fanciful* other than meanings of the word, but we can't fancy any thing from his pen deserving of the terms *nice* or *neat* or *artificially elegant* as he intimates.

He sees no objection to public installations, and thinks it may be made the means of gathering "the wives and children of the Craft in happy reunions."

He entertains the same opinion of honorary membership as our Grand Lodge. "Indeed, he says, we don't believe that any Grand or Subordinate Chapter has any right to have honorary members."

He insists that the Lodge to which a member belongs ought to reimburse another for any expense incurred in providing for him when sick or burying him when dead. This has never been asked or considered in this jurisdiction.

Thus companions we have performed the duty assigned to us. We hope for your approval.

In reviewing the proceedings we have found harmony and brotherly love—we have noted but little complaint. But every where we have heard the notes of mourning. A large part of our common country was afflicted with a scourge which knew neither age, sex, or condition, and those communities which were free from this fell destroyer sympathised feelingly and actively with those who mourned.

The financial condition of the Grand Chapters is generally good, but we have seen no efforts being begun to make our charity active and

boundless by imitating Kentucky and Pennsylvania. And whenever the finances are too low to justify the expense of a report on correspondence with the proceedings, we find large amounts paid out for mileage and per diem. Is it deemed necessary in those jurisdictions to pay in order to get an attendance? Is there not love enough for the interests of the Craft, or zeal enough among the companions to attend to their duties to which they are obligated when being installed?

In the preparation of this report we have copied some things about what are called colored R. A. Masons. We do not know that they are such, nor do we suppose that any companion has any more knowledge on this subject than we, but we thought the companions of this jurisdiction would like to have some information about these claimants. We shall never trouble you more about them.

Respectfully submitted.

P. J. PILLANS.

Chairman.

GRAND SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA

IN ACCOUNT WITH DANIEL SAYRE,

Grand Secretary.

1878.

CR.

Dec. 4.	By dues at this Grand Convocation.....	\$596 00	
" 13.	" amount of Contingent Fund.....	250 00—	846 00
1879.			
Jan. 15.	By Dispensation for Weogufkee No. 104....		90 00

BACK DUES.

Jan. 27.	By Dues from Tuscaloosa Chapter No. 1....	29 25	
" 30.	" " " Gaston Chapter No. 85.....	17 25	
Nov. 15.	" " " Gaston Chapter No. 85.....	14 25—	60 75

INDIVIDUAL DUES.

April 29.	By Dues from Jasper P. McAdora, of No. 62	3 75	
May 6.	" " " Robert Leslie, of No. 62	6 00	
June 5.	" " " Robert S. Penton, of No. 62..	3 75	
" 21.	" " " Wm. Ivey, of Hermon No. 34.	4 50—	18 00
			\$1,014 75

1878.

DR.

Dec. 13.	To paid Grand Treasurer.....	596 00	
1879.			
April 15.	To paid Dues to General Grand Chapter...	8 02	
" 12.	" " Barrett & Brown.....	136 55	
Nov. 6.	" " " "	2 50	
" 7.	" " Charles L. Ruth.....	100 00	
" 26.	" " Grand Treasurer.....	171 68—	1,014 75
MONTGOMERY, December 2, 1879.			

DANIEL SAYRE,

Grand Secretary.

GRAND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

WILLIAM H. DINGLEY,

GRAND TREASURER,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA.

1878.	DR.	
Dec. 3.	To balance.....	\$ 199 86
" 13.	" Received of Grand Secretary.....	\$596 00
1879.		
Nov. 26.	" " " "	171 68— 767 68
	Total amount.....	\$ 967 54

1878.	CR.	
Dec. 4.	By Committee on Correspondence.....	100 00
" "	" " " Work—L. W. Jenkins.....	35 00
" "	" " " J. H. Johnson.....	37 25
" "	Grand Sentinel.....	10 00
" "	Treasurer.....	75 00
" "	Secretary.....	250 00
" "	Contingent Fund.....	250 00
" "	Balance on hand.....	210 29—\$967 54
December 2, 1879.		

WM. H. DINGLEY,
Grand Treasurer.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

Your Committee on Finance have examined the reports of the Right Excellent Grand Treasurer and Right Excellent Grand Secretary, and ask leave to report them correct.

