

1896
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1896 / A.I. 2426

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Grand Royal Arch Chapter
OF
ALABAMA.

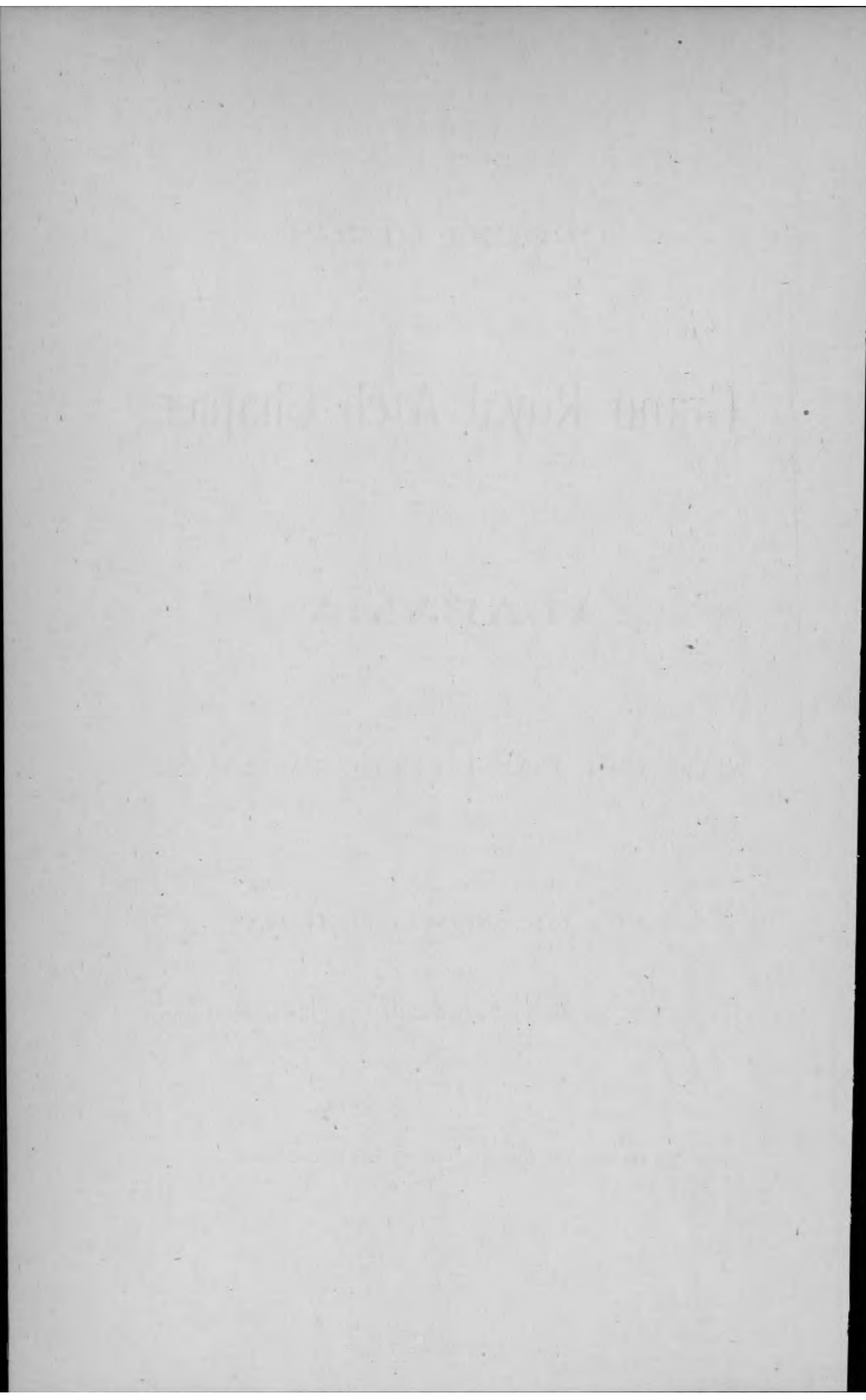
SEVENTIETH ANNUAL GRAND CONVOCATION,

HELD IN THE

CITY OF MONTGOMERY,

Beginning on Monday, November 30th, A. D. 1896.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
ALABAMA PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1897.



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama,
SEVENTIETH ANNUAL CONVOCATION,
HELD AT
MONTGOMERY, NOV. 30TH AND DEC. 1ST, 1896, A. I. 2426.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama met in Annual Convocation at Masonic Temple, in Montgomery, November 30th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

PRESENT.

JOHN G. SMITH.....	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
JOSIAH JERNIGAN.....	M. E. Dep. Grand H. Priest.
WILLIAM J. RHODES.....	R. E. Grand King.
EDWARD S. GATCHELL.....	R. E. Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY.....	R. E. Grand Treasurer.
H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	R. E. Grand Secretary.
MALCOLM J. GILCHRIST <i>as</i>	R. E. Grand Chaplain.
GEORGE F. MOORE.....	R. E. Grand Capt. of Host.
CHARLES R. BRICKEN.....	E. Grand P. Sojourner.
GEORGE A. BEAUCHAMP.....	E. Grand R. A. Captain.
BASIL M. HILL.....	E. Grand M. of 3 Vail.
WILLIAM E. OAKLEY.....	E. Grand M. of 2 Vail.
LEW LAZARUS.....	E. Grand M. of 1 Vail.
CHARLES A. ALLEN.....	E. Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
WILLIAM W. SCREWS.....	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
JOHN G. HARRIS.....	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
JAMES T. BECK.....	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
JAMES M. BRUNDIDGE.....	R. E. Grand King.
PALMER J. PILLANS.....	R. E. Grand Scribe.

