

1883

PROCEEDINGS
of the

GRAND CHAPTER

of
Royal Arch Masons
of

ALABAMA



A.D. 1883 / A.I. 2413

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

AT THE

ANNUAL CONVOCATION,

HELD IN THE

CITY OF MONTGOMERY,

1883.

MONTGOMERY:

W. D. BROWN & CO., STEAM PRINTERS AND BOOK BINDERS.

1884.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The M. Ex. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama held its Fifty-seventh Annual Grand Convocation at the New Masonic Temple, in the City of Montgomery, on Tuesday, the 4th day of December, A. D. 1883, A. L. 5883, Anno. Inv. 2413.

PRESENT:

LUCKY WALKER JENKINS.....	Grand High Priest.
WILLIAM STORY FOSTER.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
WILLIAM WALLACE SCREWS.....	Grand King.
WILLIAM WALLACE McCOLLUM.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM HENRY DINGLEY.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Grand Secretary.
JOHN GIDEON HARRIS.....	Grand C. of H.
DANIEL SMITH.....	Grand P. Sojourner.
JAMES TAIT BECK, <i>as</i>	Grand R. A. C.
RICHARD ASBURY RAMSEY.....	Grand M. 3 V.
GEORGE LITTLEFIELD SMITH.....	Grand M. 2 V.
SOLOMON DANIEL BLOCH.....	Grand M. 1 V.
ADAM REIGART BAKER.....	Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS:

HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Grand High Priest.
MYLES JEFFERSON GREENE.....	Grand High Priest.
JAMES MCGINNIS BRUNDIDGE.....	Grand King.
PALMER JOB PILLANS.....	Grand Scribe.

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

NEWELL M. THORNTON, M. D.	Arkansas.
WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH	California.
JOSEPH H. JOHNSON, M. D.	Canada.
BENJAMIN F. POPE	Florida.
LUCKY W. JENKINS, M. D.	Illinois, Massachusetts.
MYLES J. GREENE, M. D.	Iowa.
JOHN GIDEON HARRIS	Kansas.
PALMER JOB PILLANS	Louisiana.
WILLIAM STORY FOSTER	Maryland.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG	Nova Scotia.
GEORGE LITTLEFIELD SMITH	Ohio.
DANIEL SAYRE	Oregon.

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

No. 1.	Tuscaloosa	William G. Cochran*	H. P.
" 2.	Eunomia	William H. Tancre*	"
" 20.	Livingston	John Gideon Harris	"
" 21.	Mobile	George C. Gowdey*	S.
" 22.	Montgomery	William Story Foster	H. P.
" 23.	Talladega	William Wallace Screws	"
" 26.	Union	Archibald L. R. Thompson	K.
" 28.	Saint Johns	Emil Kulman	S.
" 37.	Concord	Joseph Henry Johnson	H. P.
" 40.	Camden	Arthur Bingham	K.
" 48.	McKinley	Morritz L. Ernst	H. P.
" 54.	Tyrian	William Wallace McCollum	"
" 56.	Alabama	William Carey Bledsoe*	"
" 71.	Landmark	John Eades Gullett	"
" 73.	Gordon	Lucky Walker Jenkins*	K.
" 76.	Elyton	Solomon Daniel Bloch	S.
" 79.	Hillabee	C. Harris Askew	H. P.
		John R. Goldthwaite*	"
		Philip C. Candidus	"
		Daniel Smith	S.
		Benjamin Franklin Cassady	H. P.
		Angus M. Scott*	K.
		Newell M. Thornton	H. P.
		Sam Thompson	"
		George W. Porter	"
		Stephen M. Pearson	K.

*Proxies.

No. 86.	Coosa.....	Benjamin Franklin Pope.....	H. P.
" 87.	Moulton	DeWitt Clinton White.....	"
" 92.	Notasulga.....	Henry Clay Armstrong.....	H. P.
		William S. Ford*.....	K.
		Ralph T. Armstrong*.....	S.
" 96.	Daniel Pratt.....	George Littlefield Smith.....	H. P.
		Llewelyn Spigener*.....	K.
		Oliver P. Looney.....	H. P.
" 104.	Weogufka.....	George W. McEwen*.....	K.
		Kinion J. Thomas*.....	S.

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

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest delivered his Annual Address, and it was referred to a special—

COMMITTEE ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

Myles Jefferson Greene,

John Gideon Harris,

William Wallace McCollum.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Companions of the Grand Chapter:

We meet again, through a merciful Providence, in Grand Annual Convocation, to call the roll, as it were, and record the casualties of another year's labors and vicissitudes. While many blessings have been conferred upon us, for which we are thankful to Divine Providence, many calamities have befallen us; though we congratulate ourselves on our prosperity, the voice of mourning must mingle with our congratulations. Since our last annual convocation Companion Leroy Riley Simms, Right Excellent Grand Chaplain, died at his residence in the town of Shorterville, in Henry county, on the 20th day of June last. He was well known to many of us who attended the annual convocations for many years past. He was a faithful and zealous

mason, a good citizen, and conscientious in the discharge of every duty. It remains for this Grand Chapter to pay such tribute of respect as may be appropriate to his memory.

A portion of our jurisdiction has been visited by that terrible scourge, yellow fever, and much distress caused in that section. Many of our valuable companions fell victims. The sympathy of the neighboring towns as expressed by their liberal donations, obviated the necessity of my calling, as Grand Officer of the State, on the Subordinate Chapters for relief.

For the past year we have to record an unprecedented Summer drouth, which has smitten the products of our fields, and destroyed the high hopes of our husbandmen for an abundant harvest, therefore we may not expect any great increase in the roll of our membership for some time to come. I can not believe that the depression of the times, the falling away of our membership, and the decrease of the number of Chapters, can be attributed to bad material wrought into the walls of our masonic structure; nor to a want of interest in Masonry. But I attribute all these things to relentless poverty. The return of prosperity will bring new life to our Order and restore many dormant Chapters to their former flourishing condition. But long continued poverty and accumulated dues of many worthy members, will prevent their return to active membership without some legislation in their behalf by their Chapters. I therefore respectfully recommend to the consideration of Subordinate Chapters the advisability of remitting a part, or such part of their accumulated dues as will restore them to active membership—thus exercising one of the cardinal principles of our Order—this, in my opinion, would greatly revive the spirit of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction.

From official visitations which have been of limited extent, and intercourse with companions, I am enabled to state that the prospects of the Order in this jurisdiction, in some instances, are encouraging. Several Chapters whose charters were forfeited have been restored, and their members have gone to work with commendable zeal. The Chapters I have visited appear to be in a flourishing condition—the officers manifesting great interest in perfecting them-

selves in the work and lectures. I take this occasion to thank those officers for the courtesy and kindness extended me on those occasions.

On October 3d, I visited McKinley Chapter No. 48, which had been dormant for a number of years. This Chapter had recently been reorganized by Companion H. Clay Armstrong, (Chairman of the Committee on Work) under an act of the last Grand Chapter which authorized Dayton Chapter, also then dormant, to unite with McKinley Chapter No. 48; the two united make quite a large Chapter. I conferred the Chapter degrees on a class, and instructed the officers in the work, to enable them to confer the degrees on other classes then waiting. From the success of the union of these two small Chapters, I am of the opinion that the plan of uniting small Chapters can be more extensively adopted, thereby bringing to life many now dormant Chapters; thus possessing at least one good Chapter in each county in the State.

I would have been pleased to attend the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter held last August at Denver, in Colorado, but the want of funds to defray expenses, and other insuperable obstacles, prevented.

In May last I issued my proxy to Excellent Companion Palmer J. Pillans, Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, who promised to attend, but in July he notified me that it would be impossible for him to leave home, hence I do not suppose that Alabama was represented at Denver.

In March last I received credentials from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, and in October from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Illinois appointing me representative of their respective Grand Chapters near the Grand Chapter of Alabama. I submit these credentials as their representative and hope you will receive and accredit me as such.

In July I was officially informed of the appointment of Companion Benjamin F. Pope, of Gadsden, representative of the Grand Chapter of Florida.

In September of Companion W. R. Horn, of Choctaw, representative of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and in November of Companion William S. Foster, of Mobile, representative of the Grand Chapter of Maryland near the Grand Chapter of Alabama; if they are present I hope this Grand Chapter will extend to them suitable recognition and welcome.

The questions submitted to me for official decision during the past masonic year have not been very numerous, and most of them have been decided by my predecessors. If High Priests would study the constitution and the decisions already rendered, they would have little difficulty in determining these questions for themselves. The following are important questions:

1st. Can a Chapter call off from one regular convocation to another? Answer, no. A Chapter may call off, from time to time, until the business of that convocation is disposed of, and then it must close in due form.

2d. "Is it lawful to confer Chapter degrees upon a minister of the Gospel without requiring of him the constitutional fees?" Answer: It is not lawful. Article 4, Section 5 of the Constitution, says that the fee must accompany the petition.

I HAVE NO PRECEDENT.

3d. "When a petition of a minister of the Gospel has been received without the fee and balloted on and he is elected, what is the best course to pursue?"

Answer.—The High Priest should declare the action of the Chapter on said petition unconstitutional, and the election null and void, and return the petition to the applicant.

Applications for Dispensations were granted as follows:

On May 14th to Elyton Chapter No. 76 to elect officers and reorganize the Chapter, which had been dormant since 1881.

On June 24th to Tyrian Chapter No. 54 to elect officers at another time than that granted by law.

On July 24th to Coosa Chapter No. 86 a similar dispensation.

On June 26th to Talladega Chapter No. 23 to elect and confer the

several degrees on candidates at a special convocation; the Chairman of the Committee on Work, Companion H. Clay Armstrong, was expected to officiate on that occasion.

On July 26th to Zerubbabel Chapter No. 56 a similar dispensation; Companion Armstrong was expected there also.

On October 23d to McKinley Chapter No. 48 a similar dispensation, the Grand High Priest assisted in conferring the degrees.

November 8th I received a circular letter to which I call your attention from Companion H. L. Robinson, Grand 1st Principal Zerubbabel of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec, in which he complains of an invasion of territory by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, Wales, &c., and interdicts all masonic intercourse with the above mentioned Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. I herewith submit it.

And now, Companions, this being the third time that I have had the honor of presiding over your deliberations you will soon have to choose another to exercise the power of this high office. I return the emblem of authority back into the hands that so generously bestowed it upon me, assuring you that as long as life shall last I will not cease to appreciate the high honor conferred upon me.

May the blessings of Heaven prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

L. W. JENKINS,

Grand High Priest.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans, Chairman of 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.—William G. Cochrane, George L. Smith, Stephen M. Pearson.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 2.—Newell M. Thornton, Llewelyn Spigener, Angus M. Scott.

ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS No. 3.—George W. Porter, John N. Gilmore, William C. Bledsoe.

ON DISPENSATIONS.—Benjamin F. Pope, Solomon D. Bloch, William H. Tancre.

ON FINANCE.—Daniel Smith, Sam Thompson, C. Harris Askew.

ON BY-LAWS.—Morritz L. Ernst, Oliver P. Looney, Benjamin F. Cassidy.

ON JURISPRUDENCE.—Myles J. Greene, Palmer J. Pillans, Henry Clay Armstrong.

REPORT ON WORK.

The Committee on Work, by its Chairman, Companion Henry Clay Armstrong, made report on all the degrees, and the report was received and concurred in.

REPORTS MADE.

The R. Ex. Grand Treasurer and the R. Ex. Grand Recorder made their Annual Reports, and they were received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Companion Morritz L. Ernst offered the following preamble and resolution, and the preamble was concurred in and the resolution adopted:

QUIT-CLAIM TO MARION PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, A Petition is now pending before the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama, to authorize said Grand Lodge to dispose of its interest and claim to the upper story of the old Methodist Episcopal Church South building in Marion, Alabama, to the Trustees of said Church—

Resolved, Therefore, that in the event of the granting of said petition by the said Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary of this Most Excellent Grand Chapter, be empowered and authorized to execute a quit claim deed to said Trustees of said Church, to remove any possible cloud of title to said property.

And then the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 8½ o'clock.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, December 5, 1883.

The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 8½ o'clock; the M. Ex. Grand High Priest, Lucky Walker Jenkins, presiding; the other Grand Officers at their respective stations.

The minutes were read and approved.

Companion Myles J. Greene made report on Grand High Priest's address, and the report was received and concurred in :

REPORT ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

To the M. Ex. Grand R. A. Chapter of Alabama :

The Committee to whom was submitted the M. Ex. Grand High Priest's address, beg leave to report—

That they have read with much interest this able and important masonic paper.

With our M. Ex. Grand High Priest, we mourn over the afflicting dispensations of Divine Providence that have been visited upon a portion of our State. As a Grand Chapter, we mingle our tears with those of the bereaved and sorrow-stricken ones, over the graves of our fallen companions.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

1st. That this Grand Chapter approves the official acts and decisions reported by the Grand High Priest.

2d. That so much of the address as relates to the death of our late Right Excellent Grand Chaplain, Leroy Riley Simms, be referred to a special committee of three.

3d. That the companions who have been accredited as repre-

sentatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter be duly received and acknowledged.

4th. That so much as relates to the question of jurisdiction as presented in the circular letter from Companion H. L. Robinson, Grand 1st Principal Zerubbabel of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec, be submitted to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

M. J. GREENE,
J. G. HARRIS,
W. W. MCCOLLUM,
Committee.

Companion Benjamin F. Pope, from the Committee on Dispensations, made the following report, and the report was received and concurred in :

REPORT ON DISPENSATIONS.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

Your Committee on Dispensations beg leave to report that nothing has come to their hands requiring examination.

Fraternally,

BENJ. F. POPE,
W. H. TANCRE,
SOL. D. BLOCH,
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 having carefully examined the Returns submitted to them, they find the following—

CORRECT :

Concord.....	No. 37	Landmark.....	No. 71
McKinley.....	" 48	Gordon.....	" 73
Alabama.....	" 66		

INCORRECT :

CAMDEN No. 40.—Initials and abbreviations used.

TYRIAN No. 54.—No dates to times of conferring degrees.

ZERUBBABEL No. 56.—Seal upside down.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

NEWELL M. THORNTON,
Chairman.

The M. Ex. Grand High Priest appointed Companions John G. Harris, Chairman of the Committee to report on the death of Companion Leroy Riley Simms, late Grand Chaplain.

Companion George W. Porter, 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 :

Elyton.....	No. 76	Moulton.....	No. 87
Coosa.....	" 86	Notasulga.....	" 92

INCORRECT :

HILLABEE No. 79.—Heading not filled out, A. Inv. not filled out, no seal, fee for all the degrees not set down.

BELL No. 83.—No date to conferring the first three degrees, no date set down in the margin.

DANIEL PRATT No. 96.—Recapitulation not filled out, suspensions

N. P. D. erroneously dated in October ; should be the last meeting before the 24th of June.

WEOGUFKA No. 104.—No date set down to conferring the degrees.
All of which is fraternally submitted.

G. W. PORTER,
J. N. GILMORE,
W. C. BLEDSON,
Committee.

The Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing masonic year, Companions Solomon D. Bloch and Angus M. Scott acting as Tellers ; and the election resulted as follows :

ELECTED GRAND OFFICERS.

WILLIAM STORY FOSTER.....	Mobile.....	Grand High Priest.
WILLIAM WALLACE SCREWS.....	Montgomery.....	Deputy G. H. Priest.
WILLIAM WALLACE MCCOLLUM.....	Selma.....	Grand King.
JOHN GIDEON HARRIS.....	Livingston.....	Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM HENRY DINGLEY.....	Montgomery.....	Grand Treasurer.
DANIEL SAYRE.....	Montgomery.....	Grand Secretary.
WILLIAM CAREY BLEDSON.....	La Fayette.....	Grand Chaplain.
JAMES TAIT BECK.....	Camden.....	Grand C. of H.

And the Grand High Priest subsequently announced the following—

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS.

DANIEL SMITH.....	Mobile.....	Grand P. Sojourner.
RICHARD ASBURY RAMSEY.....	Newton.....	Grand R. A. Captain.
WILLIAM BROOKS JACKSON.....	McKinley.....	Grand M. 3 Veil.
SOLOMON DANIEL BLOCH.....	Camden.....	Grand M. 2 Veil.
KINION JEFFERSON THOMAS.....	Weogufka.....	Grand M. 1 Veil.
ADAM REIGART BAKER.....	Montgomery.....	Grand Sentinel.

Companion Henry Clay Armstrong offered the following resolutions, and they were adopted :

AS TO THE CHAPTERS AT LOACHAPOKA, AUBURN, TUSCUMBIA, AND CLAIBORNE.

Resolved, That Auburn Chapter No. 42, late at Auburn, in the County of Lee; and Loachapoka Chapter No. 80, at Loachapoka, in the same county; be, and they are hereby authorized to consolidate as one Chapter at Auburn, by the name of Myles J. Greene Chapter No. 80; *provided* that when thus consolidated it shall pay dues to the Grand Chapter at its regular convocation in December, 1884.

Resolved, That Tuscumbia Chapter No. 10, at Tuscumbia, in the County of Colbert, be also authorized to reorganize upon the same conditions.

Resolved, That Monroe Chapter No. 4, late at Claiborne, in the County of Monroe, be authorized to reorganize, upon the same conditions, and remove to Perdue Hill.

Resolved, That all of said Chapters are hereby authorized to elect officers, and proceed to work as soon as may be, an account of which they shall transmit to our Grand Secretary, with the list of officers elected.

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

REPORT ON CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 1.

To the M. Ex. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

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

CORRECT:

Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1	Union.....	No. 26
Montgomery.....	" 22	Saint Johns.....	" 28

INCORRECT:

EUNOMIA No. 5.—Dates on back of Returns not filled out, no date to 1 death, seal not up-right.

GAINESVILLE No. 13.—No date in margin of Returns.

LIVINGSTON No. 20.—Dates on back of Returns not filled out, no seal.

MOBILE No. 21.—No date to 1 affiliation, date A. Inv. wrong—should be 2413, one name abbreviated.

TALLADEGA No. 23.—Dates on the outside not filled up, recapitulation not complete, representatives names not put on the outside, number of members not inserted in table of dues.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

WILLIAM G. COCHRANE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Companion Daniel Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, made report, and the report was received and concurred in. (*See Appendix.*)

INSTALLATION.

The Grand Officers, elect and appointed, were installed by P. G. High Priest, Henry Clay Armstrong, being presented by Companion Joseph Henry Johnson, acting as Grand Marshal.

The following were announced as the Standing Committees of the Grand Chapter :

ON WORK.

Henry Clay Armstrong.....	Montgomery.
Joseph Henry Johnson, M. D.....	Talladega.
Myles Jefferson Greene, M. D.....	Talladega.

CUSTODIAN OF THE WORK.

William Story Foster, Grand High Priest, *virtute officii*.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer Job Pillans.....Mobile.

MINUTES READ.

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

CLOSED.