The balance cash in hand at last Convocation.....\$199 86
 Amount received from Grand Secretary to Dec. 13, '78. 596 00
 1879.
 Amount " " " " " Nov. 26, '79. 171 68

\$967 54

Amount Expended to Dec. 2, 1879..... 757 25
 Leaving balance on hand Dec. 2, 1879..... 210 29
 Estimated receipts of this Convocation..... 550 00

Sum total..... \$760 29

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

To Companion Dingley, Grand Treasurer.....\$ 75 00
 " " Sayre, " Secretary..... 250 00
 " " Pillans, Foreign Correspondence..... 125 00
 " " Grand Secretary for Contingent Fund..... 250 00

\$700 00

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

WILEY W. BLOODWORTH,

Chairman.

MONTGOMERY, December 4, 1879.

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.

Lodge Number..	Names of Lodges.	No. of Members.	Amount of Dues.	Advanced	Presided	Rec'd and Ack'd.	Exalted	Affiliated	Rejected	Dimitted
1	Tuscaloosa.....	23	\$17 25	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
6	Cyrus.....	20	15 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	Tuscumbia.....	30	22 50	..	..	1	1	..	..	6
13	Gainesville.....	26	19 50	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
17	Wetumpka.....	14	10 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
20	Livingston.....	18	13 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
21	Mobile.....	35	26 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
22	Montgomery.....	55	41 25	8	8	9	9	..	1	1
23	Talladega.....	19	14 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24	Eufaula.....	26	19 50	2	3	..	..	..	..	..
26	Union.....	26	19 50	9	9	9	9	..	..	..
28	Saint John's.....	38	28 50	2	2	3	3	2	..	..
40	Camden.....	15	11 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
44	Choctaw.....	13	9 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54	Tyrian.....	47	35 25	12	12	12	12	..	1	1
63	Clayton.....	25	18 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
64	Central.....	10	11 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
66	Alabama.....	28	21 00	4	3	2	3	..	..	2
71	Landmark.....	31	23 25	2	2	2	2	..	1	2
73	Gordon.....	24	18 00	1	1	2	..	..	..	1
76	Elyton.....	19	14 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
80	Loachapoka.....	11	8 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
83	Bell.....	12	9 00	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
85	Gaston.....	16	12 00	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
87	Moulton.....	24	18 00	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
90	Greenville.....	20	15 00	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
93	Columbus.....	16	12 00	3	3	3	3	1	..	..

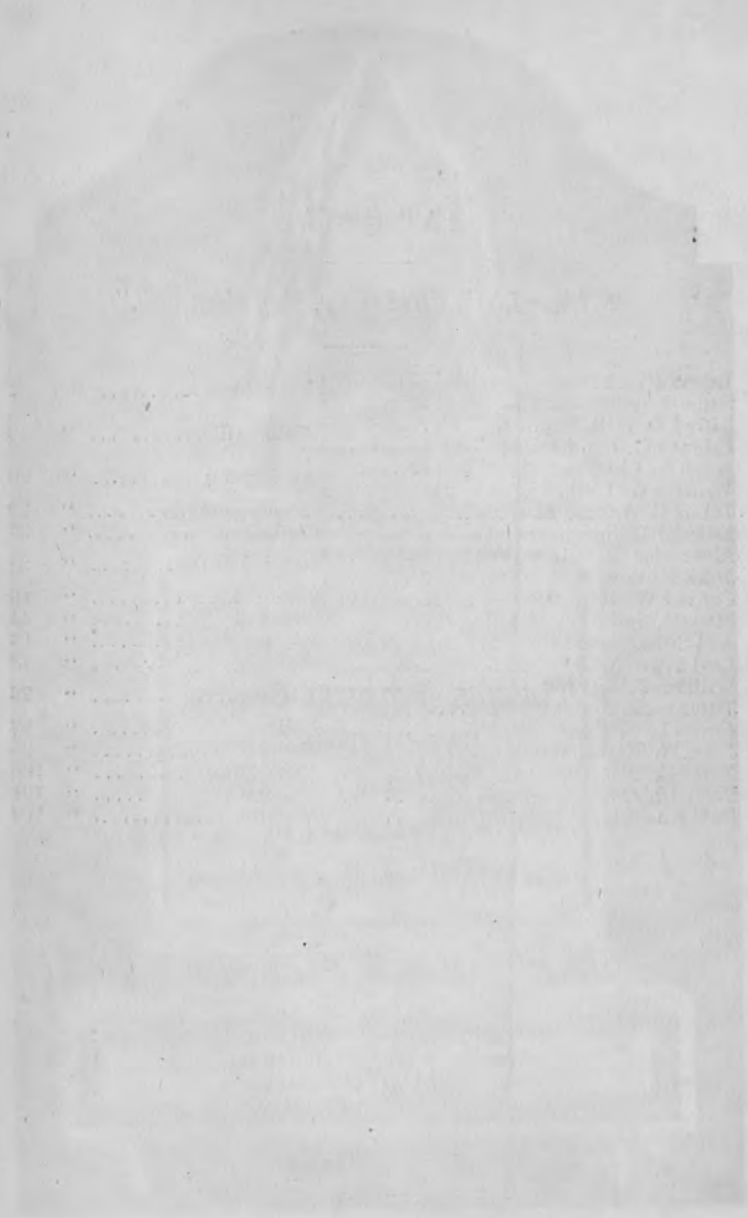
NAMES AND NUMBERS OF CHAPTERS—Continued.

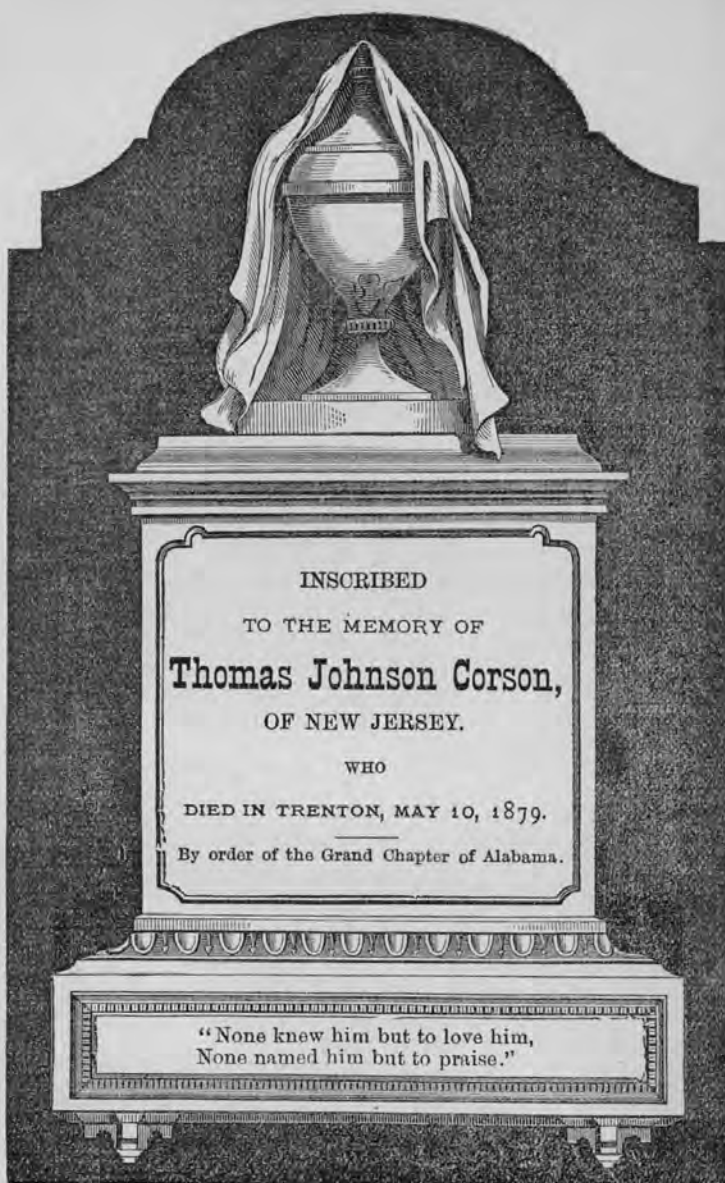
Lodge Number.	Names of Lodges.	No. of Members.	Amount of Dues.	Advanced	Presided	Rec'd and ack'd.	Exalted	Affiliated	Rejected	Dimitted
96	Daniel Pratt.....	18	\$13 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
99	Thomas M. Bragg.....	15	23 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
100	Rock Mills.....	29	21 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
101	Mineral City.....	15	8 25	6	6	3	3	1	..	..
102	Cross Plains.....	16	12 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
103	Warrior.....	14	22 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
104	Weogufkee.....	26		12	12	12	12	6	..	1