And then, the Fifty-seventh Annual Grand Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama was closed in Ample Form at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes, A. M., Standard Time.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

THE JOURNAL OF THE

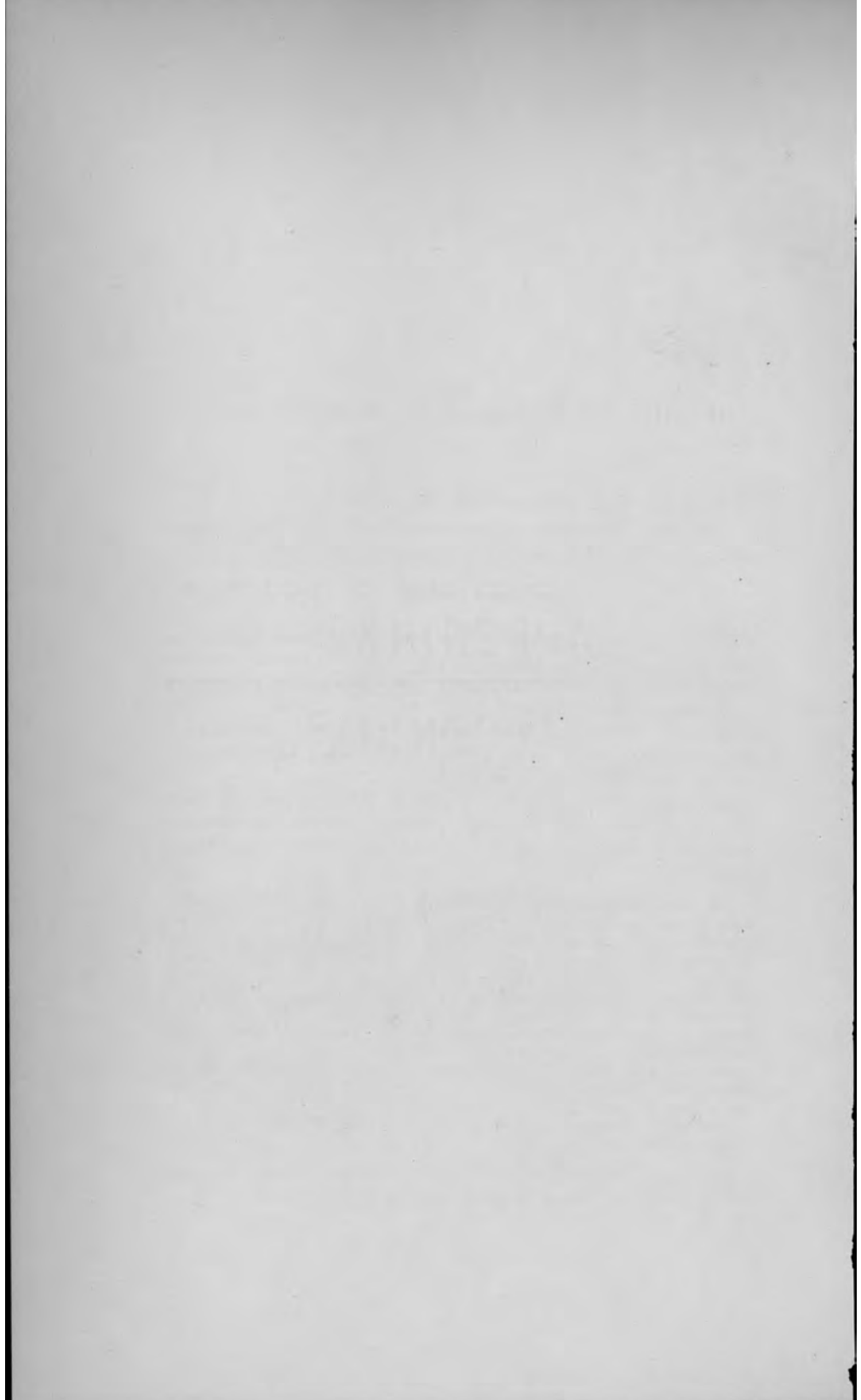
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APPENDIX.



REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M. Ex. G. R. A. Grand Chapter of Alabama :

Once more, under adverse circumstances, we cull from the various reports received, and hope that our labor may prove acceptable.

ARKANSAS.

The Thirty-Third Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 24th November, 1882, and was opened by the Grand King, George L. Kimball, as Grand High Priest. There were present representatives from 18 chartered Chapters.

As near as we can make it there are within this jurisdiction 62 active Chapters with a membership of 1,240, there having been an increase of 41 during the year.

On the following day the M. E. Grand High Priest, Caleb H. Stone, appeared and presided. He gives much good advice in his address, and seems to have the prosperity of the Royal Craft at heart. Among other things, he says :

I do not think that a great increase of Subordinate Chapters would indicate the prosperity of Capitular Masonry in Arkansas. Unless a Chapter can be started with efficient officers, and plenty of good material, it is better for it never to be. Where there is little material to work on, bad material will be used for want of better. Not every Master Mason, though he be morally a fit stone for the builder's use, is mentally capable of filling a place in the Royal Arch ; and if he is found to be at all lacking in moral qualities, he should never be admitted within the White Veil of the Sanctuary.

One who can not fully—or at least approximately—appreciate the beauties of Ancient Craft Masonry, is wasting time and money in attempting to grasp the mysteries of the Holy Royal Arch.

Ordinarily, one Chapter in a county is amply sufficient for all proper material.

He thinks the inefficiency of the officers the prime cause of decline in Chapters, and more particularly that of the Secretaries,

Twelve Chapters are reported as having forfeited their charters.

The committee on Charters and Dispensations in reference to one Chapter which had been working U. D. and had brought up their work for inspection, says: "We see no special indication of the use of unworthy material," and therefore recommends a charter be granted. Was the work exhibited good, true and square, or does the word *special* as used above indicate that it was passed only because of its singular form? That word presents a fishy appearance. How is it? Let the Committee speak.

John J. Sumpter, Grand High Priest.

James A. Henry, Grand Secretary.

No report on Correspondence.

CALIFORNIA

Held the Twenty-Ninth Annual Convocation of her Grand Chapter on the 10th day of April, 1883, with M. E. Companion William Monroe Petrie, Grand High Priest presiding, and representatives from 48 chartered Chapters present. Fifty-two Chapters compose the jurisdiction with a membership of 3,552, there having been an increase of 381 during the year.

The Grand High Priest says "the increase in our numbers has been somewhat phenomenal, while the material furnished has been of the very highest order."

Charters were granted to four Chapters which had been working under dispensations.

Below we give the action of the Grand Chapter on the question of the force of objection:

The question is asked and referred to your committee, "Is a written objection, made by a companion who is unavoidably absent from the meeting at which a ballot is to be taken and dated prior thereto, sufficient reason for declaring the candidate rejected?"

In the important matter of receiving material into Royal Arch fellowship, the utmost care should be exercised, and every facility given for the fullest expression of the opinions of those who have not only the privilege, but whose duty it is to weigh carefully and judge of the merits of petitions for this Masonic distinction. Your committee are of the opinion, that in a case such as stated in the question submitted, the High Priest should give the objection such consideration as to postpone the ballot, and if the objection is not formally withdrawn at a subsequent session, it is his duty to declare the candidate rejected.

Companion Leonidas E. Pratt was made Grand High Priest, and Companion Thos. H. Caswell, continued Grand Secretary.

Companion Caswell made the report on Correspondence, reviewing in a remarkably full and pleasant and instructive manner the proceedings of 36 Grand Chapters. Among these we find ours for 1881, and in this we find him saying of us :

Of our report for that year he says : " The Report on Correspondence is as usual made by the Grand Secretary, Companion Caswell, and in it we do not find Alabama, the proceedings not being in time for review." We have so long been accustomed to place Alabama at the head of our reports, that the failure to receive the proceedings in time mars the serenity of our disposition for several hours ; and, as under such circumstances, we are subject to fits—, of *choler*—, we trust that Companion Sayre, the genial Grand Secretary, will in future be careful that our malady is not unnecessarily increased.

This we specially commend to the attention of our worthy and esteemed Grand Secretary, Sayre.

We also give you his views in regard to the effect of suspension for non-payment of dues. They are those of our jurisdiction :

To this we have only to say, that we do not believe Massachusetts, Connecticut, or any other State, has the right to enact laws for the government of Masons in California. Our Grand Lodge has declared that none but Masons in good standing shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of Masonry, and any brother who has been "*stricken from the roll*," for non-payment of dues, or "*suspended from membership*" for a like cause, is not a Mason in good standing even in his own jurisdiction. He has been deprived of a part of his Masonic rights, and that deprivation is inflicted as a penalty. Why, we ask, was this penalty inflicted ? If a brother had done no wrong, surely he deserved no punishment. The infliction of a penalty implies a wrong committed ; an infraction of the law ; and he who is placed under the ban, cannot be deemed, by any stretch of clemency, a Mason in good standing. Were we to subscribe to the doctrine of Companions Barlow, Dadmun, *et als.*, we might be subjected to some curious and annoying complications ; for instance :—two companions apply for admittance to our Chapters ; one from Massachusetts, who has been suspended from membership for non-payment of dues ; the other from Pennsylvania, who has been suspended for the same cause ; we must say to the Pennsylvanian, go forth ! You are unworthy to associate with Masons ; while to the man from Massachusetts, we must extend the right hand of fellowship, and welcome him to all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. Is there any justice or consistency in this ?

Again these two companions apply for Masonic aid. To one we must say, go ! starve if you will ; you have no claims upon us ; the other we must take by the hand and feed him upon the fat of the land. Both stand, virtually, upon the same Masonic plane ; the offense of one is no more heinous than that of the other ; yet one must be hospitably welcomed, while, if the other asks for bread, we must give him a stone. There is a stern old doctrine called the doctrine of common sense, by which California Masons claim to be gov-

erned ; and this doctrine teaches us that if a Mason is not good enough to remain in full fellowship with the brethren of Maine or Massachusetts, he is not good enough to be received on an equality with the Masons of California. Massachusetts may enact such laws, as to her, may seem best for the government of her own jurisdiction, but we deny her right to legislate for California, or to insist that her Masonic vagrants shall be received by us upon the level of equality.

Some question of the powers and prerogatives of Grand Masters and Grand High Priests having arisen in this our jurisdiction, although not having yet been brought squarely up, we copy what Companion Caswell has to say on this subject, not because we agree with him, but that all views may be placed before you :

The presiding officer of any constitutional body, Masonic or otherwise, possesses no powers or prerogatives not granted to him by the Constitution under which he holds his office. Before the day of written constitutions, Grand Masters enjoyed certain rights and prerogatives universally conceded to them by the Craft ; but when written constitutions were adopted, the Grand Master was as firmly bound by their provisions as the humblest member of the fraternity. The constitution clearly express his powers and duties, and beyond them he may not go. The doctrines of the divine right of Kings and Grand Masters has long since become obsolete in all civilized communities. In an absolute Monarchy, the power of the Sovereign is supreme ; even life and death are in his hands ; but when the form of government is changed from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy, the Sovereign as well as the subject is restrained within the bounds of constitutional provisions.

We also give you one more extract as to the right of a member to dimitt, and with this must close :

It is true that a candidate for Masonic honors, enters of his own free will and accord the portals of the Lodge ; but, once within, he also, of his own free will and accord, assumes certain duties and obligations of which he may not lightly divest himself as of an old garment ; one of which obligations is, that he will conform to, and abide by the general regulations of ancient Freemasonry. The ancient regulations say, and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of California reiterates : "It is the duty of every Master Mason to be a member of some Lodge." This is the doctrine which every Master Mason subscribes to when he is raised to that sublime degree. Having assumed these obligations, he may not say to his brethren, you may bear the burdens and pay the expenses incident to the Masonic relation, but I will claim all its rights and privileges without contributing any portion of my time, my labor or my money to the advancement of its interests or the furtherance of its objects. The "free will and accord" theory is, to use a slang phrase, "played out" in California and some other jurisdictions we wot of. If a Mason may, of his own "free will and accord," transgress one of the regulations of the institution, or violate one portion of his obligation, why not all ?

CANADA.

On 13th July, 1883, was held the Twenty-Sixth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, with Companion Donald Ross, Grand Z., and representatives from 52 Chapters. Number of Chapters on roll, 78; membership, 3,537; increase during the year, 111.

We learn from the report of Grand Superintendent of one of the Districts that upon examination of the books of one of the Chapters, he found that the average attendance was 9. This forces us to conclude that at times there were fewer, and at times more than the designated number. How do they get along at any time with the lesser number?

From these reports, however, we perceive that the Craft is sufficiently prosperous and entirely harmonious.

This Grand Chapter is preparing for a Committee on Benevolence, and possibly for the establishment of Relief Associations. These latter when properly managed are conducive to great benefit.

Companion Henry McPherson was elected G. Z.

Companion David McLellan, G. S. E.

Companion Henry Robinson, now perhaps, the oldest reporter of us all, made the report on Correspondence, it being his sixteenth. A portion of his introduction we are impelled to copy, because of the soundness of his views and the excellence of his suggestions:

To all our Companions who desire to be thoroughly informed on the state of the Craft in other places, these reports have become a necessity. We are not aware how extensively they are read, but we believe that if they were to be discontinued they would be much missed by all true "seekers after light." The meetings of Subordinate Chapters could be made both interesting and instructive by reading some portion of the current report at each meeting, when time would permit, and encouraging the Companions to offer their own views on what would be thus submitted. The extracts which are given are the well-considered utterances of the representative men of each jurisdiction, men who have given great attention to these subjects, and whose opinion is in general entitled to great weight. Most of the reporters have held high offices in the Craft, many of them are Past Grand Masters and Past Grand High Priests, some are Grand Secretaries, and all are thorough devotees of our noble Order. They take a pride in their work, they are instrumental in reconciling differences of opinion and practice and in moulding improved legislation, and they devote their experience and talent to the correction of errors, the cultivation of the truest fraternal relations and the general welfare and elevation of the Institution.

Noting the opinions of Companion Caswell, of California, on the powers and prerogatives of Grand Masters, he says:

His opinions will not be generally accepted now, but the time will come when, on this continent, at least, it will be universally held that the Grand Master or Grand High Priest, or the presiding officer of any other Masonic body, has no other powers or prerogatives than those conferred on him by the Constitution governing the entire body. Absolute despotism in any shape is entirely unsuited to the genius and temperament of the age in which we live.

He thinks that any officer of the Chapter should be allowed to resign, and gives his views thus under Illinois :

He dissents from the "unnatural" proposition that an installed officer cannot resign. The reason which has been given for the doctrine that an officer cannot resign, is that at his installation he makes a solemn declaration that he will perform the duties of his office during the term for which he was elected and until the installation of his successor. It is said that to allow an officer to resign would be to allow a violation of an obligation. In this view of the case, would it not be well to alter the installation ceremony and thus avoid the difficulty? There does not seem to be any good reason why an officer should not be allowed to resign. Very frequently it happens that an officer removes to some other jurisdiction, where, of course, it is impossible that he can perform the duties of his office, and in such case, we presume that some of the sticklers will argue that he has violated his installation obligation. We do not suppose that this obligation is binding, or that any obligation is binding under circumstances which render it impossible of fulfillment. We believe that an officer should be allowed to resign, or to obtain his dimit, just the same as any other member, and if the ceremony of installation interferes with this privilege, then the ceremony should be altered.

We close our notice of this report with the closing paragraph of his :

In an old edition of "Preston's Illustrations of Masoury" in our possession, there is a collection of Masonic songs, anthems and odes. With one of these songs we close, as we have worked "till high twelve," and are glad to "lay down our hod."

TUNE.—"BALANCE A STRAW."

"When the sun from the east first salutes mortal eyes,
And the sky-lark melodiously bids us arise,
With our hearts full of joy ; we the summons obey,
Straight repair to our work, and to moisten our clay.

On the Trestle our Master draws angles and lines,
There with freedom and fervency forms his designs,
Not a picture on earth is so lovely to view,
All his lines are so perfect, his angles so true.

In the west we see the Wardens submissively stand,
The Master to aid, and obey his command ;
The intent of his signals we perfectly know,
And we ne'er take offence when he gives us a blow.

In the Lodge, sloth and dullness we always avoid,
Fellow-Crafts and Apprentices all are employed,
Perfect ashlers, some finish, some make the rough plain,
All are pleased with their work, and are pleased with their gain.

When my Master I've served seven years,—perhaps more,
Some secrets he'll tell me I ne'r knew before ;
In my bosom I'll keep them as long as I live,
And pursue the directions his wisdom shall give.

I'll attend to his call both by night and by day,
It is his to command, and 'tis mine to obey.
Whensoe'er we are met, I'll attend to his nod,
And I'll work till high twelve, then I'll lay down my hod."

COLORADO.

The Eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form on September 2d, 1882, M. E. Grand High Priest Roger W. Woodbury, with representatives from all the chartered Chapters—11 in number. The membership comprises 654, and the increase during the year was 112.

The address of the Grand High Priest was purely local in character. He congratulated the Craft upon its prosperity in the State, and hoped it was not so much because of the increase of population as because of the exemplary characters of those composing the membership.

He so strictly construes the Constitution as to believe that no dispensations for electing officers out of time could be granted, nor representatives to other Grand Chapters appointed. Whereupon the Grand Chapter adopted the following :

Resolved, That Article 3 of the Constitution be amended by the insertion of another Section following Sec. 1, and before the present Sec. 2, as follows :

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest to preside at the Convocations of the Grand Chapter, and to discharge all the executive powers of the Grand Chapter in the intervals between them. He shall also have power to appoint representatives of this Grand Chapter near other recognized Grand Chapters, and to receive and accredit representatives of other recognized Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter.

A committee was appointed to make suitable preparation for the reception and entertainment of the G. G. Chapter in August, 1883.

The business in other respects was of no interest to those beyond the limits of the jurisdiction.

R. W. Woodbury, Grand High Priest.

Ed. C. Parmelee, Grand Secretary.

The review of the proceedings was made by Companion Ed. H. Collins, and in it we find Alabama for 1881.

CONNECTICUT

Held the Eighty-Fifth Annual Convocation of her Grand Chapter on 8th May, 1883, with Companion James H. Welsh, Grand High Priest, and representatives from 35 Chapters.

The entire number of Chapters is 37, with a membership of 4,027, being 103 more than last year.

From the address of the Grand High Priest, we quote :

The efficiency and usefulness of our Chapters, as well as the good name and reputation of our institution, depend largely upon the character of its members, and while it is of the utmost importance that we elect companions of ability and character to preside over our Chapters, we should remember as we go out into the world, and mingle with our fellow men, that honesty and integrity should be the distinguishing characteristics of the members of our order.

The Grand Chapter adopted the following resolution, which amounts for the time being to suspension, and agrees with our Alabama rule :

Resolved, That any companion who may have been, or shall hereafter be, stricken from the roll of his Lodge or Chapter for non-payment of dues, shall not be allowed to visit any Chapter in this jurisdiction while under such disability.

Business local.

Companion John S. Castle, Grand High Priest.

Companion Jos. K. Wheeler, Grand Secretary.

Companion J. H. Barlow again came to the front with the Correspondence report, which, as usual, was a good one, reviewing the proceedings of Alabama for 1881.

He can't agree with us when we say that we esteem the Grand Master and Grand High Priest when presiding as presiding over bodies that are legislative only, and their deliberations to be governed by such rules as are found to be efficient in other similar bodies, and says :

This would strip the Grand Master and Grand High Priest of all their prerogatives, giving them no more power than the chairman of a town meeting; we distinctly and emphatically dissent from such conclusions, and contend for all their ancient prerogatives.

Just so, we think they have no prerogatives then.

We find that he agrees with us as to the necessity of the presence of the charter, else he says "one of the Capitular Degrees would need reviewing."

He thinks "such luxuries" as mileage and per diem might properly be dispensed with.

He thinks the non-payment of dues a violation of the O. B.

We give his view of how dropping from the rolls or suspension for non-payment of dues should operate in the several jurisdictions:

Assuming, what we think no one will deny, that a Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter is supreme in its own jurisdiction and over its own members, the companion from Massachusetts, thus suspended from membership merely, should, by courtesy and respect to that jurisdiction, be allowed to visit Chapters in Nebraska; while in the case of a companion from Nebraska temporarily residing in Massachusetts, the regulation of his Grand Chapter should also be respected, and the companion refused admission.

DELAWARE.

The Fifteenth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 17th January, 1883, Companion Thos. Davidson, Grand High Priest, with representatives from 6 subordinates. Within the jurisdiction are found 6 Chapters with a membership of 343, there having been a gain during the year of 12.

Of the condition of the Chapters, the Grand High Priest says:

My companions, I am sorry to say that all of the work for the past year has been wrought by the Chapters located in this city, and that two of the Chapters outside of the city have not met during the past year, unless within the last month, and that brothers living nearest those Chapters who would have applied for further light were deterred from so doing—having knowledge of the same—knowing that they could not receive the degrees.

In consequence of the supineness of the Chapters in the lower part of the State, we find him making the following suggestion, which the Grand Chapter adopted:

I would recommend that Article 3, Section 49, be repealed, so that companions in the lower part of the State, may have an opportunity of receiving these degrees, and as this cannot be done at this Convo-

cation, it will give the companions in the lower part of the State an opportunity to arouse and get to work, and thus prevent its passage, which I hope will be the case.

Business entirely local.

Companion Davidson was again made Grand High Priest, and Companion H. B. McIntyre, Grand Secretary.

Companion Wm. G. W. Lewis once more made the report on Correspondence, giving Alabama for 1881 her full share of attention.