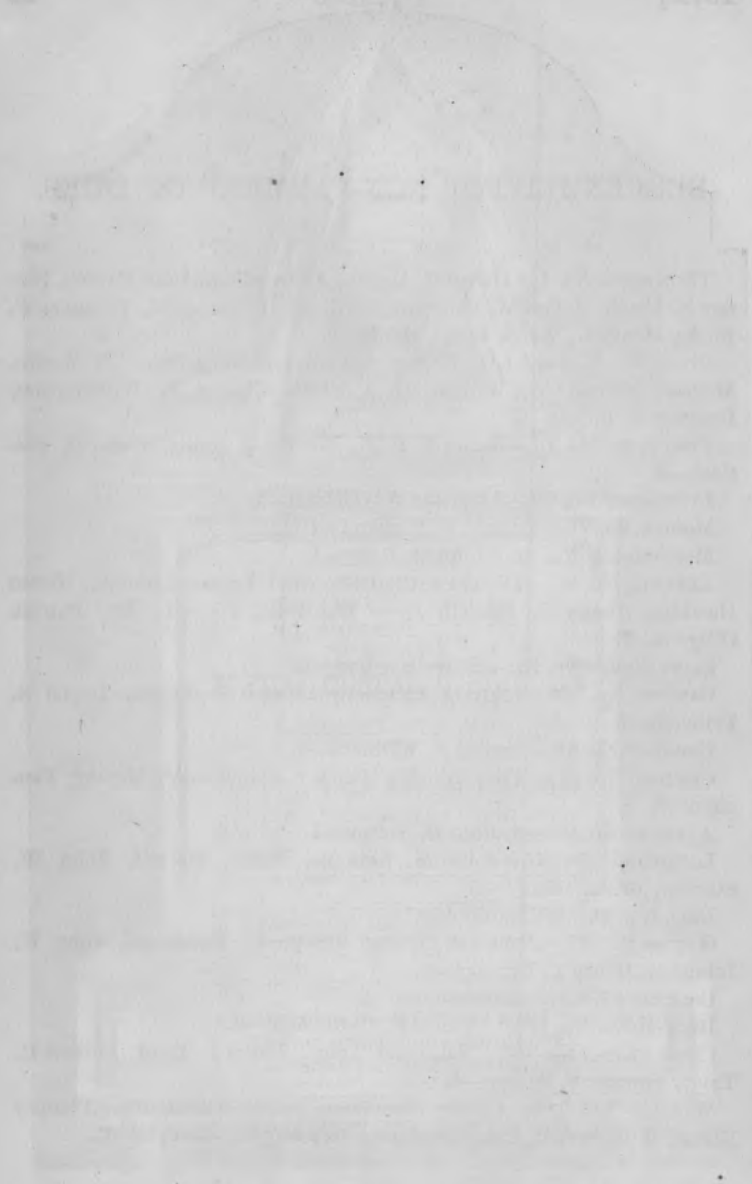
AT REST.

"After Life's fitful fever, they sleep well."

LUTHER S. SKINNER, Dec. 13, 1878.....	Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1
Samuel Smith, June 3.....		
Alfred D. Hall, Feb. 19.....	Gainesville.....	" 13
Edward C. Sanders, April 15.....		
Hugh S. Lide, Jan. 21.....	Livingston.....	" 20
William G. Little Jr., Jan. 24.....		
Julius C. Alford, March 27.....	Montgomery.....	" 22
Edward R. Smith, Oct. 11.....	Talladega.....	" 23
Alexander G. Wilson, Feb. 5.....	Saint John's.....	" 28
John Hinton, Sept. 19.....		
Conrad W. Hare, July —.....	Camden.....	" 40
Silas H. Smith, June 3.....	Choctaw.....	" 44
Joel Sims, Nov. 13.....	Clayton.....	" 63
Levi Parrish, Oct. 12.....	Gordon.....	" 73
William J. Eubank, Oct. —.....		
Thomas Sanford, Oct. 24.....	Elyton.....	" 76
James L. Williams, Sept. 5.....	Bell.....	" 83
John W. Mallet, March 6.....	Greenville.....	" 90
Ervis H. Dishroon, Aug. 20.....	Rock Mills.....	" 100
Peter Holzschuher, March 5.....	Mineral City.....	" 101
David Ashton, Feb. 8, 1878.....	Warrior.....	" 103







SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

TUSCALOOSA No. 1.—Henry H. Brown, Adkins Cain, John Purcell, Sidney F. Leach, James W. Sheppard, William H. Sheppard, Leonidas F. Burks, Henry L. Wood, James Manly—9.

CYRUS No. 6.—David C. Hooten, Max Keonisburg, John H. Martin, Michael Malone Jr., William H. Portlock, Charles P. Witherspoon, Brantley P. Joiner—7.

TUSCUMBIA No. 10.—James E. Pride, George E. Geise, Martin D. Pat-tison—3.

LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Augustus W. Cockrell—1.

MOBILE No. 21.—Edward E. England—1.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—John M. Riley—1.

EUFULA No. 24.—Theodore Prudden, Arad Lyman Raleigh, Hiram Hawkins, Henry C. Russell, J—— W. Wells, J—— L. Jay, Patrick O'Byrne—7.

SAINT JOHN'S No. 28.—Henry Harthan—1.

CAMDEN No. 40.—John C. Pritchett, Duncan J. Fraser, Daniel S. Pritchett—3.

CHOCTAW No. 44.—Samuel S. Williams—1.

CENTRAL No. 64.—Wiley Rhodes, James S. Hansberger, Memory Fan-chor—3.

ALABAMA No. 66.—Andrew B. Nelson—1.

LANDMARK No. 71.—John M. Bethune, Henry Metcalf, John W. Stuckey, Briton Searcy—4.

BELL No. 83.—William Cole—1.

GASTON No. 85.—James R. Young, Joseph C. Woodward, John W. Johnston, Henry T. Lindsey—4.

COLUMBUS No. 93.—Moses Jones—1.

ROCK MILLS No. 100.—Francis P. Crutchfield—1.

CROSS PLAINS No. 102.—Nathaniel Tracy, James T. Tracy, Gilbert R. Tracy, Thomas P. Savage—4.

WARRIOR No. 103.—Charles Drennen, John Willoughby, Dempsey Rivers, William Self, Lafayette Jones, Secretary W. Chappell—6.

REINSTATED.

LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Isaac James Lee—1.

MOBILE No. 21.—Charles A. Pool, William P. Hutchinson—2.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—John Egger, James McFarland, John T. McDonald—3.

TALLADEGA No. 23.—Jasper N. Haney—1.

UNION No. 26.—Thomas Hudson, Edward E. Hudson, Gilbert S. Nicolson—3.

MOULTON No. 87.—William H. Hill—1.

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that made Returns.....	34
Chapters that paid Dues.....	33
Chapters that were represented.....	28
Members reported at this Convocation.....	775
Estimate of members not reported.....	152 927
Dues received at this Convocation.....	\$585 75

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced since last Grand Convocation.....	65
Presided " " " "	63
Received and Acknowledged.....	58
Exalted since last Grand Convocation.....	57
Affiliated " " " "	13
Rejected " " " "	3
Dimitted " " " "	28
Died " " " "	21
Expelled " " " "	0
Suspended for U. M. C.....	0
Suspended for N. P. D.....	59
Reinstated.....	11

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

Chapters square upon the Book.....	29
Chapters under Dispensation.....	0
Chapters delinquent.....	6
Charters forfeited.....	69

MEMORANDA.

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

Joseph H. Johnson, M. D.	Talladega.	Canada.
George D. Norris, M. D.	New Market.	District of Columbia.
Peleg Brown.	Mobile.	Indiana.
Myles J. Greene, M. D.	Talladega.	Iowa.
John G. Harris.	Livingston.	Kansas.
Henry F. Mullen.	Selma.	Kentucky.
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.
Henry Clay Armstrong.	Notasulga.	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.	Opelika.	Wisconsin.

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

Isaac F. Toms.	Goderich, Huron.	Canada.
Charles W. Hancock.	Washington City.	District of Columbia.
Downing Baugh.	McGregor.	Iowa.
Albert D. McConaughey.	Atchison.	Kansas.
William Ryan.	Louisville.	Kentucky.