Here is what he says of uniformity in work, and we commend it to those who want the i's dotted and the t's crossed exactly alike every where ;

Yet certainly there is a Ritual that is correct. We have witnessed or aided in conferring the Chapter degrees in Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Delaware ; and we have noticed not the slightest variation in the mode, save in one of the above jurisdictions. Yet even in Delaware we have seen that there is sometimes a difference. But these differences are generally of an unimportant character, and dependent upon either a failure of exact memory, or something else not quite so excusable. We do not believe verbal exactness possible in every case—all we desire to avoid is the novelties some are desirous of introducing under the plea of grammar, synchronism, etc.

And he thus bids us farewell. May his paths be paths of peace :

It is with reluctance that we bid farewell to the members of the M. A. S. of Reporters. We have taken great delight in perusing the various reports that have come to our hands, and willingly acknowledge, and gratefully too, the debt we owe to those whose experience and skill have led us on to a better acquaintance with R. A. Masonry than we have had before we were admitted to this Society. Gladly would we linger in such honorable and pleasant company, but the Great High Priest appears to have other work for us to do elsewhere, and we yield our place to our successor. May he find a kindly welcome as we have found, and succeed in so filling the post that Masonry shall be a gainer for the change.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Sixteenth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by Companion James P. Pearson, Grand High Priest, with representatives present from the eight Chapters composing it. The total membership is 1,121, with a gain during the year of 26.

The Grand High Priest thinks some stringent method should be adopted to enforce the payment of dues, and the committee to whom

this matter was referred reported an amendment to the Constitution, as follows :

Add at end of Sec 3, Art. VI, the following : "and any companion who may be suspended or dropped from his Lodge, for non-payment of dues or any other cause, shall be suspended from his Chapter during the term of his suspension by the Lodge."

This accords with our method.

He wishes Grand Representatives to report the acts of the Grand Chapters to which they are accredited, and that no Companion be allowed to represent more than one Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Work recommended that proof of proficiency in each degree be required before advancing be allowed, and provided for a committee on proficiency in each Chapter, but the Grand Chapter could not see through the same spectacles.

Jeremiah C. Allen, Grand High Priest.

Lewis G. Stephens, Grand Secretary.

Companion Noble D. Larner presented the Correspondence Report, reviewing the proceedings from Alabama for 1881. We are obliged to him for what he says of ourself, although we are somewhat mixed as to the last clause, whether it did not neutralize the kind words in the earlier part.

We have avoided anything about the Cryptic Degrees, because it seems to be *un fait accompli*, but we can't help clipping the following :

We think Companion Robertson has assigned to the Cryptic Degrees their legitimate place, and we firmly believe the day is not far distant when the Craft will rise up and demand that they be transferred to the Chapter, and thereby place them where every Companion will receive them, and that, too, in the only place where, in our opinion, they have any connection or meaning.

Companion Larner thinks the Chapter should when called, no matter for what purpose, be opened, and then if degrees are to be conferred in any of the Lodges, that also should be opened. We confess ourselves at a loss for this. In this, our jurisdiction, it is required that a Chapter should be organized before proceeding to business or work in any of the Lodges, but we incline to the opinion that the rule as laid down by the G. G. Chapter to be the more correct.

GEORGIA.

The Sixty-First Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Georgia was held on the 25th April, 1883, Companion Chas. E. Lambdin,

Grand High Priest, with representatives from 23 Chapters. Twenty-six Chapters comprise the jurisdiction, with a membership of 753, being 45 less than last year.

From a very excellent address, we extract :

Companions, it is your grand privilege to breathe new life and vigor into the dead clay of which too many of our bodies are composed, to suggest and inspire new thoughts, and feelings and purposes, broader views and nobler aspirations and higher conceptions, and, with hearts all aglow with love for your companions, to lead them in the paths they have not known. Yours is a grand work, worthy of your highest energies. You have in your charge men who say they come "to learn to subdue their passions and to improve themselves in Masonry," or, as it is more tersely expressed in holy writ, "to cease to do evil and learn to do well." 'Tis yours to educate and strengthen their will that they may control their appetites. By judicious advice and counsel you can assist them in restraining and directing their desires, and in placing their affections on worthy objects. You can be the grand instruments in making their lives useful and happy here and blissful in the great hereafter. True, you may occasionally meet with difficulties and disappointments in your noble efforts; your friends and companions may fall again and again by the wayside; the storms of trouble and affliction may be greater than their moral strength can bear; the tempests of temptation may overwhelm and completely prostrate them, and in despair you may be well nigh ready to give them up as hopeless. Be not discouraged, the Eddystone light house was several times torn from its base and completely demolished, but its undaunted builder again and again erected it, each time remedying the defects of the preceding structure, until success finally rewarded his efforts. There it stands firmly riveted and bolted to the solid rock, victoriously encountering the rolling billows and the raging tempest, a proud and enduring monument of the superior skill, sagacity, and determined purpose of its founder. So may you, my dear Companions, take heart and raise your fallen brethren, placing their wavering feet upon the immortal rock of truth, firmly riveting and bolting them thereto with trust and faith in Jehovah, who will inspire them with a fixed and unalterable purpose to stand steadfast and true.

Your work is immortal. After the silent reaper "who cuts down at a breath the bearded grain and the flowers that grow between" shall have gathered you to the "great majority," and your bodies mouldered into sepulchral dust, your thoughts, your words, your work will continue to affect the lives and fortunes of your friends and followers, making waves of influence, whose concentric circles, beginning with you as their common center, shall widen as the cycles of time pass by, a never ending series passing into infinity, stretching in vain towards a shore which it can never reach, for eternity knows no limits, no shores bound its endless tides. Who can say when the influence of Socrates or Seneca, Wesley or Calvin, Hill or Stephens, will end? And, on the other hand, when can we hope to stop or even impede the sad and direful influence of Voltaire or Volney, Tom Payne or Bob Ingersoll? The civilization of to-day is the

result of the labors of the teeming billions who have preceded us, leaving the evidences of their thoughts behind them. When we stand in admiration before some stately pile, we are but paying a merited tribute of honor to the Grecian or Roman or Gothic architect who originated the style.

My dear Companions, your work cannot die, your influence cannot cease even if you wished it, but must go on through the ages, until the last trumpet shall sound the knell of time, and we all stand an assembled multitude to receive the reward of our labors. Then shall our influence cease and we shall fully know the ultimate as well as the immediate results of our every act. How few appreciate their responsibilities! How many live regardless of the frequent opportunities given them to improve themselves and help their neighbors! Let us as Masons professing to be more than brethren, Companions, with mutual love and forbearance, assist each other to work out the designs which our Great Grand Master has placed upon the trestle board for our guidance, and be found each day diligently at labor, advancing our own condition and assisting the needy and distressed wherever we may find them. With "Holiness to the Lord" inscribed upon our banners, let each of us with faith in the power and willingness of God to help us by his grace, exclaim—

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea."

Companions, I have attempted to set you to work with good and wholesome instruction. The work of the Convocation is yours; the interests of Capitular Masonry is in your hands to foster and forward. 'Tis yours to direct the business of this Grand Chapter. Your Grand High Priest is but your servant to execute your edicts and see that your plans are completely carried out. In my last address I had the temerity to make some suggestions for the good of the Order, which were no more necessary then than now. Your short session and hurried adjournment prevented any action being taken upon them. I trust you will not allow this session to pass without developing some plan by which Capitular Masonry in Georgia may be revived and a new impetus be given it, so that the same enthusiasm may characterize its members that pervades other organizations of a similar nature. Let Georgia be the Empire State of the South in Masonry as well as in other respects.

I am glad to report that in quite a number of our Chapters there are cheering evidences of returning prosperity, many of them having done more work this year than they have done for several years. I am sure if our Companions of the several Chapters will select earnest, enthusiastic officers whose love for the Royal Craft is undoubted, that we shall no longer have to complain of a decline in Masonry, but our Order will again be prosperous. We are upon rising ground now, let us keep moving onward and upward to success.

And in reference to the improved condition of the Chapters, the committee on the address says :

Your committee feel gratified in reporting the improved condition of the Chapters throughout this jurisdiction, and think that a still further improvement can be made by proper exertions on the part of the officers of the Grand Chapter. We are especially pleased at the financial status of the Grand Chapter, and with the prospects of many Chapters, whose charters have been forfeited, of being again reinstated, and recommend that the Grand High Priest, in person or by proxy, during the next year, visit such defunct Chapters as in his opinion can be reinstated, at the expense of the Grand Chapter.

Companion Chas. E. Lambdin and J. Emmett Blackshear, were re-elected M. E. Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary, respectively.

No report on Correspondence.

ILLINOIS.

The Thirty-Third Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 26th day of October, 1882, with Companion John P. Norvell, Grand High Priest, presiding. There were 155 Chapters represented. The total number is 165, with a membership of 11,110, there having been an increase during the year of 853.

The High Priest displayed great industry in looking after the interests of the Craft, and issued five dispensations for the formation of new Chapters.

Of the Council Degrees, he says : "I am satisfied that the Council Degrees cannot prosper in this jurisdiction under the supervision of Chapters, and that the control of them should be surrendered to the Grand Council at once."

Business local.

The jurisdiction is divided into seven districts, which are under the supervision of the officers of the Grand Chapter, and as each one makes his report of the general condition of each Chapter, he also adds a tabular statement of the financial condition of the Chapters of his district. This strikes us as of eminent service, and as a plan that might with great profit be introduced here. It must lead to the exercise of great care in the management of the finances of the several Chapters and a laudable emulation. In the aggregate those Chapters reporting are found to hold no less than \$125,014 as a fund on which to draw to relieve distress.

Companion Samuel Shannon, Grand High Priest.

Companion Gil W. Barnard, Grand Secretary.

Companion Theo. T. Gurney once more is restored to the position and made the report on Correspondence.

In resuming the pen he makes the announcement in a very beautiful introduction, from which we copy the following :

There are many questions claiming attention, consequent upon fresh theories, and a constant delving after the curious in jurisprudence. If the reportorial department of masonic literature has not accomplished aught else, it has been instrumental in harmonizing many of these conflicting opinions, and bringing jurisdictions into closer and more intimate relations. These evidences of progress are gratifying, but they bear insignificant proportions to the advancement made in the inner, active life of the institution. Masons are rapidly learning that organizations, having the welfare of man as the centre of their hopes for usefulness, must be on the alert to preserve themselves from being tainted by any influences that will cast shadows upon integrity of purpose. *Masonry* looks to the exalted possibilities of a man as its ideal of fraternity. It demands of us honor, charity ; and in all the walks of life a growing appreciation of the great fact that we should stand between the Infinite, and the man that He would draw into closer communion with Himself.

The dry technicalities of jurisprudence or Ritual, pale before the grander thought of the Royal Craft. We should not for a moment forget that we are to be fitted and prepared as living stones for that spiritual building, represented to us in the chapter. In other words, we are to be men controlled by principles that lie at the foundations of every laudable undertaking. Jurisprudence should be as near perfect and harmonious as possible, and Ritual the best that human ingenuity can devise ; but both must be adapted to, and in unison with the fraternal edifice.

Companions, we have great faith in masonry. We believe it a chosen instrumentality for the cultivation of the underlying and undying principles that are at the basis of all good government ; therefore it is that we are jealous of its fair fame. Sectarian and theological peculiarities are not involved. We must stand upon the broad platform of *manhood*. We care not for a man's nativity, his color or theology ; but we do insist that every craftsman should have an individuality that does not admit of question as to his purity and integrity. It costs nothing to be a man above reproach. The highway to our best commissions is an avenue adorned with attractions, that grow in appreciation and beauty the more earnestly they are contemplated. Not only is it without toll-gates or other demands upon purse or good sense, but it has the grand charm of Faith, Hope and Charity, beckoning us onward to the most perfect conceptions of the present and future. On the other hand, the road to degradation is immeasurable in proportions, and made attractive to stunted sensibilities by displays that rob the pocket, destroy life, blasting hopes for usefulness, and taking us from the world without a contribution to its welfare.

He gives Alabama for 1881 courteous notice, and quotes liberally from the proceedings. He takes issue with us as to the necessity of

the presence of the charter to constitute a legal Chapter, and as all the reporters who are lawyers do, he argues that "a deed of conveyance is evidence of my right to the property, but its destruction does not invalidate my claim, &c." We do not feel inclined to argue the question. We simply refer to what is taught in the first degree in masonry on this subject which is so characteristically enforced in the second Chapter degree, and say that whatever theories may be spun upon the subject the views we entertain must be correct until some changes, and very great ones too, are made in some of the degrees of Masonry. We well remember how emphatically we were taught never to attempt to preside over a body of Masonry without the actual presence of the instrument under whose authority we act, and which alone prevents it from being illegal if not clandestine.

He devotes much space to the consideration of the question as to what should be the effect of suspension for non-payment of dues in Lodge, but as this is well settled in Alabama whether judiciously or not we do not think it remains a debatable one with you, my companions, nor do we believe that you wish any change in the rule.

INDIANA.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Indiana was held October 18th, 1882, with Companion Charles H. Butterfield, Grand High Priest, in the East. There were present 77 out of 84 Chapters, whose membership embraces 4,755, there having been an increase of 154 during the year.

The address of the Grand High Priest is concise and pointed, referring only to business.

The Craft is harmonious and prosperous. The finances in a healthy state. Dues to the Grand Chapter were reduced to thirty-five cents.

Albert P. Charles, Grand High Priest.

John M. Bramwell, Grand Secretary.

The Grand High Priest, as is usual in this jurisdiction, made the report on Correspondence, reviewing among others the proceedings of Alabama for 1881. Of the reception of representatives of other jurisdictions, he playfully and satirically says :

The "new" Representatives of sister jurisdictions were formed in procession and presented to the presiding officer, and warmly welcomed to the Convocation, given the right hand of fellowship, and notified that as ministers plenipotentiary and envoys extraordinary, extra care of their lives and healths should be taken, and due notice

given them in case of war between the jurisdictions, that they might retire in ample season to places of safety.

The report is an admirable synopsis of the proceedings reviewed.

IOWA.

This Grand Chapter held its Twenty-Ninth Annual Convocation on the 12th September, 1882, Companion Augustus C. Sherwood, Grand High Priest, presiding, with representatives from 75 Chapters. The total number is 97, with a membership of 5,413, there having been an increase during the year in the 90 Chapters reporting of 535.

The Grand High Priest says :

We do not believe that we can elevate or improve Masonry, but we can and should earnestly endeavor to maintain its excellence by preserving the rules and landmarks received from our predecessors, and by handing them down unchanged to our successors.

Masonry has but two great enemies to fear and guard against—firstly, in the Grand Body, too much and too hasty legislation ; and secondly, and greater than all, in the subordinates, the admission of poor material. Naturally, a large quantity of it may be expected to present itself. Only by careful inspection and prompt and stern rejection can we escape the evil. As an assistance to this, the wise selection of committees of investigation by the presiding officer can do much, but every companion should feel that the purity and success of Masonry rests upon him personally, and he should be an investigating committee for himself.

And in this connection we add what Companion Horace S. Winslow, Chairman of Committee on Correspondence, says of our repeal of the resolution of our Grand Chapter requiring examination in each degree before advancing. We do not see the force of his position, for in the Chapter we are not dealing with profanes, but with brethren, and if fit associates in the Lodge, why not in the Chapter?

The rule requiring examinations for advancement and proficiency in each degree was repealed, and evidently a great mistake made. Just one more barrier removed, just one more step in the direction of making access into the order more easy. All these moves should be labeled and sent out to the profane, that they may know we are more than anxious "to take them in." We are now standing in slippery places. There is danger from over-popularity, and the acceptance of unworthy or improper material. Will we not be warned in time, and begin to put up rather than let down the fences? Let us have no cheap or easy-made Masons.

Business local ; finances healthy, and Chapters prosperous.

Companions A. C. Sherwood and William B. Langridge, were respectively elected Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary.

Of and in relation to the Council Degrees, Companion Winslow says :

"Affiliate" like we do in Iowa. Everything works smoothly. To be sure, t "General Grand" may get after us, and if so,

"We'll stand the storm—
It won't be long."

It's where eventually the order must anchor, if these beautiful degrees are to be served to us, and by us transmitted to those who shall follow after.

We know not how it may be in other jurisdictions, but here in Alabama whose M. Ill. G. M. went in at Detroit for the formation of the G. G. Council, so-called, the number of Councils represented annually has grown less by degrees.

Under Kentucky, alluding to the re-establishment of the G. Council and the surrender of the degrees by the Grand Chapter, we find him saying what we give below. It must be recollected that these degrees in Iowa are under the direction of the Grand Chapter, and that the Chapters which organized the Grand Chapter were chartered by the G. G. Chapter with provision for conferring these degrees :

And so peace reigns in Warsaw once more, the finality being, of course, as problematical as ever. Let it be conceded that these degrees ought to be preserved—and they ought to, let their origin be what it may, and that is not doubtful. We are unable to appreciate all this confusion that arises among the workmen about them and over them. We have no objection to the conferring of them in Councils, and where there is a desire for numerous high-sounding titles and numerous offices, and an interest can be kept alive, we would favor such a course. But experience has demonstrated that the attempt, so far, has been a comparative failure. It is the part of reason and good sense to acknowledge this and adapt ourselves to the legitimate results that flow from this experience. We do not care whether the Chapter assumes the work and preserves and confers the degrees as a trustee, or they be given as appendent orders, the practical result obtained is the same—that is the ultimate object sought after. When we get educated up to the point that we can divest ourselves of some of the refined subtleties and technicalities which cling to the institution, making obscurity still more obscure, the way out of the woods will not be half so tedious or difficult. Our labor for a while should be in that direction. The mysterious and occult behind us, the path of duty, illumined by the golden rays of faith, hope, and charity, will surely guide us to the right, and make an order founded upon the everlasting principles of truth and right the boast of an approving world. At this shrine we kneel and offer up the ob-

lations of a heart caring little for form, manner, and ceremony—all for the real, actual good.

Having elsewhere given the views of the strict constructionists, we quote the following to show the reverse of the picture, and with this extract must abandon this excellent report. Under New York :

The Grand High Priest decided, among other things, that he had no power to grant a dispensation to ballot for a candidate within the constitutional limit, or, as it is usually expressed, "out of time," and this was sustained. For the good of the order, we wish this was so, but cannot bring our mind to such a conclusion. The Grand Chapter most certainly might do this, for it is a sovereignty, really, of the despotic sort; it commands, the member obeys; it wills, the order executes; it is above and over constitutions or by-laws, and in session is supreme. The Grand High Priest, while the Grand Body is not in session, is its representative, and the right to issue dispensations inheres in and constitutes a part of this office. He has the same right and power, too, to issue a dispensation as he has to make a decision and enforce it with his edict—a right which exists as a part of the unwritten law—a prerogative incident to the position, and one we believe to be essential to the maintenance and preservation of the order itself, however much at times it may be abused. It is the source of all emergency power, and results as one of the attributes of the office, and is inseparably connected with and a part of it.

KENTUCKY.

The Sixty-Seventh Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on the 17th October, 1882, with Companion R. J. Laughlin, Grand High Priest, and representatives from 62 Chapters. Eighty-eight Chapters made returns, with a membership of 2,514; loss during the year of 48.

In consequence of the inability of the Grand High Priest to attend to the duties of the office, the Deputy Grand High Priest, Howard R. French, made the address, giving an account of the acts of both himself and of the Grand High Priest, which he introduces in the following words :

On the 19th day of July last I received from the M. E. Grand High Priest official notice of his inability longer to discharge the duties of that office, in consequence of which I have been called upon as the next of rank to exercise the prerogatives of that exalted station, and by his request submit a report of his official acts as well as my own, during that brief period. He also constitutes me his proxy to greet you on this occasion, and ask you to co-operate with him in the effort to legislate with an eye single to the best interests of the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction.

We think his views eminently correct when he avows that "it is highly important that there should be in every new Chapter established at least one companion who is competent to do and to teach." In the absence of evidence to this effect, he refused a dispensation for a new Chapter until he became convinced of this fact.

He thinks the G. G. Chapter will ultimately eliminate the P. M. degree from the Chapter.

The charters of sixteen Chapters were declared forfeited.

Companion Howard R. French, M. E. Grand High Priest.

Companion Joseph H. Branham, E. G. Secretary.