James Todd.....	Franklin.....	Louisiana.
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.	CONVOCATIONS
1	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	John Snow.	William A. Cochran.	1 Wednesday
6	Cyrus.	Florence.	Landerdale.	Florence.	Henry W. Sample.	James R. Price.	1 Monday
10	Tusculum.	Tusculum.	Colbert.	Tusculum.	Thomas T. Rowland.	John N. Green.	Mon af 2 Sat
13	Gainesville.	Gainesville.	Sumter.	Gainesville.	Edward N. Kring.	Joseph Schiffman.	Thurs af fm
17	Wetumpka.	Wetumpka.	Elmore.	Wetumpka.	Isaac W. Suttle.	William S. Penick.	Friday bfm
20	Livingston.	Livingston.	Sumter.	Livingston.	Robert D. Webb.	Isaiah C. Brown.	3 Friday
21	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Livingston.	William S. Foster.	John P. McNeill.	1 and 3 Thurs
22	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Edmund R. Hastings.	Calvin W. Sayre.	2 Saturday
23	Talladega.	Talladega.	Talladega.	Talladega.	Joseph H. Johnson.	Henry H. Hamill.	3 Friday
24	Enfau.	Enfau.	Barbour.	Enfau.	John Gilbert Smith.	John Curtis Thomas.	1 Saturday
26	Union.	Union.	Berry.	Uniontown.	John W. Bush.	John Henry White.	1 Thursday
28	Saint John's.	Camden.	Dallas.	Seima.	George Peacock.	Adolph Jacobson.	1 Monday
40	Camden.	Camden.	Wilcox.	Camden.	John T. Cook.	DeForest Richards.	Friday bfm
44	Choctaw.	Butler.	Pike.	Butler.	Alanson Gray.	Oliver C. Ulmer.	2 Saturday
54	Tyrian.	Troy.	Barbour.	Troy.	John R. Goldthwaite.	Joel D. Murphree.	Fri bf 2 Sun
63	Clayton.	Clayton.	Shelby.	Clayton.	Alto Velo Lee.	James J. Winn.	Mon af 1 Sun
64	Central.	Montevallo.	Mobile.	Montevallo.	Edward G. Walker.	Samuel S. Holbrook.	Mon n'rest fm
66	Alabama.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Daniel Smith.	Edward L. Merkel.	2 and 4 Fri
71	Landmark.	Ozark.	Dale.	Ozark.	James H. Garner.	Mark A. Cook.	3 Saturday
73	Gordon.	Abbeville.	Henry.	Abbeville.	Newell M. Thornton.	James W. Stokes.	3 Saturday
76	Elyton.	Elyton.	Jefferson.	Elyton.	Sam Thompson.	Robert A. Terrell.	2 Monday
80	Loachapoka.	Loachapoka.	Lee.	Loachapoka.	Lewis T. Wimberly.	Julius C. Phillips.	1 Tuesday
83	Ball.	Lineville.	Clay.	Lineville.	John Reeves.	Thomas C. Moon.	3 Saturday
85	Gaston.	Gaston.	Sumter.	Gaston.	Charles F. Thresdill.	John N. Gilmore.	2 Thursday
87	Moulton.	Monkton.	Lawrence.	Monkton.	DeWitt Clinton White.	Asa M. Hedges.	Fri bf 3 Sun
90	Greenville.	Greenville.	Butler.	Greenville.	Emkney M. Bruner.	Adam B. Dulin Jun.	4 Friday
93	Columbus.	Newton.	Dale.	Newton.	Joseph A. Adams.	William D. Vaughn.	1 Saturday
96	Daniel Pratt.	Prattville.	Autauga.	Prattville.	Llewellyn Spigener.	James H. Edwards.	Monday afm
99	Thomas M. Bragg.	Rutledge.	Crenshaw.	Rutledge.	George W. Jones.	Francis M. Cody.	4 Saturday
100	Rock Mills.	Rock Mills.	Randolph.	Rock Mills.	William W. Taylor.	Fountain P. Randle.	Sat bf 1 Sun
101	Miners City.	Birmingham.	Jefferson.	Birmingham.	William L. Gude.	James H. Sharpe.	1 and 3 Thurs
102	Cross Plains.	Cross Plains.	Calhoun.	Cross Plains.	Andrew J. Sifton.	Francis M. Savage.	Sat bf 2 Sun
103	Warrior.	Warrior.	Jefferson.	Warrior Sta.	Benjamin M. Sharrett.	John Bush.	4 Saturday
104	Weogufkee.	Weogufkee.	Coosa.	Rockford.	John A. Sears.	Patrick J. McAdory.	Fri bf 1 Sun

GRAND SECRETARIES AND THEIR ADDRESS.