Companion Hiram Bassett once more comes to the front with the report on Correspondence, reviewing Alabama for 1881. Commenting on the repeal of the regulation which required candidates for advancement to be examined as to their proficiency in each degree, he says :

The regulation is considered a step in the right direction, and your committee is of opinion that its general observance would be highly beneficial. The lack of zeal and interest manifested by the great mass, it is feared, of R. A. M., is owing, in a great degree, to their scanty knowledge of the steps they have taken. When a brother's knowledge of the Rituals is such as to render him useful in the ceremonies of Masonry, he will generally be found in attendance upon the meetings, and taking an active part in the business of the body. The *Masonic ladder* has been made too easy of ascent. It would be better far if three, six, or even *twelve* months were required to reach the topmost round, than from one to two, as now; unless *proficiency* was exhibited before each succeeding step. Let *advancement* depend upon *knowledge*, and whilst we might have fewer *members*, we would have more *masons*; and such a blemish, or *cancerous* spot as a dormant, or *comatose* Lodge, or Chapter, would never be found eating into the vitals of the *body-masonic*.

We thank him for his kind words of ourself.

This Grand Chapter relegated the Council Degrees to the Grand Council if one can be found, but itself will have none of it.

LOUISIANA.

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of this State was held February 13th, 1883, with M. E. Andrew Hero Jr., Grand High Priest, in the East. There were present representatives from 13 Chapters. Twenty-three chartered chapters appear upon the roll, with a total membership of 860. During the year there was a loss of 22.

The Grand High Priest declares that he thinks there is an increased

interest visible among the Craft, and that the condition has improved. He speaks of a custom having grown up among the Chapters in the northern part of the State of acting upon the original petition of one rejected, after the lapse of the time required by the laws of the Grand Chapter without any further application by the petitioner or notice to the members. This is indeed strange.

The plan of districting the State and assigning a Grand Officer to each district for visitation was adopted by the Grand High Priest with excellent results.

Companion Horner, from the Committee on Correspondence, reports the receipt of the proceedings and states that the committee had decided to make no report this year because of the financial condition of the Grand Chapter, and thus speaks of his companions. With so little interest exhibited by the Craft there in the acts of those in other jurisdictions, it is not strange that there is lack of means :

While we are convinced that reviews of the proceedings of sister Grand Chapters are greatly conducive to the good of this Grand Chapter, and to that of the order generally, in creating emulation, maintaining and fostering fraternal relations, and in promoting harmony and uniformity of work and legislation, still, the reports of the various Committees on Correspondence are not so widely read and studied as some companions imagine, and in many instances are perused only by the reviewers themselves, and written principally to that end. In illustration of our meaning, we having not made a report for some years prior to ours of last year, since the appearance of that, have had the curiosity to ask many members of this Grand Chapter whether they had read it, and we have failed to find three among all your members who would plead guilty to the "soft impeachment."

Taking all things into consideration, therefore, your Committee feel fully justified in the adoption of their determination to hereafter present a review every second year, unless matters of urgency should arise.

The Finance Committee make a probable deficit of \$670.

Companion James Louis Lobdell was made Grand High Priest, and Companion J. C. Batchelor, continued Grand Secretary.

MARYLAND.

Here come now the proceedings of the Eighty-Fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, held on 14th November, 1882, under the supervision of Companion William F. Cochran, Grand High Priest, with representatives from the entire number of

Chapters, 11. The total membership is 1,132, being an increase over last year of 19.

Of R. A. Masonry, the Grand High Priest says :

I am glad to be able to report that the outlook for Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction is a most encouraging one. Almost without exception the Chapters have been constantly at work, and quite a large number of the brethren have been exalted to the degree of the Royal Arch, and have attained the perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry. Much interest is taken in the work, and a healthy degree of rivalry exists, particularly between some of our city Chapters, which results in the officers, especially those on the floor, embracing every opportunity to perfect themselves in the Ritual, and creating a noble spirit of emulation as to "who can best work and best agree."

The Grand Lecturer reports "the same state of quietude that he found them in last year" as prevailing in the country Chapters, but that "there has not been that enthusiasm among the Royal Craft that is so desirable to have, for its success in our jurisdiction."

Companion Charles V. S. Lewy, Grand High Priest.

Companion Geo. L. McCahan, Grand Secretary.

Companion E. T. Schultz made the report on Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings from Alabama for 1881.

Under California, after quoting what Companion Caswell says in regard to the inherent powers of a Grand High Priest who insisted "that neither of them (a Grand High Priest or Grand Master) have any power not conferred upon them by the Constitution," he says :

If this be so, the Grand Master and Grand High Priest have no more powers than the chairman of a debating society, or the president of a political ward association. Concede this, and then declare that the actual presence of the charter is not necessary to form a Lodge ; that an installed officer can resign ; that bodies U. D. have all the rights of chartered bodies ; that one who has not served as Warden can be elected Master ; that for the failure to pay a few dollars Lodge dues a brother can be deprived of all the rights, benefits and privileges of Masonry ; set aside these and a few more of the ancient regulations—then pray tell us wherein this ancient and time honored institution of ours differs from any of the modern societies ?

The report throughout is an exceedingly pleasant one, but we are constrained to leave it.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The usual Quarterly Convocations of this Grand Chapter was held, as well as the Annual, which was opened for its Eighty-Third Convocation in Ample Form by Alfred C. Smith, Grand High Priest, on

December 12th, 1882. Representatives from 47 Chapters were present.

There are within the jurisdiction 69 Chapters, with a membership of 9,196, there having been a loss of 18 during the year.

As soon as the Grand Chapter was opened the work was exemplified, and at the conclusion of the M. E. M., "the Craft were called to refreshment, and repairing to the Banquet Hall, partook of the annual collation," and afterwards upon re-assembling the R. A. Degree was exemplified.

The Grand High Priest, Alfred F. Chapman, was introduced and received with appropriate honors.

The Grand High Priest delivered an address replete with good advice, plainly and earnestly uttered. He urges every companion under no circumstances to fail in his selection of a mark, and recording the same, and says :

The question may therefore be asked, Why do Chapters neglect to provide this priceless record? Some, I am credibly informed, neglect the observance because there is no written law making it obligatory upon them. Companions, there are laws more solemnly binding upon Masons than are to be found recorded in the by-laws or Books of Constitutions. They are to be found in the *Ancient Landmarks* and in our solemn obligations. As a Landmark I would refer to the bounden duty of every Mark Master, at the building of the Temple, to choose his Mark and to affix it to his work. And it is not necessary for me to refer to your solemn vow, but to the great lessons which so closely follow, and which clearly show that the Mark is held by ancient usage as a pledge of friendship, a sign of brotherhood, sacred and inviolable. Why, let me ask, are those ties incorporated into the work of the Degree, if the Mark itself is a thing left to the whim and caprice of the individual, to be by him adopted or discarded at pleasure? The Key-stone without the distinctive mark of its owner is but a bawble ; and, so far as the individual wearer is concerned, it has no Masonic significance whatever.

We commend to the earnest perusal of our companions the following, because the practice of the social feelings is what is badly needed by Masons everywhere :

I would also earnestly urge upon all the importance of cultivating the social element of this institution. Open wide your doors and make the stranger Mason feel that the lines which divide your Chapters are only imaginary ; and by your kind and courteous treatment so impress him with the value of our great Brotherhood that, having once found the way, he may often be seen within your sanctuary.

I have no hesitation in saying that the social Chapter is the successful one. Hospitality should be governed at all times by prudence and discretion ; but the small amount expended in order that the members may become well known to each other is certainly pro-

ductive of more lasting results than a treasury which always opens to receive and seldom to impart.

Companion Albert C. Smith was re-elected Grand High Priest.

Companion Zeph H. Thomas, re-elected Grand Secretary.

Companion Dadmun, that veteran reporter, so ready to poise a lance with the best, yet so full of kindness and charity, again came forward with his usual full report on Correspondence. We are greatly gratified in finding ourself "in the same boat" with our friend, for his views are usually sound on Masonic law.

We agree with him fully when he says :

That a Masonic body has a right to dispose of its own moneys for any and all Masonic purposes, and that *charity* is one of the legitimate purposes of Masonry,—“help, aid, and assist;” and that no Grand Body has any right to dictate to its subordinates in the disposition of its funds, further then to collect its own dues.

Of attaching the Cryptic to the Chapter Degrees, he says : “If appended to the Chapter they will be ‘a body of death.’”

Everywhere throughout this truly excellent report, we find him combating the punishment of suspension as such and in its fullest sense, for non-payment of dues. He labors hard to show that the punishment is too severe. We, however, think that to the wisdom of each Grand Body should be left the provision of the punishment they may deem necessary for any Masonic offense.

We like his reply to Companion Cottrill, of Wisconsin, who thinks that the G. G. Chapter should cut off all communication with the Grand Chapter of Texas, which views are also those of Companion Innes of Michigan, and we present them to you :

It is true that the Grand Chapter of Texas had no right to declare its independence after the Southern Confederacy had been formed? We think it had just as much right to do so as had the Blue Lodges of America to declare their independence of the Grand Lodges of the mother country immediately after the Declaration of Independence. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts did so in 1777; and that, too, *during the war* of the Revolution. More than this, the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter does clearly and unequivocally declare that that Grand Body has “no power to *censure or suspend* any State Grand Chapter.” Companion Cottrill must read the Constitution again. We sincerely hope Texas will reunite, but to declare “non-intercourse” would *surely prevent it*.

MICHIGAN.

On the 16th day of January, 1883, this Grand Chapter held its Thirty-Fourth Convocation under the supervision of M. E. Compan-

ion Wm. S. Turck, Grand High Priest. One hundred Chapters were represented. At that time there were 100 chartered Chapters active. At this Convocation four additional Chapters were chartered, making the entire number of active Chapters at the termination of the Convocation 104. Total membership, 7,625; net gain during the year, 280.

Our estimable Companion Innes has given no footings, and the labor of obtaining the above is consequently enhanced.

The address of the Grand High Priest is a model for its conciseness and clearness, being devoted to business entirely. He recommended that a fee be required whenever a dispensation for any purpose was asked and the Grand Chapter approved and placed the cost of such at five dollars. His decisions were so entirely in accordance with the well established principles of Masonic law as to render it useless to quote any of them here.

From the report of Grand Secretary Innes we are extremely pleased to quote :

From the returns of subordinates I am glad to announce a gratifying increase of membership, as well as a decrease in suspensions and expulsions. Royal Arch Masonry appears to be engaging the earnest attention of thinking Master Masons, and we hope, with our four new Chapters working under dispensation to be added to our number this year that we will show a still further increase, and that the work may be good and square, and entitle all to the wages due the workmen.

The committees on Appeals and Grievances found nothing to act on. A gratifying condition.

Companion George Hill was made Grand High Priest.

Companion Innes remaining Grand Secretary.

Companion Innes again came to the front and submitted the report on Correspondence, which is, as usual, full of good things, and gives our companions of Michigan a very complete view of the condition of the Royal Craft in other jurisdictions. From his introduction we take the following, expressing our entire concurrence in his views :

Your Committee notice with pleasure that the rulings on Masonic Law are becoming more uniform every year. We believe much of this is due to these reports on Foreign Correspondence, as, by reading them, presiding officers are led to ascertain the rulings of others, and also of the comments made by the several Committees on Jurisprudence.

Thanks, very many thanks, to him for his kind estimate of ourself. We yet hope we may greet our friend and companion where the warm

waters of the Gulf stream wafts its balmy breezes over us, at our own home in the lovely tho' despised 'Sunny South.'

Alabama receives very full and kind notice, and extracts from the address of the D. G. H. P are freely given :

We have carefully conned every line of his report and find the selections from the proceedings reviewed most judicious, nor have we been able to meet anything to find fault with, such a spirit of right good humor pervades it all. The nearest approach, perhaps, to its loss is to be found in the following extract from his comments on the address of the Grand High Priest of Mississippi, Companion Speed :

Suppose Mississippi should adopt such a law unto herself. What could the General Grand Chapter do about it? They acknowledge they have no power of discipline, nor do we think the great and magnificent body has any power "at all, at all." The proper thing to do is for Mississippi to go ahead and let the other fellow "knock the chip off their shoulders."

We can't help thinking there's a little bit of irony there when we recollect how our Companion wanted the G. G. Chapter to summarily chastise our sister Texas at the Convocation held at Detroit in 1880. But then we know his amiability, and know though not perhaps altogether guileless, yet he possesses the minimum share given to us mortals. He, as follows, shows this when under Nebraska, he says :

True, we do not impress many of our own ideas upon the Royal Craft except upon subjects having universal connection with Royal Arch Masonry. Could we see any good to be obtained by discussion and raising of differences we would gladly permit every Companion of the corps reportorial to "tread on our corns," and put us "to hopping." As to the settling of any disputed question through reports on Foreign Correspondence, it can't "be did," in our way of thinking.

MISSISSIPPI.

At the Thirty-Fifth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on 12th February, 1883, there were present M. E. Companion Wm. Richards, Grand High Priest, and representatives from 43 Chapters. Forty-five made returns, showing a membership of 1,251, with a loss of 16 during the year.

Our Companions of Mississippi seem to have fallen into a state of lethargy, which the Grand Lecturer attributes to the financial depression of the country," but which the Committee on the state of the Order assign to "a want of sufficient Masonic unity of action between the Companions of Subordinate Chapters, brought about by a

carelessness which amounts to a violation of a solemn covenant. A further reason: A want of ability of so many officers of Chapters to give the work and lectures properly to applicants, and make the meetings interesting to its members.

The Grand High Priest recommended a reduction in the mileage and per diem, which, after much discussion and a majority and minority report from the committee to whom the same was referred, was adopted.

In consequence of the organization of G. G. Council, and because of the diversity of opinion as to the propriety of what is known as the Mississippi plan, the Committee to whom was referred the consideration of a resolution looking to the abandonment of it, made the following report, which we copy with the action of the Grand Chapter thereon:

To the M. E. Grand Chapter:

The Special Committee to whom was referred the memorial of Companion Savery and others, requesting the repeal of the resolutions and edicts of the Grand Chapter relative to the degrees of Royal and Select Master (pages 17 and 21 for 1882,) beg leave to report, that after mature consideration of the subject, they have seen no reason to doubt the lawfulness, wisdom and propriety of the action of the Grand Council and Grand Chapter in 1877, in placing these degrees under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, and they still adhere to the opinion expressed by Companion Walter in his address of that year, that "the 'Most Excellent' degree has been emasculated and denuded of its beauty, by its separation from the degrees of the Council," and that the force and unity of the so-called "American Masonic System," has been greatly weakened, if not destroyed, by an inversion in the order of the communication of Masonic traditions and the lessons they convey; and not only this, in order to accomplish this result a needless expense is incurred by the maintenance of a set of bodies, which in themselves accomplish no good purpose and exist without any good reason, unless it be to illustrate the tenacity with which an anomaly is sometimes clung to by even the wisest and best of men. We have nevertheless examined the subject anew with all the care its importance demands.

The strongest and at the same time the weakest argument, which has been urged against our plan of conferring these degrees, is that we have destroyed the harmony of the American Masonic System. If that system were in harmony with itself or any other Masonic system, if in point of fact it were a system and entitled to be dignified by such an appellation; if it were not a mere ruthless setting aside of the system of the mother country, in order to set up something "American" in its place; if it were an attempt to produce a harmonious whole in which the degrees were logically arranged instead of being interjected, one here and another there, without any regard to the degree preceding or the one following, and if notwithstanding its patent defects, it had been adopted and prevailed anywhere outside

of the United States, then there would be some force in the assertion that something had been destroyed. The fact is that ours was an attempt to produce an approach towards a system by giving to the candidate complete instruction in one body, instead of compelling him to complete it in a separate organization. That we have failed to impress our views on our Companions elsewhere, much as we may regret it, is but too manifest. The time may come when the Mark Master's degree will be restored to the Lodge and its instruction given to the Fellow Craft, who has been illogically deprived of it in order that another degree might be created; the Past Master's degree, which has no connection with the Chapter may be relegated to the Grand Lodges who will communicate it as an official degree, and it may yet be discovered that it would be much more logical to make a deposit before finding a thing, especially when a long period of time is supposed to elapse between the two transactions. But the period has not yet been reached when intelligent men have ceased to find pleasure in practicing such absurdities, and we presume they will continue this unsystematic method of procedure so long as the idea predominates that it is unnecessary to have an "American system" of Masonry. If it were fashionable to wear red breeches, although it would not now strike us as a pleasing color, we would all have them, and as our friends insist upon following the plans of an architect who builds his house upwards and downwards by turns, as it pleases his fancy, it may not be the part of wisdom for us to fall in with the prevailing fashion, but it would be at least good fellowship, and as we can do so without the sacrifice of any principle, it is fraternally suggested that as the great body of Capitular Cryptic Masons throughout the Union favor the "old way," that so far as we can do so, we take steps to re-establish the Councils. We do not think, however, that any very great number of Cryptic Masons in this State are filled with a raging desire to revive the Councils as separate organizations, in fact we doubt whether any Council will be revived, even if the way is made clear for them to do so. Lest, however, we may be mistaken, we recommend the adoption of the following as a preliminary step towards the repeal of the concordat between the Grand Council and the Grand Chapter; if it should be demonstrated that there is a sufficient number of Council Masons who are willing to undertake the labor and undergo the expense of reviving their Councils, the way will be open to our next meeting to re-establish the Grand Council, and if it should be found that nine of the old Councils cannot be revived, we will still be in a position to assist and maintain our control over the Chapter degrees:

Resolved, That whenever any nine members of any one of the Councils of Royal Select Masters, formerly existing in this State shall assemble and elect officers, on application to the Grand Secretary, he be and is hereby directed to return to them the charter and other effects in his possession of such Council, and it shall thereby be authorized to resume its labors as a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and that thereafter no Chapter, within the county in which a Council has resumed labor, shall confer the degrees of Royal and Select Masters; and,

Resolved further, That whenever nine Councils shall have resumed labor as prescribed in the foregoing resolution, the Illustrious Grand

Master of the Grand Council be requested to convene the same, and when said Grand Council shall officially inform the Grand Chapter that it has resumed labor, the Grand Chapter will not thereafter exercise any jurisdiction over the degrees of Royal and Select Master, and the several Subordinate Chapters will be prohibited from conferring these degrees.

Resolved further, That until otherwise ordered by the Grand Chapter, the several Subordinate Chapters, except where Councils are revived in the county in which said Chapters are established, are directed to continue to confer the Royal and Select Master degrees upon all those members who may desire them.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

J. M. HOWRY,
FREDERICK SPEED.

We indorse the resolution, but dissent from preamble.

B. T. KIMBROUGH,
P. M., SAVERY,
JNO. A. GALBREATH.

MINORITY REPORT.

To the Grand Chapter:

The undersigned of Special Committee to whom was referred the Memorial of sundry Companions in relation to the merger of Capitular and Cryptic degrees, would respectfully report that, in their judgment, no good reason exists for disturbing the action heretofore taken by this Grand Body.

E. GEO. DELAP,
W. G. PAXTON,
J. L. POWER.

Companion Paxton moved to adopt the Minority Report.

After an earnest and protracted discussion, in which Companions Savery, Speed, Howry, Galbreath, Kimbrough, French, Bowen and Paxton participated, Companion R. C. Patty moved that the consideration of the whole subject be postponed until the next Grand Convocation. Which motion was lost.

The question recurring on the motion of Brother Paxton, the Minority Report was adopted.

Companion Frederick Speed, P. G. High Priest, was elected to represent this Grand Chapter in the Convocation of the G. G. Chapter at Denver in 1883, than which a better choice could not have been made.

Companion B. T. Kimbrough, elected Grand High Priest.

Companion J. L. Power, Grand Secretary.

Companion W. G. Paxton made the report on Correspondence, in which we find Alabama for 1881.

When noticing the comments of Companion Caswell, of California, on the position taken by Nebraska in her Grand Chapter in relation to the Council degrees, and his assertion that the Grand Chapter

"has no more right to claim jurisdiction over the Cryptic degrees than it has to control the Order of Haymakers," he thus claps his hands and laughs :

Won't there be fun when the M. P. G. G. Council issues a pronouncement of that character? Who is going to organize the Grand Council, and is it expected that the Grand Chapter will quietly submit? Possibly it might be found that the pop-guns of the General Grand will meet response from the columbiads and mortars of the Grand Chapter.