0.	Alabama.....	Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.
1.	Arkansas.....	Luke E. Barber.....	Little Rock.
2.	California.....	Thomas Hubbard Caswell.....	San Francisco.
3.	Canada.....	David McLellan.....	Hamilton, Ont.
4.	Colorado.....	Edward C. Parmelee.....	Georgetown.
5.	Connecticut.....	Joseph K. Wheeler.....	Hartford.
6.	District of Columbia.....	Charles W. Hancock.....	Washington.
7.	Delaware.....	Henry B. McIntire.....	Wilmington.
8.	Florida.....	DeWitt Clinton Dawkins.....	Jacksonville.
9.	Georgia.....	James Emmett Blackshear.....	Macon.
10.	Illinois.....	Gilbert Wordsworth Barnard.....	Chicago.
11.	Indiana.....	John M. Bramwell.....	Indianapolis.
12.	Iowa.....	William B. Langridge.....	Muscadine.
13.	Kansas.....	John M. Price.....	Atchison.
14.	Kentucky.....	Joseph H. Branham.....	Louisville.
15.	Louisiana.....	James C. Batchelor.....	New Orleans.
16.	Maine.....	Ira Berry.....	Portland.
17.	Maryland.....	George L. McCahan.....	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 Logan Power.....	Jackson.
22.	Missouri.....	William H. Mayo.....	Saint Louis.
23.	Nebraska.....	William R. Bowen.....	Omaha.
24.	Nevada.....	John D. Hammond.....	Carson.
25.	New Hampshire.....	George Perley Cleaves.....	Concord.
26.	New Jersey.....	George B. Edwards.....	Jersey City.
27.	New York.....	Christopher G. Fox.....	Buffalo.
28.	North Carolina.....	Donald W. Bain.....	Raleigh.
29.	Nova Scotia.....	James Gossip.....	Halifax.
30.	Ohio.....	James Nesbitt.....	Troy.
31.	Oregon.....	Rockey P. Earhart.....	Portland.
32.	Pennsylvania.....	John Thomson.....	Philadelphia.
33.	Quebec.....	Angus Grant.....	Montreal, box 744
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. Whitecomb.....	Burlington.
39.	Virginia.....	William Bryan Isaacs.....	Richmond.
40.	West Virginia.....	Odell S. Long.....	Wheeling.
41.	Wisconsin.....	John Wesley Woodhull.....	Milwaukee.
42.	United States.....	Christopher G. Fox.....	Buffalo, N. York.
43.	England and Wales.....	Frederick Binckes.....	London, W. C.

COUNCIL OF HIGH PRIESTS.

ELEVENTH CONVOCATION.

MONTGOMERY, December 3, 1879.

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

PRESENT :

MYLES J. GREENE.....	President.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Vice President.
JAMES HERVEY JOINER, <i>as</i>	Chaplain.
LEWIS T. WIMBERLY.....	Treasurer.
GEORGE W. TAYLOR, <i>as</i>	Recorder.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Master of Ceremonies.
DANIEL SMITH.....	Conductor.
THOMAS T. ROWLAND.....	Herald.
JOHN G. HARRIS, <i>as</i>	Steward.

PRESENT.—Companions Peleg Brown, John A. Sears, William R. Horn, Alexander McCollister, and DeWitt Clinton White.

The 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 necessary contribution, were received from the following Companions:—

Thomas A. Boon, of Mobile No. 21.
 Edmund R. Hastings, of Montgomery No. 22.
 William Ivey, of Hermon No. 34.
 Zo S. Cook, of Camden No. 40.
 John T. Cook, of Camden No. 40.
 James H. Garner, of Landmark No. 71.
 John Reaves, of Bell No. 83.
 Charles F. Threadgill, of Gaston No. 85.

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

The Applicants, except Companions Zo S. Cook and Thomas A. Boone, 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.
LEWIS T. WIMBERLY.....	Treasurer.
GEORGE W. TAYLOR.....	Recorder.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	Master of Ceremonies.
DANIEL SMITH.....	Conductor.
THOMAS T. ROWLAND.....	Herald.
EDMUND R. HASTINGS.....	Steward.

And then, after reading the minutes, 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.