We copy his remarks on the "Mississippi Plan" under New Jersey, and close :

That the brethren are not a unit upon the merger policy is evident, and, from the action taken, those at a distance are led to opine that the supporters of the present system were not willing to stand the test of a vote upon the question at issue. Another year will probably dispose of the subject, by relegating to the original owners that which was accepted in trust.

Well, is it either unusual or extraordinary that in as large a number as constitute the membership of our Grand Chapter the brethren should not be a unit on a question that has occupied so much of the time and thought and given rise to so much discussion among the leading minds of the Order? We trow not. Obedient as is the Royal Craft to their Grand Chapter, and ready as they are to bow to its discussions, it would be extraordinary, even beyond all precedent, if on occasions some were not found who would have preferred different action. We recognize the right of appeal and these Companions have exercised that right. Yes, another year will dispose of the question, but *not* in the manner suggested. Mississippi has no apologies to make for past action, and does not propose to stultify herself. We can be led, but never driven, and in the present attitude of this question any backward step on our part, dictated as it might be solely by a desire for harmony, would at once be construed and held up as a surrender "under pressure." We had rather not.

NEBRASKA.

The Sixteenth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 19th December, 1882, under the supervision of William H. Munger, M. E. D. Grand High Priest, with representatives from 14 Chapters. There are 22 Chapters in all, with a total membership of 1047. The gain during the year was 115.

M. E. Companion Samuel P. Davidson, the Grand High Priest, was absent, having recently been elevated to a position upon the Bench of this State, but forwarded his address, which was read by the Grand Secretary. It treated of interests local only, save where a member of one of the Chapters of Nebraska having moved into Col-

orado, without having dimitted from his Chapter, had become one of the charter members of a new Chapter there chartered by the G. G. Chapter. The Nebraska Chapter expelled him from the order, and a question arose as to his standing in Colorado. We are at a loss to discover on what our Colorado companions could rest a doubt.

The following we extract to show that our companions in Nebraska entertain the same views as the writer of this upon the powers or *prerogatives* of a Grand High Priest. This was unanimously adopted, showing that our companions there look upon this officer as a creature of the constitution, and possessing no powers not conferred by it :

Add to Article IV of the constitution, the following section :

SECTION 9. In the recess of the Grand Chapter the Grand High Priest, or in a proper case the Deputy Grand High Priest, shall have power in his discretion to issue special dispensations for the following purposes :

1. To elect and install, or to install officers of a subordinate chapter at a time other than that specified in the by-laws.

2. To receive and act upon petitions for the degrees in less than the required time, or without regard to time.

3. To exercise such other prerogatives and powers of dispensation as are recognized as belonging to the office of Grand Master of Masons in Nebraska.

4. Before the granting of any special dispensation mentioned in paragraph (1) one of this section, there shall be paid to the Grand High Priest for the use of this Grand Chapter, the sum of five dollars.

Before granting any special dispensation authorized by paragraph (2) two of this section, there shall be paid to the Grand High Priest, for the use of this Grand Chapter, the sum of ten dollars.

William H. Munger, Grand High Priest.

William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary.

Companion Edwin F. Warren made the report on correspondence. We had not these proceedings last year and missed his valuable report. Suspension for non payment of dues having been pretty freely discussed, and its effect not yet having fully and finally made uniform, we give his views thereon entire, knowing that their value will plead my excuse :

SUSPENSION FROM MEMBERSHIP—ITS EFFECT.

In discussing the question whether Pennsylvania and Nebraska are right in requiring visiting companions to declare, among other things, that they have not been "suspended from membership" in lodge or chapter for non-payment of dues, our opponents, notably Companions Drummond and Dammun, complain that we will not recognize the distinction between "suspension from membership" and "suspension" without qualification : and we are informed that for a hundred years and more this distinction has existed in Maine and Massa-

chusetts, and a well established difference in the standing of those thus suspended has long been recognized in those jurisdictions where the practice is in vogue. It is true that some of those who condemn the distinction as vicious ignore it entirely, and insist that there is and can be no suspension without it is from all the rights of Masonry, and this perverseness makes our eastern *confreres* impatient and disposed to call names.

As for ourself, we have always recognized that there may be the same difference in practice that there is in theory between the two kinds of suspension. We admit that there is a difference, and that by such distinction it is intended to inflict a greater or less punishment, according to the offense; that non-payment of dues is deemed a trivial matter, and accordingly punished with the lightest of penalties,—that of suspension from membership,—which, according to Drummond and Dadmun, merely unaffiliates him and leaves him *in good standing*. Or, as it is sometimes stated, it leaves him “with all his general rights unimpaired,” but deprived of all lodge rights and privileges. We do not quarrel with their practice, but when they insist that their members who are “suspended from membership” are in good standing, and hence have the right to visit in our chapters, as have all Masons in good standing, we dissent.

That non-payment of dues is considered a *masonic offense* is now admitted by every one, both in Maine and elsewhere. The “punishment” therefor can be inflicted only upon the judgment of the lodge after trial. Companion Drummond said, in 1880:

“Depriving a member of membership makes him an unaffiliated Mason, except that he cannot join another lodge until he pays his dues to his old one. It may be that under our laws non-payment of dues is not a masonic offense; still, as it involves a loss of rights by the judgment of a lodge, it comes very near being an offense.”

Those were Companion Drummond’s opinions in 1880. Companions Dadmun, Schultz, Robertson and every other reviewer who has discussed the question, has admitted, as of course, that non-payment of dues is a masonic offense: not one denies it, or attempts to gainsay it; nor does any of them deny that the infliction of the sentence is a “punishment” or “penalty” for the offense. And indeed that is the logical and consistent view to take of it, because there can be no “punishment” imposed without a violation of the law; no man is *guilty* of an “offense” unless he is worthy of some punishment.

To be sure, Drummond, seeing where his former admissions would lead him, and foreseeing complete defeat upon that battle-ground, in 1882 attempts to change his position, and he recants as follows. He says to us:

“Now, as to the law in Maine in relation to non-payment of dues, as it has stood for over one hundred years. The theory of lodge membership was, that it *was* a contract between the lodge and the member, and nothing more. The payment of dues entitled the party to the privilege of membership in the lodge, and upon his ceasing to pay, the lodge was entitled to deprive him of membership. The law did not hold that the non-performance of a contract was a criminal offense, any more than the civil law does now. For many years the Secretary used to strike the names of *delinquents* from the roll, of his own motion.”

It is true that the non-performance of a contract is not considered a criminal offense at the civil law, neither at the civil law does it subject a man to a trial in the criminal courts, with the result of a *loss of rights* in case of "conviction." Hence that conduct which does result in such a judgment cannot be considered a mere breach of contract. And Companion Drummond will also please note this fact, that we have no *civil* masonic courts wherein *contract* rights are adjudicated, but only *criminal* courts wherein members are arraigned for violations of or neglect of duty, upon conviction whereof the *offender* is *punished*.

We have it demonstrated, then, as well as conceded, that non-payment of dues is a masonic offense, and that it is *punished* in all jurisdictions with greater or less severity; in some by a suspension from *membership* in his Lodge, and in others by suspension from all the rights of Masonry; but it is entirely immaterial *what* the punishment is; we are concerned only with the fact that there is *some* punishment or disability inflicted, and its consequent effect upon his masonic standing.

Last year we advanced two postulates, which we insert here again and reaffirm:

1. Every Mason in *good* standing is upon an absolute equality with every other as to the number and extent of his masonic rights.

2. A Mason "suspended from membership" is deprived of one or more of his masonic rights.

From which we deduce:

3. Since the whole is greater than any number less than all of the parts, one suspended from membership is not in good standing.

These propositions have been assailed by both Companions Dadmun and Drummond. The latter says:

Assuming that the first proposition is correct, we say with equal truth:

2. An *unaffiliated* Mason is deprived of one or more of his masonic rights.

3. Hence an *unaffiliated* Mason is not and *cannot be* in good standing.

But we have already seen that he holds that *unaffiliated* Masons are in good standing.

And Companion Dadmun writes as follows of the first postulate:

That cannot be true in the light of good masonic law and usage. One Mason may not be a member of any lodge and still be in as good standing as another who is a member, and yet we all know that they are not on "an absolute equality as to the number and extent of their masonic rights." For example: A voluntary non-affiliate in New York and Nebraska is in good standing for twelve months, and in Massachusetts for an indefinite length of time; but in either State he does not have the "number of his masonic rights" which an affiliated Mason has—understanding him to include lodge rights in masonic rights.

Upon the second postulate he argues:

This is also faulty. Which rights? *General* rights acquired by initiation? or *local* rights acquired by affiliation? Suspension or discharge from membership in Massachusetts deprives a Mason of his *lodge* rights only, not one of his *general* rights being taken from him; and he cannot be deprived of all his masonic rights only on convic-

tion of masonic crime. Non-payment of dues is not a masonic crime according to ancient masonic usage.

Both our esteemed contemporaries, in discussing the first postulate, confound masonic *rights* with masonic *privileges*. A wide distinction exists between them. A Mason may deprive himself of the latter; he cannot of the former. He can lose the latter by his own voluntary act, without infringing upon his obligation, without violating any rule, regulation or by-law of his lodge or of Masonry. He can lose them by non-action, and remain innocent of wrong. But he cannot be deprived of his *rights* without trial and conviction. There must be first a willful refusal to obey the law, a finding by the court that he was able to perform, and the judgment of "guilty." As the result of that judgment he is deprived, in spite of himself, of some or all, as the case may be, of his masonic rights. What does the candidate knocking at the door of the lodge, desire, and what is granted to him? He asks for a part of the *rights, lights and benefits* of the lodge—nothing said about privileges; and he can be lawfully deprived of any portion of either only by the judgment of his peers. One suspended from membership, or deprived of or discharged from membership, is curtailed in his enjoyment of both the rights, lights and benefits, if indeed he is not altogether deprived of or suspended therefrom.

So we reiterate our first postulate; it is impregnable. Be candid and fair, and you will see a much plainer distinction between privileges and rights than there is between suspension from membership and suspension *pur et simple*.

In commenting upon the second postulate, Companion Dadmun inquires whether we mean that the delinquent is deprived of his "*general*" or "*local*" rights. It is immaterial to us which; take either you choose; the fact exists that he is deprived of the one or the other, and that is sufficient for us, because, not being on an equality with those who have both local and general rights intact, he is not on an equal standing—not in *good standing*. Companion Dadmun seems to make a distinction, or to raise the distinction, between masonic crimes (acts involving moral turpitude) and masonic misdemeanors (acts in violation of a by-law or some regulation.) This distinction sometimes shades off into the imperceptible. For instance: In Nebraska no man is guilty of grand larceny unless the value of the articles stolen equals or exceeds \$35. It is a felony, and we send one adjudged guilty of that to the "pen," while one who commits petit larceny is incarcerated in the county jail; it is a misdemeanor. But what advantage in a moral point of view has one who steals goods of the value of \$34.95 over him whose peculations include \$35.05? One is a "felon;" the other not; but both are punished and neither is in *good standing*.

Companion Dadmun continues:

Having fully defined the "*status* of one under discipline," we remark: that in arguing the *effect*, we think it perfectly logical to introduce the collateral bearing of the *propriety* of it; or, if you please, the "*fitness* of things." An *unjust* penalty, we claim, is clearly an unmasonic penalty, and should be discarded.

Does he mean *disregarded*? That is dangerous doctrine, and that notion will sometime return to plague the inventor. Upon that point

he stands alone. He says every jurisdiction can examine for itself and determine whether the penalty inflicted is unjust; if so, it may be discarded. No masonic jurist holds such an opinion except Companion Dadmun; even Drummond is not so radical as that. That is the most startling proposition "modern" Masonry has propounded. After having assisted us in silencing Companion Robertson, and fairly forcing the Grand Chapter of Canada to abandon its "heresy," lo! we find Companion Dadmun asserting it in its most vicious, dangerous and offensive form. Moreover, he is utterly inconsistent; he is "too too" on that. He declares that we must accept the *status* given the Mason at home unquestioningly, but at the very threshold he declares that he will exercise his right of judgment and review the justness of our sentences, and if we declare the offender guilty, he may declare him innocent of blame; but when they adjudge him guilty, and then proceed to declare him without fault, that we must accept both statements and receive him as in good standing.

We ground our position upon this proposition: No lodge or Grand Lodge has power to declare any Mason upon whom it has passed sentence of disqualification to be blameless or in good standing.

To do so would be inconsistent and contradictory; would be both a subversion and perversion of the objects, purposes and results of a masonic trial. But we are disposed to "let the whales fight it out among themselves."

Of the probable position now of the Grand Chapter towards the Council degrees he says:

At present we do not believe any resistance would be made to "re-instating" the councils. The "corpse" is now standing up outside our temple, and "owing to the lapse of time" has become offensive, and if the General Grand Council can resuscitate or galvanize it into life we will not interfere.

And we do not find that any action was had by the Grand Chapter relative to these degrees.

NEVADA.

We have before us, received just in time before the convocation of our Grand Chapter, the advance sheets of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Nevada for its convocations in 1882 and 1883.

The first being the ninth was held on 12th June, 1882, under the supervision of M. E. G. H. Priest, Frank Bell, with the entire eight chapters of the jurisdiction represented.

We have no method of ascertaining how many Royal Arch Masons there are in the jurisdiction, nor the probable gain or loss during the year.

The G. H. Priest says of the Craft that, "This year like the last has been one of great depression in business matters throughout the

jurisdiction, yet the condition of the Royal Craft has been prosperous."

Brother William Timson was elected Grand High Priest, and Bro. John D. Hammond Grand Secretary.

The Tenth Annual Communication was held on the 11th of June, 1883, with the R. E. Grand King, Adolphus L. Fitzgerald, as Grand High Priest, and Representatives from five subordinates present. The Grand High Priest being stricken with paralysis early during his term, the D. G. High Priest assumed the duties of the office. With the M. E. Grand High Priest we most heartily sympathize and condole with his family on this living death. Business, however, prevented the D. G. High Priest from being present. The Grand King congratulated the Companions that "Royal Arch Masonry was never more prosperous in the State of Nevada than at the present time,"

We are rejoiced to find a Chapter in this new State in a financial condition to abolish dues.

Companion Chauncey N. Noteware was made M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion John D. Hammond, re-elected Grand Secretary.

Companion Hammond furnished a limited report on Correspondence—limited because of the condition of the treasury, but giving our Companions of Nevada a very fair sketch of the condition of the Royal Craft in other jurisdictions. We copy his conclusion :

The proceedings, which for twice twelve months have been growing in numbers, as well as office dust, upon their special shelf, now lie scattered all about us, decidedly marked and surely past. So mote it be!

Tired and worn, we had thought just here to sign our name, yet, since there still is space, we feel constrained to send this our word of greeting to all the good and true in—

THOUGHT AND WORD AND DEED.

If the thought be worth the thinking,
Think, and let the dreaming go.
Smite the forces of thy being,
That the soul may see and know.
Thought is aye a chariot bright,
Wheeling through the worlds of light.

If the word be worth the saying,
Say it. Say it with a vim,
So that he who hears you, knows you
Are a man, akin to him.
Speech is aye a strong-linked chain,
Binding man to man again.

If the deed be worth the doing,
Do it well ; as in God's sight.
What thy busy hand here findeth,
Lo, He bids thee do with might.
Work is aye the key of life ;
Peace is gained by constant strife.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Sixty-Fourth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of this jurisdiction was held on May 16th, 1883, with M. E. Grand High Priest, Albert S. Wait, in the East, and representatives from 15 Chapters present.

The whole number of Chapters was 21, with a membership of 2,279, there being a gain during the year of 164.

It were well that we all remembered that every act of ours, however exalted or humble our positions in life must and will have its influence for good or ill not only now, but in time coming when we shall have passed away. This thought the Grand High Priest puts well to his companions in the following extract :

But, my companions, looking only to the realities of our own finite world, we cannot contemplate the influences which lie at the foundation of its progress without awaking to the great truth that our lives, transient and fleeting although they seem, are dependent upon whatever has gone before—identified with and essential to all that is to come after in the progress of future time ; in short, that they are given us here in order that they may confer upon us immortality. The mark we make by our lives upon human affairs, whether they shine by the brilliancy of great deeds, or pass unheeded by those around us, can never be obliterated—must be carried forward with the tide of general progress and cease not to endure.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported favorably approving in a lengthy report, a decision of a previous Grand High Priest which had been submitted to them at the last Annual Convocation, which was as follows :

A Master Mason who has been elected for the degrees conferred in the Chapter and who has received three of the Chapter degrees, and then receiving notice that he has been suspended by his Lodge for non-payment of dues, is not entitled to the Royal Arch degree until reinstated by his Lodge.

And the Grand Chapter adopted the following resolution, subsequently reported from the same committee :

Resolved, That it shall not be lawful for any Chapter within this

jurisdiction to receive the petition of any candidate for the degrees conferred therein unless such candidate is a member in good standing in some Lodge of Master Masons.

The session continued only one day.

Companion Charles N. Towle was elected Grand High Priest, and George P. Cleaves, Grand Secretary.

Companion John J. Bell made the report en Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of Alabama for both 1880 and 1881. We quote his notice of the decision of Companion Joiner as to the effect of a penal summons, and agreeing with him think that of late there has been introduced into our Masonic Code too many nice distinctions, too much hair-splitting for the ordinary masonic mind. We have always thought that honesty of purpose, common sense, and a proper feeling of charity commingled are all that are necessary to a proper decision of any Masonic question :

We presume this is so, as we see of late years many allusions to such a document, especially in the newer States ; but, in more than thirty years' experience as an active member of the Royal Craft, the writer never saw such a document, or heard of one being issued. In his earlier days in Masonry, he was taught that it was the duty of every Mason in every grade to attend the meetings of his Lodge, Chapter or other body when he received notice, verbal, written or other, and might be disciplined for his failure. And we cannot understand how any form of notice or summons, called by any name, can make his obligation greater or should bring surer punishment. It seems to us we are getting too much *red tape* and too fine-spun distinctions. However, if our companions get pleasure in such casuistry, we see no harm, *provided always*, that they do not relax the rule which requires every Mason to attend when notified, in whatever form, or excuse him from punishment on the mere pettifogger's plea that the notice was not formally correct.

Of Companion Ogden's views in relation to the presence of the charter, he says :

He approves the modern and lazy practice of opening without the charter, because he does not see the necessity. In this, one ancient peculiarity after another is removed from our institution, because our brethren are so unwilling to allow that the fathers might by possibility be equally wise with themselves. The reasoning by which this modern view is upheld would equally deny the necessity of any charter whatever, the Grand Chapter having granted it, what need of the paper or parchment writing, certifying the fact !

NEW JERSEY.

The pamphlet containing the proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey has just

come to hand, and though late, as ever welcome. Companion Charles L. Chovey, Grand High Priest, presided, there being present representatives from 28 Chapters.

The number of Chapters in this jurisdiction is 36, with a membership of 2,519, there having been a loss during the year of 19.

The address of the Grand High Priest is short and devoted to matters purely local in their interest.

The Grand Chapter declined to make the selection of a mark a necessary pre-requisite to the P. M. degree.

Companion Archibald J. Wark was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion Geo. B. Edwards, re-elected Grand Secretary.

Companion Edwards presented the report on Correspondence, giving full notice to the proceedings of Alabama for 1882. Noticing the request of Companion Sayre for an acknowledgment of the receipt of our proceedings over his written signature by those outside of Alabama to whom they are sent, he facetiously remarks :

Why is the request confined to those "out of the State" and "over written signatures" a desideratum? Is it to be inferred from the former, that where Daniel was "ruler over the whole province" and "sat in the gates of the king," the Masons had so fine a sense of the proprieties as to be entirely out of the pale wherein appear "Grand Secretaries and others," or can it be possible that the latter points to the purpose of collecting Masons' autographs? Should such a frenzy have taken possession of Companion Sayre, *nee* Daniel, he is hereby offered for his collection the original contract entered into by the first three Grand Masters, under their signatures and seals, the latter somewhat worn, binding each to be present at the distribution of their joint property. It is a gem. With this prelude the exhibit of virtue may be made.

The question we leave for Companion Sayre to answer, but we knew, or at least always believed, that our worthy Grand Secretary was *nee* Sayre, but cannot imagine he was *nee* Daniel. Let Companion Edwards explain.

His view of objection after ballot is tersely and concisely given below. It is from his own review of District of Columbia, Companion Larnier being the reporter :

The ground taken by this reviewer has been that the most ancient of the constitutions makes the action at the ballot final ; that in the present course of procedure a duly signed petition, generally with one or two avouchments, is received and referred for investigation ; report follows, which, no matter how good, the candidate must pass the secret ballot ; that such ballot cannot be reconsidered and is final, so far as the consideration of the petition is concerned at that presentation. Grant that an election is the consequence, for that is the issue of intent, what is that election? the unanimous approval of the

members present, the voice of the body as then constituted by the individual action of the members present, followed by a declaration of the collective fact. Should this dignified action be set aside by some member who has had the proper and inherent opportunity presented to him, by a simple "I object?" Is there any other vote of a body of Masons set at naught by an "I object" action? Should it not be at least accompanied by a reason to the members who have solemnly given their assent at the proper time to admission to the Order?

In the proceedings we find a condensed review of the session of the G. G. Chapter at Denver, from which we make only the following extract, hoping to receive a copy of the proceedings ere our Grand Chapter convenes. Quoting from address of Grand High Priest :

I was assured that this was done with the full knowledge of all the Companions, and especially of the High Priest and Scribe who desired it—the former having removed, permanently, to another territory, and the latter lived at an inconvenient distance. Accordingly, on September 7th, 1882, I gave the necessary dispensation, and confirmed the nominations.

I did this with greater confidence, because of the fact that Companion Bigelow was formerly a member of Clinton Chapter, at Clinton, Mass., where I had seen him frequently, and concluded that he must retain something of the good work of his mother Chapter.

A dangerous precedent—the deposition of installed officers. The inspiration of the "greater confidence," an exceedingly weak palliative—indeed, the address is scarcely of the character that the exigencies of the times demand, or that the Craft had a right to expect from the head of so important an Order. Its preparation, in avoidance of current interests, has been attended with such care, that the consummation is mere insipidity.

NEW YORK

Held the Eighty-Sixth Annual Convocation of its Grand Chapter on the 6th February, 1883, with M. E. Grand High Priest, James D. Pollard, in the East. Representatives from 187 Chapters were present. There are within this jurisdiction 15,159 members, there having been an increase during the year of 100. And on this subject the Grand Secretary in his report, says :

It will be seen from the foregoing that there has been an increase of membership during the past year, which, though small, in view of the fact that annually for the past six years a large decrease has been reported, is none the less gratifying as an indication of improvement in the general condition of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction.

The decisions of the Grand High Priest accord with the views entertained in the jurisdiction of Alabama.

The Grand High Priest refused in several instances to grant dispensations for the formation of new Chapters for the reason that "I was not able to satisfy myself that efficient and successful Chapters could be maintained at those points; and with the examples of Griswold, Doric and Deer River Chapters, as referred to in this report, immediately before my eyes, and my personal knowledge of many other Chapters in not much better condition, I felt that the establishment of any more weak Chapters would be an injustice to the Grand Chapter without being any lasting satisfaction to the local companions."

The business was local in character, and was completed in two days.

Companion James D. Pollard was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion Christopher G. Fox, Grand Secretary.

Companion Ogden again made the report on Correspondence, and we find in it Alabama for 1881. He thus opens his report :

The time has come for another review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters with which the M. E. Grand Chapter of the State of New York holds fraternal relations, and to all such, we send the greeting of Masonic regard and companionship, and our congratulations that the Royal Craft here, and so far as tidings come to us, is prosperous everywhere. A calm and thoughtful consideration of the subject leaves no doubt that the world is better because of "Free Masonry;" no doubt it girdeth up the loins of many for noble and worthy deeds; no doubt it smoothes to many the rough paths of this world, and makes less wearisome the journey from the "cradle to the grave;" no doubt it has soothed many an aching and wounded heart, and opened to many the fountains of friendship and kindly fellowship; no doubt it has laid its restraining hand on and in the hour of strong temptation held back many from wrong doing, turned them from the error of their ways and led them silently and gently back to a better life. And thus this great, world-wide institution commends itself to our confidence and regard; and thus for long years it has, in all lands, pursued the even tenor of its way, full of "faith, hope, and charity," and dispensing light, truth, and joy. Like the house builded upon the rock, the storms beat upon it in vain, the floods come and it remains firm and unharmed—its foundations are secure and it will stand through all time.

When treating of Alabama he gives us a fair deal, and again argues the question of the necessity of the charter being present to constitute a Chapter, denying the necessity as heretofore. On this we have had our say, and will now plead as the lawyers say, *nil dicit*.

We copy the following because we heartily agree with him, although we are fully aware that the rule here is that a petition cannot be withdrawn after having been received by the Lodge :

If a candidate should change his mind before action on his petition, why should he not have a right to withdraw it? To us it has always seemed just and proper, as well as the right of the brother to withdraw his application, and we cannot see why unanimous consent of the Chapter should be required. The act must be voluntary on the part of the petitioning brother. His right to retire by dimit after initiation is conceded, and why then should he not have the right, before a report or ballot takes place, to withdraw it. After an acceptance there is no power to compel initiation, if not desired; and it would be neither Masonic nor neighborly to hold a petition simply to black-ball and work injury thereby.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Thirty-Fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of this State was held on 15th May, 1883, with Companion James Southgate, Grand High Priest, presiding. Our first acquaintance with the M. E. Grand High Priest was as one of the wielders of the pen distributing light among his less informed Companions, and it is creditable to the Grand Chapter to have selected one so well qualified for that important and honorable position. There were present representatives from nine Chapters. There are 16 chartered Chapters, with a membership of 566, there having been a gain in membership, we are pleased to see, of 44. North Carolina Chapters have for many years been struggling against adverse fate, but the day of their redemption seems to draw nigh. We hail this increase with delight, and we find that so far from being in debt, the finances of the Grand Chapter are healthy.

The condition of Capitular Masonry in that jurisdiction is given in the following extract from the Grand High Priest's address, and although the tone is somewhat gloomy, yet we see abundant cause for rejoicing:

As a people we have much for which to be grateful. The earth has bountifully yielded her increase, whereby the husbandman has been made glad, and all professions and callings have felt the effects of general prosperity. Would that we could chronicle the same happy results of the past year for our Grand Body!

But, Companions, gloomy as the prospect is, we are somewhat advanced beyond the point at which we were at the close of the last Masonic year. The outlook is more hopeful. Our list of subordinates has been increased by one new Chapter; some of the old have been renewed and are now in good working condition, and yet others which had apparently become weary of life—almost ready to give up the ghost, have been refreshed and are now treading the old paths with seeming vigor, redoubling their energies, determined to bear their part in "rebuilding the House of the Lord." Let us, then, take courage and press forward, for we have the assurance that "in due

season we shall reap if we faint not." Rough and rugged may be the way, obstacles may impede our progress, dangers seen and unseen may threaten, hunger and thirst may bring even death before our eyes, but if faithful, we shall soon "arrive in sight of the ruined walls of Jerusalem and the glistening tents of our brethren." We do look for a bright future for our Royal Craft in this State, and God grant the day dawn may soon be upon us and the sun of prosperity arise to gladden our hearts.

The Grand Chapter passed resolutions looking to the preservation of the Cryptic Degrees.

Companion Eugene Grissom was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion Donald W. Bain, Grand Secretary.

Companion J. I. Mack made the report on Correspondence, in which we find a review of the proceedings of Alabama for 1881 and 1882.

The entire report betokens great care in its preparation, and is such a resume of the proceedings of the several Grand Chapters reviewed as should greatly enlighten the Companions of North Carolina in regard to the condition of the Royal Craft in other jurisdictions.

We regret that as this was his first, so it must be his last report. Reason—too great interference with the time for "rest and refreshment" from the cares of business.

OHIO.

The Sixty-Eighth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form on the 20th September, 1882, by Daniel E. Scott, M. E. Grand High Priest, with representatives from 116 Chapters present.

There are within the jurisdiction 142 Chapters, with a membership of 9,507, there having been a gain during the year of 644.

The address of the Grand High Priest contains much of local interest, and when speaking of his answers to the many useless inquiries put to a Grand High Priest, he very properly and pertinently remarks that if High Priests would make themselves more familiar with the Constitution and By-laws, fewer of these questions would result:

Perhaps no institution has conferred powers so despotic upon its presiding officers as ours. This being true, how important it is that we should elect only the most fit for these positions, who would study the laws and decisions of the Order, so as to settle at least questions that are already settled. And as a means of improving this state of affairs, I would respectfully recommend, that in the Chapter as in the Lodge, a candidate be required to familiarize himself with each pre-

ceding degree before he is permitted to advance higher. The Chapter is now looked upon in many places as a short halting place to step into the Commandery. The Ritual is barely communicated to the candidate in a hurried and oftentimes not a very clear manner, and at the conclusion in nine cases out of ten he is unable to make himself known as a Royal Arch Mason.

His decisions agree with the rules of Alabama.

Two new Chapters were chartered at this Convocation.

The following was reported from a special committee and the first was adopted, the other two were laid over until the next Annual Convocation :

First—That no Chapter shall confer the Mark Master's degree upon any candidate until said Chapter is satisfied from actual examination by a committee appointed for that purpose, and that the candidate is proficient in the preceding degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.

Second—That a special committee of three be appointed to prepare lectures for the several degrees of the Chapter, and submit the same to this Grand Chapter at its next stated convocation for approval.

Third—That before advancement the candidate shall be examined as to his proficiency in the preceding degree as in the Lodge.

But the Grand Chapter then adopted a resolution, as follows :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare lectures for the several degrees of the Chapter, and present the same through the representatives of this Grand Chapter to the General Grand Chapter at its next triennial convocation for approval.

Companion Daniel A. Scott, M. E. Grand High Priest.

Companion James Nesbitt, Grand Secretary.

Companion J. Kelly O'Neill made the report on Correspondence, reviewing, among other proceedings, those of Alabama for 1881.

Under Colorado, we find :

But why should an effort to interest them be necessary? Is there not enough in Masonry to demand the attention of every appreciative mind? And is not the true source of the difficulty much nearer our own doors than the worthy companion has intimated? If we cease to multiply the number of our Chapters, and to desire and encourage a rapid increase of membership, and admit only those who have the mental and moral qualities to appreciate and feel the sublime teachings which give to Masonry its distinctive character and make it worthy to live, the necessity for sending a squad to bring in the members loafing at the corner grocery, to make a quorum, will not long continue.

OREGON.

On 8th June, 1883, was held the Twenty-Third Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Oregon, with Companion James F. Robinson, Grand High Priest. Fifteen Chapters were represented—18 constitute the whole number of chartered Chapters—the number of members 706, and during the year there had been a gain of 45.

The address pertained almost entirely to matters of local interest.

We think the Grand Chapter enunciated the correct principle when it said :

In regard to the matter of amended by-laws, your committee deem it wholly unnecessary to refer such amendments to the Grand High Priest or Grand Chapter for their approval. The time of meeting and amount of fees, provided they are within constitutional limits, are local, and can be changed to suit the convenience of the Chapters.

Among the edicts, we find the following :

Resolved, That it is unmasonic for any High Priest in this jurisdiction to induct a candidate until after he has selected a Mark.

Companion James F. Robinson was again elected Grand High Priest, and Companion R. P. Earhart, Grand Secretary.

The report on Correspondence is again from the pen of our excellent Companion and most esteemed and estimable friend, Thomas McF. Patton.

Just hear this, he says he enters upon the discharge of the duties with many misgivings as to the outcome. Now, this is doubtless real modesty, but if Patton feels thus after twelve years of usefulness and practice, what must we of the smaller pinions who aspire to these reports feel? Yet having ourself been in harness as long perhaps, we well know how the very experience begets diffidence, for however thick may become the epidermis and indifferent to the peltings of the critics, yet a proper estimate of the intelligence of one's Grand Chapter must induce a feeling of doubt and distrust. We know of no reporter whose productions betoken so much thought, so careful reading as those of our confrere. He begged to be released, but the Grand Chapter knowing what their loss would be, declined to accede to his request.

We thank the Companion for his kind words of ourself, and among other reasons for our regret that we could not be at Denver in August, that of disappointment at not being able to greet so prominent a member of the guild was by no means the least.

On the question of the right of any officer of the Chapter to resign, he thus descants :

Now, let us suggest one single query. It is this : If a grand or subordinate officer cannot resign, and is absolutely *the* officer during the term for which he is elected, why is he not permitted and required to exercise all his official functions, regardless of his place of residence? When a Grand Master or Grand High Priest absents himself from the jurisdiction temporarily or permanently, why do his duties revert to the Deputy Grand Master or Grand High Priest? The Constitution may, and perhaps does, provide that such officers *shall* act; but if the doctrine of our friend Collins and others is correct—no resignation allowed—the officer, no matter where he may be, can direct and govern the Craft, and no one dare dispute his authority.

How would it do for Companion Woodbury or Companion Kenyon to move to Oregon and open offices jointly or separately, and direct the movements of the Royal Craft in Colorado and Kansas from an Oregon stand-point? We predict if such were attempted there would be a terrible howling among the true and faithful, and the commotion would be even greater than that produced in the mountains of Hepsidam when the lion roared and the whang-doodle mourned for her first born. Selah !

We hope to hear from you still again, Companion Patton.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

We have before us the proceedings of the Seventy-Second Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of this State, which was held on 15th February, 1883, with J. Adger Smythe, Grand High Priest, presiding. Representatives were present from 13 Chapters, 6 less than last year. These 13 Chapters only reported, nor have we any method of ascertaining the number of chartered living Chapters, or the extent of the membership, but the Grand Secretary reported the death of 5 Chapters.

As the Grand Chapter at the previous Convocation determined to omit the report on Correspondence none would be made, and the Grand High Priest gave a very hasty synopsis of the proceedings of other jurisdictions. He says that "Capitular Masonry is reported flourishing in almost all the Northern and Western States, but a general spirit of lethargy seems to prevail throughout our Southern borders." This is to a great extent due to the listlessness to all outside affairs in the necessity of closely pursuing that business that to this time has but barely enabled us to live and provide for those dependent upon us. If any fair mind will contemplate the terrible loss inflicted upon us by the "late unpleasantness," he will be filled with wonder that we are still in existence and beginning to prosper.

He reports the utmost harmony—no controversy of any kind having been brought to his notice, and adds: "But I fear these are more the symptoms of declining health than reasons of congratulation,"

Companion R. C. Watts, Grand High Priest.

Companion J. E. Burke, Grand Secretary.

TENNESSEE

Held the Fifty-Fourth Annual Convocation of her Grand Chapter on the 1st February, 1883, with Companion Wm. E. Eastman, Grand High Priest, and representatives from 38 Chapters. There are 72 Chapters alive within the jurisdiction, with a membership of 2,378, there having been an increase of 18 during the year.

The Grand High Priest, as will be seen by the following extract from his address, takes a gloomy view of the condition of the Craft, too gloomy a one we hope:

This subject demands our serious consideration. It is useless to deny the fact that for several years past Capitular Masonry has been at a stand still, if not losing strength, in our jurisdiction, and the past year has been no exception to former years. There is a great lack of interest in nearly every section of the State; many Chapters holding only one or two meetings during the year, and but very few have had any increase in membership.

The finances appear to be in a sufficiently healthy condition.

The Committee on Correspondence reported "that no business had been brought before them requiring report, and asks to be discharged."

Companion James D. Richardson was elected M. E. Grand High Priest, and Companion John Frizzell, re-elected Grand Secretary.

TEXAS.

The Thirty-Third Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of this State was held on 14th December, 1882, Companion Peyton Nowlin being the Grand High Priest, and with representatives from 48 Chapters.

There are within the jurisdiction 90 active Chapters, with a membership of 3,406, there having been a gain of 90 during the year.

From the address of the Grand High Priest we learn that dispensations for three new Chapters were granted, while six forfeited their charters. The Grand High Priest was industrious in visiting Chapters, and assisted in conferring over three hundred degrees.

Among other decisions we find the following, which we give with the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence thereon, which was adopted. Their view is eminently correct in our opinion :

Can a Committeeman refuse to act upon a Committee without giving any further reason than that he could not and would not act, stating that he thought the law did not require him to do so?

And is a Committeeman subject to discipline when he refuses to act or report on a petition or petitions, filed without the fees accompanying them, etc., upon which M. E. Grand High Priest ruled.

A Companion, when on a Committee, has a right to refuse to act, when the act required is clearly unconstitutional and contrary to the Resolutions and Edicts of the Grand Chapter, or contrary to the By-Laws of his own Chapter, though if he refuses to act, he does so at his peril, and, if wrong, he will be subject to discipline.

Your Committee think that a Committeeman ought not to be allowed to refuse with impunity to act upon a Committee when appointed by the proper authority, even though the object sought to be accomplished be considered, in his judgment, wrong. It is the duty of the Committeeman to be in his place and to act; and if he believe the measure wrong or illegal, he ought so to report, and in his place to contribute his influence to prevent it; and if he should feel aggrieved at the final action of the Chapter, he would have redress on appeal to the Grand Chapter.

Finances in good condition.

S. M. Williams, Houston, Grand High Priest.

R. Brewster, Houston, Grand Secretary.

Companion Robt. M. Elgin again presented the report on Correspondence, and we find this time he has a *Kidd* to assist him. Alabama for 1881 is very courteously reviewed by him.

Commenting upon the action of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas in relegating the Cryptic Degrees to the Grand Council and the views of the Grand High Priest thereon, he very properly remarks as to the assumption of powers by the G. G. Council, so-called, in the following language :

A decent regard for the opinion of others is proper, but if it be true as stated by the Companion, and they believed they were right, their action was far from commendable. The idea of a self-constituted body composed of a dozen or so of Masons, however distinguished, forming themselves into an organization and arrogating to themselves power to create Councils of Royal and Select Masters in any State or Territory in the Union, to infringe on the jurisdiction of Texas, Virginia and other States where the Degrees have been conferred in Councils appendant to Chapters long before most of them ever received them, and declaring thousands of Masons in those States, as good as themselves in every respect, clandestine, is such a flagrant assumption that we have no patience with it. And then to

see a number of Grand Chapters like that of Arkansas actually frightened into the retracing of steps deliberately taken a year or two before by the threats of this association, shows what a panic may be created and spread over the land from a very small source. This so-called General Grand Council assumes power to create Councils in Texas, or anywhere in the United States where a Grand Council does not exist. Admitting that the Grand Chapter of Arkansas had no legal right to control the Degrees, what better right has the General Grand Council? Where is its superior title? They admit that the Grand Council of Arkansas had a good title to the Degrees. It is not pretended that the Grand Council of Maine, New York and South Carolina had any better. Yet the General Grand Council could only claim title under them, and others like them, while the Grand Chapter of Arkansas had a regular transfer from the Grand Council. We can see no reason why a Grand Council cannot as well confer its power to a Grand Chapter as to a General Grand Council. The latter is a body never before heard of, is entirely without precedent, and the former was originally the custodian of the Degrees.

We have no fear that this new comet will strike Texas, and as to the *non-intercourse* policy, it will not disturb our equanimity. Let us feel that we are a more legal and regular Body than it is. We shall pursue the even tenor of our way until intolerance shall give way to that fraternal spirit which accords to others the right to think and act differently from "our way."

We copy at length his answer to Companion Drummond to give our Companions the Texas view concisely. We hope, but fear that the action of the G. G. Chapter in Denver will not be conciliatory, judging from the disposition displayed at Detroit:

As usual, Companion Drummond compliments us with a lengthy notice and any number of hard licks for our heresies—as he regards them—in regard to the General Grand Chapter. We remember that once, when a boy, we had a long race after a wily old quail that fluttered along as if scarcely able to fly, but at length when we were out of breath and exhausted from an unavailing effort to catch her, became aware of the fact that she was only luring us away from her brood. Companion Drummond is doing the same thing with us. He abandons the line of argument in which we were engaged, in regard to the theory of the organism of the General Grand Chapter and its constitutional powers, and fluttering from one incidental remark to another in our last report, asserts very broadly that we are mistaken in this, and laboring under an "erroneous impression" in that; and winds up by simply quoting part of our argument and saying that he will wait until he sees what effect his correction of the error into which we have fallen will have upon us.

He starts out by quoting several questions that we propounded to Companion Pierson, of Minnesota, and saying that he would answer them as a basis for his remarks in reply to us. But we observe that he entirely ignored every question but one which we propounded.

The only one which he attempts to answer is that, as to whether or not the General Grand Chapter was not formed by Grand Chapters.

He asserts emphatically that it was not, but he fails to refer us to a single Article in its Constitution to show that it claimed to be the original head of the Order for the whole United States.

He does quote Companion English's remark that "all the Grand Chapters, except Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia were either created by the General Grand Chapter or formed by Chapters chartered by it and authorized to form a Grand Chapter solely upon the condition of obedience to the Constitution and Laws of the General Grand Chapter," and asks us if we can refute any single one of the propositions in that quotation. We believe that Companions English and Drummond have assumed the affirmative in the above proposition, and it is for them to make it good. The assertion of Companion English is about as good as Companion Drummond's. What we want him to show is some constitutional provision in existence at this or the time that Texas withdrew from the General Grand Chapter that conflicts with our position as to its form of government. Our argument and that of Companion Speed in the last Triennial Convocation was upon the powers of the General Grand Chapter and the theory of its present government.

We do not care to go into its early history. Like many of the *aristocracy* of the present day, you do not have to trace their genealogy very far before coming to those whom they would be ashamed to own. We have not time, if we had the opportunity, to trace up all the Grand Chapters, but, we think, instead of all, as Companion English asserts, being formed by the children of the General Grand Chapter, that not a few bastards slip in. So we would not like to delve too deeply into the family affairs of that ancient Grand Body. We will simply refer to the facts stated in this report, under the head of Connecticut, as obtained from the late Proceedings of that Grand Chapter. We believe if Companions English or Drummond will take the pains to examine that, he will find it an exception. The record shows that of the six Chapters that formed that Grand Chapter, three of them held Charters from Washington Chapter, New York; and so far as we know the other three held Charters of a like character. One of these Chapters has been working under this Charter for nearly a century, and its validity has never been disputed until now. But under Companion Drummond's theory, it is illegitimate.

As to the effect of Companion Drummond's correction, we will say that we do not concede that the Grand Body formed in 1798 was a General Grand Chapter of the United States. It was simply a Grand Chapter such as exists in Pennsylvania, Virginia, etc.

A correct idea of its organization may be had from the circular letter issued to the several Chapters in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, by the convention which brought it into existence. It says:

And whereas, this Convention has received official information from our Companions at Philadelphia, that the several Chapters within their vicinity, have recently assembled and established a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for their government, in conformity to their example, we think it our duty to recommend to the several Chapters within the said States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, to unite and form a Grand Chapter for the said States.

The local situation of the States before mentioned, the easy and frequent intercourse between their several principal towns and cities, as well as the similarity of habits, manners and customs, as citizens and as Masons which prevail throughout the said States, induce us to believe that a union of all the Chapters therein in one Grand Chapter, will have the most useful, lasting and happy effect in the uniform distribution and propagation of the sublime Degrees of Masonry.

And even after State Grand Chapters had been formed, this Body did not assume any jurisdiction beyond the above named States. And it appears that in 1804, an application having been made to the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island for a Charter for a Chapter in one of the Southern States, the Grand Chapter deemed it impracticable for each Grand Chapter to grant warrants in the several unoccupied States, and adopted a series of resolutions, one of which was :

That this Grand Chapter do invest, and they do hereby invest, the Grand High Priest, King and Scribe of the General Grand Chapter, or any two of them, conjointly, with full power and authority to grant and issue Letters of Dispensation for the institution of Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters and Chapters of Royal Arch Masons within any State in which there is not a Grand Royal Arch Chapter established.

Another resolution was adopted, authorizing the issuance of a circular to the several Grand Chapters in which the initiative step was taken toward forming the General Grand Chapter. The circular says :

At the period when the General Grand Chapter was first instituted, and the Constitution which unites and governs us was framed and ratified, it was supposed to be impracticable to extend its influence throughout the United States ; its provisions were, therefore, confined to the six Northern States only, but subsequent experience has taught us that its extension is not only practicable, but desirable.

If the union of the several Grand Chapters under one head and one Constitution be considered an object of importance to our general interests, by establishing and cultivating one uniform and consistent manner of working in the sublime Degrees throughout the United States, it is then of importance that this union should be strengthened and improved by all possible means ; and it is consequently essential that the Septennial Meeting of the General Grand Chapter should be regularly, fully and respectfully attended.

If the proposition now made should be adopted, the pecuniary benefits arising from the institution of new Chapters, will be experienced equally by all Grand Chapters in the confederation, etc.

We have quoted the above to show not only that the organized Grand Chapter or General Grand Chapter, if you please to call it so, was intended only for the six Northern States, but that it was considered only as a confederation after the State Grand Chapters were created. As a further evidence of this, we will make another extract. At the meeting in January, 1806, two communications were read in relation to the formation of a Grand Chapter in Vermont, when the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That this General Grand Chapter deem it advisable,

*See Mitchell's "History of Masonry."

under a consideration of all the circumstances, attending the formation of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the State of Vermont, that it be received into a union with us under the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution.

Does this look as if the relations between the General Grand Body and the Grand Chapter was "precisely the same" as exists between the latter and a Subordinate Chapter. Was a Grand Chapter ever known to receive a Subordinate into union with it in that manner?

Companion Drummond says he is sorry, that it looks to us as if we were trying each to have the last word, as we suggested last year, as he thinks that a discussion of the matter, properly conducted, would lead to good results. We hope so too, and while some of our cotemporaries seem to think we are harping upon the old string too much, we begin to think that the discussion has caused more thought to be bestowed upon the subjects discussed, than had heretofore been, and that the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter is better understood.

While we have discussed the matters above in regard to the original powers and history of the General Grand Chapter, we want it distinctly understood that they in no way affect the principles involved in the Texas question. The status of the Grand Chapter of Texas would have been the same had the relations between it and the General Grand Chapter been the same as between the Chapters of West Virginia and the Grand Chapter of Virginia, as Companion Drummond contends they were.

As we have often said, Texas withdrew because of the disruption of the political relations of the State and the General Government, which justified the withdrawal, just as the same cause justified the severance of the relations of the Chapters in West Virginia from the mother Grand Chapter.

Companion Drummond says :

No one desires to see the Grand Chapter of Texas humiliate itself ; but we cannot see how she would do it in following the example of the other Grand Chapters situated as she was. They have returned to their alliance, and no one, so far as we know, has had any idea that they humiliated themselves.

The present situation of Texas is very different from that of the other Southern Grand Chapters. Not one of them would ever have returned with a threat of non-intercourse menacing them, and if they had, Companion Drummond would have had as great a contempt for them as any one.

VERMONT.

The Sixty-Sixth Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held on 15th June, 1883, Companion Homer M. Phelps, Grand High Priest, presiding, with representatives from 22 Chapters.

There are 25 Chapters on the roll, with a membership of 2056, the gain during the year having been 70, which is 45 more than the year previous. We wish to call the attention of Companion Whitecomb,

Grand Secretary, to the errors in this abstract of returns. If we take his totals as given in his footing, the gain would be but 24, but if we go further and foot up those exalted, reinstated, and deduct the sum of those dimitted, died, and the gain is 70. Then looking further to find the discrepancy, we find his simple arithmetic greatly at fault.

It gives us infinite pleasure to extract from the address of the M. E. Grand High Priest, such words of cheer as the following :

I am the more grateful this year, for, while I have had the honor of being your chief, I have had little of the labor so common to this office. Probably no Grand High Priest of this or any other Grand Chapter ever had a year of more loyal and trusty help than it has been my lot to know and enjoy for the past twelve months. I take this occasion to tender my thanks to the Companions of the Grand Chapter for making my office so much of a pleasure. No discord, no complaints, no rivalries, except that noble emulation of who can best work and best agree. If anything has occurred to mar this harmony it has not yet been made known to me. I have heard only the merry workmen in the quarries all the year, and their work speaks in their praise. I have not even had my "opinion" asked or called for on any subject connected with the jurisprudence of Capitular Masonry. The correspondence of this office has been principally as to the work. This shows not only the intelligence of the Royal Craft in Vermont, but their zeal and industry as well. More than one hundred exaltations have already been reported, while but sixty-two were returned at the last Convocation, and I am satisfied that in no year was ever gathered to our numbers better men than in the year just closed. We shall need them, for the ranks of our older Companions show vacant places.

He grieves over the moribund condition of a few of the Chapters, which have a name to live, but are dead to us, as he says, and suggests the diminution of the number of the Chapters, complains of the smallness of the income of the Grand Chapter, and recommends the strictest economy. "Can we limit our expenses in this line? Shall we omit the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence? This costs us about \$200 a year. We however find that there was a balance of \$851 in the treasury the previous year, and of \$958 this year. This does not look like a necessity existed for omitting the report on Correspondence.

Kittredge Haskins was elected Grand High Priest, and Wm. H. S. Whitcomb re-elected Grand Secretary.

Companion Dana made his Seventh Report on Correspondence in his usual style—we can't help the term, even if we should by it be classed as a mutual admirationist. We find him saying :

The ritual of all the degrees are being constantly tinkered by somebody, and have been changed several times since we took the degrees

in Vermont. This will never end, unless Grand Bodies and presiding officers, set their faces sterily against it. And with all this changing and learning of new rituals, uniformity is not attained, and probably never will be.

There had been some misunderstanding of each other, Companion Dana and ourself, about the "Mississippi plan," but we find that there is no disagreement between us—we thought he alluded to the incorporation of the council degrees in the Chapter, which we thought might be necessary for their preservation, while he was opposing the introduction of the insurance feature into Masonry, and in this, we heartily agree with him.

He does not know why the ministers of the gospel should be put on the free list, nor do we.

VIRGINIA.

The Seventy-Sixth Annual Convocation for this Grand Chapter, was held on 31st July, 1883, M. E. Wm. Harrison Lynn, as Grand High Priest, there being representative from 20 Chapters present. Number of Chapters, 33; number of members, 1,884; increase, 93.

Companion W. H. Lynn was elected Grand High Priest, and Companion Wm. B. Isaacs, Grand Secretary.

No report on Correspondence.

WEST VIRGINIA.

The pamphlet before us contains the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, for the eleventh and twelfth Annual Convocations. The first of these, was held on 7th November, 1881, under the supervision of Grand High Priest Wm. H. H. Flick, there being present, representatives from 9 subordinate Chapters. The entire number of Chapters, is 15, with a membership of 483, there having been an increase during the year of 1.

The Grand High Priest says, and we fear with too great truth, not in regard to those of his jurisdiction, but with regard to others:

I fear too many, desiring to become Knights Templar, knock at the doors of our Chapters *because* it is the only way to the Commandery, and when they have reached the object of their desires, become blind to the attractions of our most beautiful Ritual and utterly indifferent to the success or failure of the Chapter through which they have passed. While such companions increase the membership in our Subordinate Chapters, and contribute to the funds of the cause, (if they do not dimit) the example they set is very demoralizing, and it is questionable whether Capitular Masonry would not

be better off without them. They belong to the class usually denominated "dress parade Masons," and are rarely seen except on some public occasion, when they are out in all their glory.

He seriously objects to becoming a part of the G. G. Chapter, and the Grand Chapter passed a resolution approving these sentiments :

He favors the abolition of all affiliation fees.

The Grand Secretary in presenting his report, expresses the opinion that it would be well for the Grand Chapter to adhere to the plan of publishing reports of proceedings only every two years, and thinks if this plan is satisfactory to our companions of West Virginia, it is needless for the brethren of the quill to sneer or jest thereanent. And the Committee on Correspondence utter the same sentiment. Be sure you're right, Brother Long, then go ahead—yes, go it blind.

Wm. H. Freeman was elected Grand High Priest.

Odell S. Long was elected Grand Secretary.

The Twelfth Convocation was held on 13th November, 1882, with Companion Freeman, Grand High Priest, in the East. Ten Chapters represented. This year the membership decreased one.

Nothing of general interest occurred.

Business local purely.

Companion Grand Secretary O. S. Long made a report on Correspondence, the larger part of which we copy below :

It has been quite impossible for us to make a condensed statement of the business transacted at and the condition of these several Grand Chapters, such as is usually presented in reports on Foreign Correspondence, and we regret no less that we cannot have our "shy" at the fellows who have here and there had their "shy" at West Virginia. We have read their reports all through and have thoroughly enjoyed their wit and their wisdom, and we realize fully the importance of these reports in settling questions of Masonic law. We resent, however, their interference with the proceedings of other Grand Chapters and their holding up to ridicule or unfavorable comment of any kind the proceedings of a body with which they have nothing whatever to do, and with whose peculiar circumstances they have no acquaintance whatever. There should be at least a presumption in favor of the propriety of any particular custom or regulation of a Grand Chapter, but *some* committees on Foreign Correspondence seem to think that all excellence resides in them and that whatsoever they have not seen and approved is "contrary to the ancient landmarks." We could fit them with a fable if necessary, but the moral runs before the story.

Which, doubtless, enlightened our companions in West Virginia. They now know exactly how everything is elsewhere.

Gustave Brown, Grand High Priest.

Odell S. Long, Grand Secretary.

WISCONSIN.

We have the proceedings of the Thirty-Third Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, robbed, however, of its usual proportions, there being no report on Correspondence from the facile pen of our Companion Cottrill, the veteran reporter for this jurisdiction. The fault was not with him, however, though the misfortune be ours nevertheless. It had been prepared and was in the hands of the printer, but was destroyed by fire. We must therefore content ourselves with the proceedings only.

This Convocation was held on 2d February, 1883, under the supervision of Companion John M. Evans, Grand High Priest.

Fifty-three Chapters comprise the jurisdiction, with a membership of 3,420, there having been an increase during the year of 163.

Companion Homer S. Goss was elected Grand High Priest, and John W. Woodhull, Grand Secretary. On the cover, however, John W. Laffin appears as Grand Secretary to fill vacancy. Is our friend Woodhull then dead?

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

The General Grand Chapter held its General Grand Annual Convocation at Denver, Colorado, on 13th August, with Companion Alfred F. Chapman, D. G. High Priest, in the Chair, because of the deplorable death of Companion Robert F. Bower, the G. G. High Priest, who died with his armor on and of whom we have already spoken.

The address of Companion Chapman is a creditable one, devoted to the business of the hour.

We find that there were dispensations issued for 17 new Chapters in the various territories of New Mexico, Utah, Dakota, Washington, and Arizona. In the first making 4, in the second 3, in the third 11, in the fourth 3, and in Arizona 4. We may reasonably expect next year to have applications for recognitions of Grand Chapters from some of them, and from all of them in the near future.

There were several appeals made by Grand Chapters to the General Grand Chapter, and we are pleased to note that this august body is at last displaying itself as a body of some use, in disseminating a work possessing uniformity in essentials at least.

We have only a few advance sheets before us, but from them we gather that the dark cloud that apparently enshrouded Capitular Masonry is being rifted, and the light of better times is dawning upon the Craft.

G. M. M. M. LODGE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

At the half yearly Communication, held on 6th December, 1881, Lord Henniker, the G. M. M. M., presided, and his Royal Highness, the Duke of Albany, was received and greeted as Past G. M. M. M., to which he had been previously elected. A note of condolence with Mrs. Garfield was unanimously carried.

There was a special Grand Lodge held on 21st March, 1882, to express sympathy and offer congratulations to the Queen on her escape from the assassin's aim.

Another half yearly Communication was held on 6th June, 1882.

In granting relief from the Benevolent Fund, the initials of names of persons only are published. This is a delicacy of taste which might be imitated by others, and is at least much to be admired.

Lord Henniker was again made M. W. G. M. M. M.

The proceedings had at the half yearly Communications on 5th December, 1882, and 5th June, 1883, are also before us. At the first of these two massive silver vases and a silver Ewer were presented to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Albany, P. G. M. M. M., in token of the appreciation of the entire jurisdiction of him, and as a wedding present from his Masonic Mark Brethren. At the latter we find reported a warrant for a new Lodge at Montreal, to be styled Henniker and numbered 314. As much as we wish the extension and growth of all true Masonic bodies, yet we greatly regret to see this invasion of the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec. As the place Montreal is given without the affix, can we still hope that it is not among our Canadian brethren that it has been established. The American doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction we thought was too fully established to allow of any such interference, but upon looking through the registry we find under the head of Quebec, as constituted in 1883, a provincial Grand Lodge, with Brother Thos. M. Bagley, of Montreal, as Provincial G. M. Lieut. Col. W. H. Hutton, D. G. M., and J. Ogilvy Mathews, Grand Secretary, thus displaying a settled purpose on the part of this G. M. Lodge to invade the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec. We hope for the sake of harmony that some reasonable explanation of the purposes of the M. W. G. M. Lodge consonant with its dignity and that of the Grand Chapter of Quebec may be made before the next Annual Convocation of this our Grand Chapter. It can, we presume, hardly be expected that we will idly notice this infraction of the right of a sister jurisdiction and not prepare to defend ourselves from a like proceeding, for if this may be done in Quebec without protest, why may not the

same be done in Alabama. We await with no little curiosity and apprehension the outcome of this apparent daring enterprise.

With the proceedings is an address by Brother T. B. Whytehead, P. G. Master Overseer. In it he shows that the Marks now used by many are to be found in the mediaeval works, in the pyramids of Egypt, and in the foundation of the Temple of Solomon.

CONCLUSION.

We have wrought in this report because you expected it. But if my Companions could realize how deeply we have been steeped in affliction, we know we would have their sympathy—"A wounded spirit who can bear." Months drew slowly along while we sat and wept by the beloved one whose brilliant intellect we say gradually dimmed and destroyed while the form was also slowly fading, until at last the summons so dreaded by us all shocked the heart and mind of the writer, so that he could neither think nor clearly see. Brethren, adieu! Your kindness must ever be a consolation to me.

P. J. PILLANS.

GRAND SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

IN ACCOUNT WITH DANIEL SAYRE,

GRAND SECRETARY

1882		CR.	
Dec.	5.	By Dues received at Grand Convocation....	\$427 50
	5.	By amount Contingent Fund.....	150 00
1883		BACK DUES.	
Feb.	—.	By Gordon No. 73.....	\$15 75
May	21.	By Elyton No. 76.....	12 75— 28 50
		By Cash of various companions.....	23 00
			\$ 629 00

1882		DR.	
Dec.	—.	To amount paid Grand Treasurer	427 50
		To error in Gaston Chapter No. 85.....	75
1883			
Mar.	1.	To amount Gen'l Grand Sec'y and expenses.	7 43
	31.	To paid W. D. Brown & Co.....	131 60
Dec.	1.	To paid Grand Treasurer.....	61 72—629 00

MONTGOMERY, December 4, 1883.

DANIEL SAYRE,
Grand Secretary.

GRAND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA,

IN ACCOUNT WITH WM. H. DINGLEY,

GRAND TREASURER.

1882		CR.	
Dec.	5.	By balance.....	\$ 86 44
	16.	By received from Grand Secretary.....	427 50
1883			
Dec.	1.	By received from Grand Secretary.....	61 72—\$575 66
1882		DR.	
Dec.	6.	To Com. on Work, J. H. Johnson.....	12.. \$ 36 00
		To Com. on Correspondence.....	13.. 75 00
		To Com. on Work, H. C. Armstrong.....	14.. 20 25
		To Grand Sentinel.....	15.. 15 00
	16.	To Grand Secretary.....	16.. 200 00
		To Contingent Fund.....	17.. 150 00
		To Grand Treasurer.....	18.. 25 00
1883			
Dec.	4.	To balance.....	54 41— 575 66

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 4, 1883.

WM. H. DINGLEY,
Grand Treasurer.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the accounts and vouchers of the Right Excellent Grand Treasurer, and Right Excellent Grand Secretary, and find them correct:

The R. E. Grand Secretary has received from all sources during the year.....\$629 00

All of which has been properly disposed of, as per proper vouchers submitted to us.

The R. E. Grand Treasurer had on hand at last report.....\$ 86 44

Has received from the R. E. Grand Secretary..... 489 22

Making a total of.....\$575 66

And has paid out on proper vouchers..... 521 25

Leaving a balance in his hands of.....\$ 54 41

To this we add receipts at this present Convocation..... 400 00

Making a total of.....\$454 41

Of this amount your Committee respectfully recommend the following appropriations:

For Grand Secretary for last year.....\$200 00

For Committee on Correspondence..... 75 00

For Grand Sentinel..... 10 00

For Contingent Fund for use of Grand Secretary... 150 00

Making a total of.....\$435 00

Leaving a balance of..... 19 41

It is with regret that your Committee notes the low state of the Grand Treasury, but entertains the hope that another year may produce improvement in the financial condition of your Grand Chapter.
Fraternally submitted.

DANIEL SMITH, Chairman.

NAMES AND NUMBERS OF CHAPTERS,

With the number of Members, amount of Dues paid to the Grand Chapter, and the number of those Advanced, Presided, Received and Acknowledged, Exalted, Affiliated, Rejected, and Dimitted, since last Return.

Chapter Number.	NAMES OF CHAPTERS.	No. of Members.	Amount of Dues.	Advanced.	Presided.	Rec'd and Ack'd.	Exalted.	Affiliated.	Rejected.	Dimitted.
1	Tuskaloosa.....	23	\$34 50	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
5	Eunomia.....	19	14 25	2	2	1	..	2	..	..
13	Gainesville.....	19	15 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
20	Livingston.....	17	12 75	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
21	Mobile.....	35	26 25	3	3	3	3	1	1	3
22	Montgomery.....	50	37 50	3	3	3	..	..	..	..
23	Talladega.....	25	18 75	4	4	4	4	2	..	..
26	Union.....	23	17 25	2	2	2	2	..	..	..
28	Saint Johns.....	35	26 25	3	2	2	2	..	..	2
37	Concord.....	15	11 25	1	1	1	1	..	..	..
40	Camden.....	19	14 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
48	McKinley.....	33	10 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
54	Tyrian.....	45	33 75	1	..	..	3	..	1	..
56	Zerubbabel.....	18	..	3	3	3	3	1	..	1
66	Alabama.....	30	22 50	4	4	4	4	..	..	7
71	Landmark.....	28	21 00	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
73	Gordon.....	18	13 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
76	Elyton.....	12	9 00	3	3	3	3	..	..	1
79	Hillabee.....	12	18 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
83	Bell.....	16	12 00	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
86	Coosa.....	19	14 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
87	Moulton.....	17	12 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
92	Notasulga.....	17	12 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
96	Daniel Pratt.....	10	7 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
104	Weogufka.....	24	18 00	..	..	..	2	..	..	..

AT REST.

After Life's fitful fever, they sleep well.

William H. Armstrong.....	Tuscaloosa.....	No. 1
John VanValkenberg, aged 63.....	Eunomia.....	" 5
Preston G. Nash, Feb. 20.....	Livingston.....	" 20
Horatio N. Herriman, May 2.....	Mobile.....	" 21
John M. Jeffers, April 15—48 years..	Union.....	" 26
S. George Cochran, June 17—62 years.	Camden.....	" 40
Oliver S. Beers, Nov. 10, 1882.....	Alabama.....	" 66
Dempsey Whiddon, Dec. 26, 1882.....	Gordon.....	" 73
Leroy R. Simms, June 20.....		
Joseph C. McClendon, June 8—58 yrs	Hillabee.....	" 79
Daniel C. Turrentine, Sept. 11.....	Coosa.....	" 86

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

MOBILE No. 21.—Thomas A. Boone, William A. Randlett—2.

MONTGOMERY No. 22.—David B. Bryant, John J. McCants, Henry H. Matthews—3.

SAINT JOHN'S No. 28.—Benjamin J. Sitton, Samuel P. Towne—2.

TYRIAN No. 54.—Jailus S. Perdue, William H. Murphy, Thomas J. Davis, Coleman N. Carpenter, James P. Nall, William C. Menefee, Louis Jackson—7.

ZERUBBABEL No. 56.—Allen D. Sturdivant, Cullen D. Henderson, John W. Fleming, John F. Shepard, Henry P. Smith, Henry H. Eatman—6.

ALABAMA No. 66.—George W. Smith—1.

LANDMARK No. 71.—Anthony B. Windham—1.

DANIEL PRATT No. 96.—Thomas J. Pent. Edward H. Wingate, William R. Simpson—3.

WEOGUFKA No. 104.—Thomas Smith, William R. Phillips, Lewis H. Crumpler—3.

REINSTATED.

- MOBILE No. 21.—George H. Hall, Edward E. England—2.
 TALLADEGA No. 23.—Daniel H. Thweatt—1.
 SAINT JOHNS No. 28.—Samuel W. John—1.
 CAMDEN No. 40.—Thomas Dunn, Jason Hollomon, Joseph B. Hollo-
 man—3.
 ZERUBBABEL No. 56.—Giles T. Smith—1.
 LANDMARK No. 71.—William T. McCall—1.
 ELYTON No. 76.—David Montgomery—1.

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that made Returns.....	26
Chapters that paid Dues.....	26
Chapters that were represented.....	20
Number of Representatives present.....	36
Members reported at this Convocation.....	579
Estimate of members not reported.....	103
Dues received at this Convocation.....	\$434 25

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced since last Convocation.....	30
Presided since last Grand Convocation.....	27
Received and Acknowledged.....	26
Exalted since last Grand Convocation.....	28
Affiliated " " " ".....	10
Rejected " " " ".....	2
Dimitted " " " ".....	23
Died " " " ".....	11
Expelled " " " ".....	0
Suspended U. M. C.....	0
Suspended N. P. D.....	28
Reinstated.....	10
Chapters square upon the Books.....	26

REV. LEROY RILEY SIMMS, GRAND CHAPLAIN.

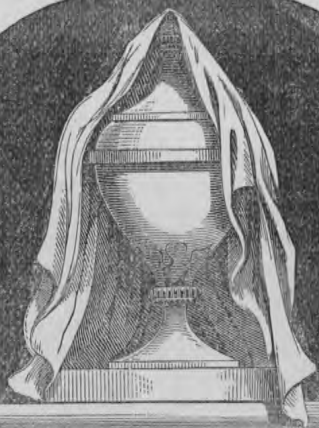
Death has again knocked at our vails and claimed as his own, one of the Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter, Rev. and Ex. Grand Chaplain, Leroy Riley Simms, who was called from labor to refreshment on the 20th day of June, 1883. A good man and true he was. He advanced his profession and exemplified in his life, the true tenets of Capitular Masonry. As a man, in every sphere of life, he was zealous and devoted ; as a citizen he upheld the majesty of the law ; as a neighbor and friend he was kind and just ; as a father and husband he obeyed the moral law ; as an exemplar he was a faithful sojourner, bringing the blind by a way they knew not, and leading them in paths they had not known. Companion Simms, though a modest and retiring man, was fixed in his conceptions of right, and fearless in the discharge of duty. Therefore—

Resolved, That we bow in humble submission to this stroke of bereavement, and cherish the memory of our departed companion in our sad hearts.

Resolved, That we tender the bereaved family our sincere sympathy, and implore Divine benediction upon them.

Resolved, That a page in these proceedings be appropriated to his memory.

J. G. HARRIS,
Chairman.



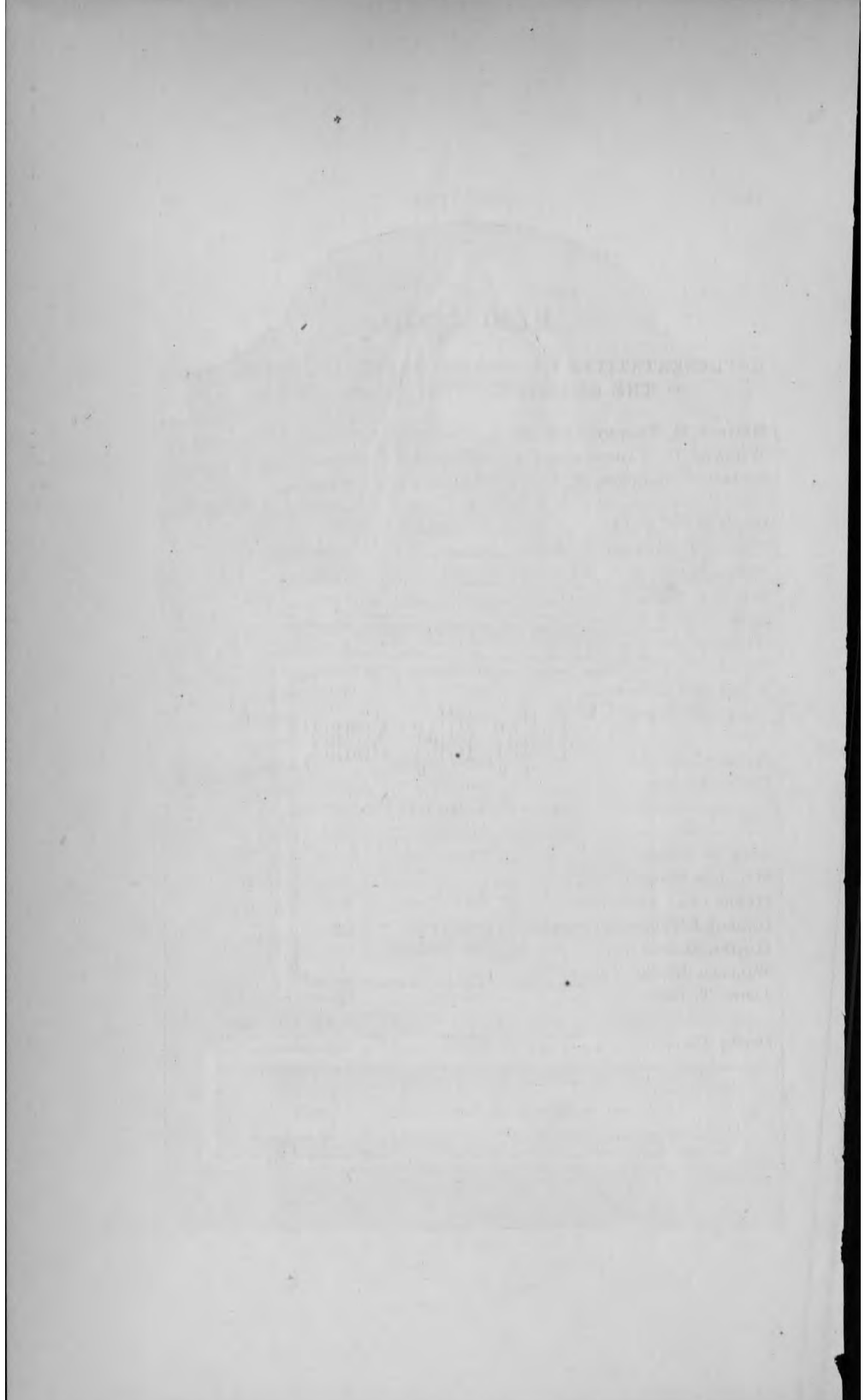
Rev. LeRoy Riley Simms,

Grand Chaplain.

—
DIED

JUNE THE 20TH, 1883.

"Such is the way to immortality."—VIRGIL.



MEMORANDA.

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

NEWELL M. THORNTON, M. D.	<i>Abbeville</i>	Arkansas.
WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH	<i>Montgomery</i>	California.
JOSEPH H. JOHNSON, M. D.	<i>Talladega</i>	Canada.
_____	_____	District of Columbia.
BENJAMIN F. POPE	<i>Gadsden</i>	Florida.
LUCKY W. JENKINS, M. D.	<i>Camden</i>	Illinois.
PELEG BROWN	<i>Mobile</i>	Indiana.
MYLES J. GREENE, M. D.	<i>Talladega</i>	Iowa.
JOHN GIDEON HARRIS	<i>Livingston</i>	Kansas.
HENRY F. MULLEN	<i>Selma</i>	Kentucky.
PALMER J. PILLANS	<i>Mobile</i>	Louisiana.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER	<i>Mobile</i>	Maryland.
LUCKY W. JENKINS, M. D.	<i>Camden</i>	Massachusetts.
_____	_____	Minnesota.
DAVID CLOPTON	<i>Montgomery</i>	Mississippi.
PELEG BROWN	<i>Mobile</i>	Missouri.
_____	_____	Nebraska.
_____	_____	New Jersey.
JOHN W. BUSH	<i>Uniontown</i>	New York.
WILLIAM COCHRANE	<i>Tuscaloosa</i>	North Carolina.
HENRY CLAY ARMSTRONG	<i>Notasulga</i>	Nova Scotia.
GEORGE LITTLEFIELD SMITH	<i>Prattville</i>	Ohio.
DANIEL SAYRE	<i>Montgomery</i>	Oregon.
WILLIAM HENRY TANCRE	<i>Huntsville</i>	Quebec.
JAMES T. BECK	<i>Camden</i>	Rhode Island.
_____	_____	South Carolina.
PELEG BROWN	<i>Mobile</i>	Tennessee.
_____	_____	Vermont.
_____	_____	Wisconsin.

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

ELBERT H. ENGLISH.....	<i>Little Rock</i>	Arkansas.
ISAAC F. TOMS.....	<i>Goderich, Ont</i>	Canada.
CHARLES W. HANCOCK.....	<i>Washington</i>	District of Columbia.
GEORGE H. HALLMARK.....	<i>Warrington</i>	Florida.
SILAS O. VAUGHAN.....	<i>De Kalb</i>	Illinois.
DOWNING BAUGH.....	<i>McGregor</i>	Iowa.
ALBERT D. MCCONAUGHEY.....	<i>Atchison</i>	Kansas.
WILLIAM RYAN.....	<i>Louisville</i>	Kentucky.
JOSEPH E. TYLER.....	<i>Baltimore</i>	Maryland.
FREDERICK G. WALBRIDGE.....	<i>Boston</i>	Massachusetts.
MOSES W. GETCHELL.....	<i>Minneapolis</i>	Minnesota.
ROBERT L. SAUNDERS.....	<i>Jackson</i>	Mississippi.
THOMAS E. GARRETT.....	<i>Saint Louis</i>	Missouri.
WILLIAM E. HILL.....	<i>Nebraska City</i>	Nebraska.
FREDERICK G. WEISE.....	<i>Bordentown</i>	New Jersey.
THOMAS S. KENAN.....	<i>Raleigh</i>	North Carolina.
WILLIAM SHERER.....	<i>Brooklyn</i>	P. O. Box 2065 N. Y.
CHARLES H. OSTRANGER.....	<i>Columbus</i>	Ohio.
ROCKY P. EARRHART.....	<i>Salem</i>	Oregon.
ANGUS GRANT.....	<i>Montreal</i>	Quebec.
JOHN P. SANBORN.....	<i>Newport</i>	Rhode Island.
AUGUSTINE T. SMYTHE.....	<i>Charleston</i>	South Carolina.
JONATHAN S. DAVIS.....	<i>Paris</i>	Tennessee.
JUSTIN W. F. WASHBURN.....	<i>Montpelier</i>	Vermont.
ALEXANDER M. EVANS.....	<i>Middletown</i>	West Virginia.
WILLIAM G. SWAIN.....	<i>Milwaukee</i>	Wisconsin.

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

N ^o	NAME.	LOCATION.	COUNTY.	POST OFFICE.	HIGH PRIEST.	SECRETARY.	CONVOCACTION.
1	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	Tuscaloosa.	John M. Martin.	William A. Cochrane.	3 Wednesday
5	Eunomia.	Huntsville.	Madison.	Huntsville.	Bernard F. Ludwig.	Isaac H. Wise.	1 Tuesday
13	Gainesville.	Gainesville.	Sumter.	Gainesville.	Edward N. Kring.	Thomas F. Ramage.	Thursday afn
20	Livingston.	Livingston.	Sumter.	Livingston.	John Gideon Harris.	Isaiah C. Brown.	3 Friday
21	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	William Story Foster.	Henry T. Goodloe.	1 and 3 Thurs
22	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	Montgomery.	William Wallace Screws.	Edmund R. Hastings.	2 Tuesday
23	Talladega.	Talladega.	Talladega.	Talladega.	Joseph H. Johnson.	Henry H. Hamill.	3 Friday
26	Union.	Uniontown.	Perry.	Uniontown.	Morritz L. Ernst.	Junie Harwood.	1 Thursday
28	Saint John's.	Selma.	Dallas.	Selma.	William W. McColtum.	Adolph Jacobson.	4 Monday
37	Concord.	La Fayette.	Chambers.	La Fayette.	Benjamin F. Foster.	James E. Scarborough.	1 Monday
40	Camden.	Camden.	Wilcox.	Camden.	J. Eades Gullett.	John T. Cook.	Friday bfm
48	McKinley.	McKinley.	Marengo.	McKinley.	C. Harris Askew.	William B. Jackson.	1 Wednesday
54	Tyrian.	Troy.	Pike.	Troy.	Samuel R. Cotten.	John R. Goldthwaite.	Fri bf 2 Tues
56	Zerubbabel.	Camp Hill.	Tallapoosa.	Camp Hill.	Marcellus A. Trimble.	Rolly R. Spinks.	Sat bf 2 Mon
66	Alabama.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Mobile.	Philip C. Candidus.	Charles A. Mohr.	2 and 4 Friday
71	Landmark.	Ozark.	Dale.	Ozark.	Benjamin F. Cassidy.	Mark A. Cooke.	3 Saturday
73	Gordon.	Abbeville.	Henry.	Abbeville.	Newell M. Thornton.	James W. Stokes.	1 Saturday
76	Elyton.	Elyton.	Jefferson.	Birmingham.	Sam Thompson.	John Latham.	2 Monday
79	Hillabee.	Good Water.	Coosa.	Good Water.	George W. Porter.	Daniel B. Brown.	Sat bf 2 Sun
83	Bell.	Lineville.	Clay.	Lineville.	James M. Nelson.	Robert D. Evans.	3 Saturday
86	Coosa.	Gadsden.	Etowah.	Gadsden.	Benjamin F. Pope.	Samuel Orr.	1 Monday
87	Moniton.	Moniton.	Lawrence.	Moulton.	DeWitt Clinton White.	William P. Chitwood.	Fri bf 3 Sab
92	Notasulga.	Notasulga.	Macon.	Notasulga.	Henry Clay Armstrong.	William S. Ford.	1 and 4 Sat
96	Daniel Pratt.	Prattville.	Autauga.	Prattville.	George L. Smith.	Jacob Faber.	Mon afn
104	Weogufka.	Weogufka.	Coosa.	Weogufka.	Oliver P. Looney.	Francis M. McEwen.	Fri bf 1 Sab

GRAND SECRETARIES AND THEIR ADDRESS.

0. Alabama.....	Daniel Sayre.....	Montgomery.
1. Arkansas.....	James A. Henry.....	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.....	Lewis Guillian Stephens.....	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.....	John C. Parish.....	Des Moines.
13. Kansas.....	John M. Price.....	Atchison.
14. Kentucky.....	Joseph H. Branham.....	Louisville.
15. Louisiana.....	James Cunningham Batchelor.....	New Orleans.
16. Maine.....	Ira Berry.....	Portland.
17. Maryland.....	George L. McCahan.....	Baltimore.
18. Massachusetts.....	Zephaniah H. Thomas.....	Cambridgeport.
19. Michigan.....	William Power 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 Robert Bowen.....	Omaha.
24. Nevada.....	John Dempster 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.....	George T. Smithers.....	Halifax.
30. Ohio.....	James Nesbitt.....	Troy.
31. Oregon.....	Rocky Preston Earhart.....	Salem.
32. Pennsylvania.....	Charles E. Meyer.....	Philadelphia.
33. Quebec.....	David Seath.....	Montreal, B. 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. Whitcomb.....	Burlington.
39. Virginia.....	William Bryan Isaacs.....	Richmond.
40. West Virginia.....	Odell Squier Long.....	Wheeling.
41. Wisconsin.....	John W. Laflin.....	Milwaukee.
42. United States.....	Christopher G. Fox.....	Buffalo, N. Y.
43. England and Wales.....	Frederick Binckes.....	London, W. C.
44. Ireland.....	Samuel B. Oldham.....	Dublin.
45. England and Wales.....	Albert G. Goodall.....	N. York, 142 B'y