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

Benjamin F. Pope.....	Florida.
Edward F. Kring.....	Georgia.
Josiah Jernigan.....	Indian Territory.
John G. Harris.....	Kansas.
Edward S. Gatchell.....	Kentucky.
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Louisiana.
William J. Rhodes.....	Maine.
George A. Joiner.....	Massachusetts.
William W. Screws.....	Missouri.
William E. Oakley.....	Ohio.
George A. Beauchamp.....	Oregon.
Henry H. Matthews.....	Quebec.
James T. Beck.....	Rhode Island.
George P. Harrison.....	Texas.

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

No. 12	Marion.....	James O. Bailey.....	H. P.
" 22	Montgomery.....	Charles R. Westcott.....	H. P.
		Francis M. Purifoy*	K.
		Warren D. Brown.....	S.
" 23	Talladega.....	William J. Rhodes.....	H. P.
" 24	Eufaula.....	George A. Joiner*.....	K.
" 25	Courtland.....	George A. Beauchamp.....	H. P.
" 26	Union.....	Malcolm J. Gilchrist.....	H. P.
		Louis J. Adler.....	K.
		Mims Walker*.....	S.
" 28	Sts. John.....	Edward S. Gatchell.....	H. P.
" 32	Fulton.....	Hugh S. D. Mallory*.....	K.
" 38	Decatur.....	Robert H. Tuck*.....	H. P.
		William E. Oakley.....	H. P.

*Proxies.

"	40	Camden.....	{ Sol D. Bloch*.....H. P.
			{ James T. Beck.....S.
"	54	Tyrian.....	{ Josiah Jernigan.....H. P.
			{ Hansford B. Cowart*.....K.
			{ Walter C. Black*.....S.
"	63	Clayton.....	{ B. S. Warren.....H. P.
			{ Judge S. Williams*.....K.
			{ W. A. Smart*.....S.
"	64	Central.....	{ S. S. Holbrooks*.....H. P.
			{ Thomas J. Hoskings.....S.
			{ W. R. Weaver*.....K.
"	71	Landmark.....	{ William A. Arnold.....H. P.
			{ John F. Lewis.....S.
"	79	Hillabee.....	{ John T. Adcock*.....H. P.
"	80	Myles J. Green.....	{ H. Clay Armstrong.....H. P.
"	86	Coosa.....	{ Benjamin F. Pope*.....H. P.
			{ Basil M. Hill.....H. P.
"	88	Springville.....	{ James T. Greene*.....K.
			{ Edward M. McClendon*.....S.
"	92	Notasulga.....	{ William T. Duke.....H. P.
"	93	Columbus.....	{ William H. Yarbrough*.....H. P.
"	96	Daniel Pratt.....	{ George L. Smith.....H. P.
			{ Joseph B. Bell*.....K.
"	99	Thomas M. Bragg...	{ Charles R. Bricken.....H. P.
"	101	Mineral City.....	{ Lew Lazarus.....H. P.
			{ John G. Smith*.....K.
"	106	Graham.....	{ Thomas J. Thomason.....S.
"	107	Fort Payne.....	{ William T. Fuller*.....H. P.
			{ James M. Donaldson*.....H. P.
"	108	Pratt City.....	{ Thomas H. Moore*.....K.
			{ Charles H. Mandy.....S.
			{ Thomas B. Dison.....H. P.
"	109	Blocton.....	{ Robert Vance.....K.
			{ George B. Bainbridge*.....S.

*Proxies.

OPENED.

The Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter was opened in Ample Form.

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

The M. E. Grand High Priest delivered his Annual Address, and it was referred to a Special Committee.

COMMITTEE ON GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

W. W. SCREWS,

P. J. PILLANS,

GEORGE A. JOINER.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Companions of the Grand Chapter :

It affords me great pleasure to extend to you again fraternal greeting, and welcome you to this, the Seventieth (70th) Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Alabama.

One year ago to-day you placed in my hands, for the second time, the gavel of authority, with which I was to govern this Grand Body ; whether I deserved your confidence then, or have since accomplished all you expected, you must soon determine for yourselves, as I shall place before you my official acts and leave them for you to study, and I trust they will bear close inspection and meet with your generous approval.

Before entering upon our duties to-day let us return thanks to Divine Providence for the watchful care he has had over us the past year, trusting that he will guide us with an unerring hand in our present deliberations, that the cause we represent may be advanced, and friendship and brotherly love more strongly cemented among the Companions.

Companions, this has been a year that tried men's souls, more so, perhaps, than any year in the history of the country, since 1860, when we saw brother arrayed against brother, father against son, and Companion against Companion, but thanks to him who rules all things well, we have weathered the storm, the cyclone is over, and the country is safe; then let all divisions, all bickerings and unpleasantness cease, and the scenes of a few months ago be forgotten, while each of us resolves to fulfill as best we can the space allotted to us on earth, that we may, like good Masons, "live respected and die regretted."

Yes, my Companions, the last mile in our journey of life has indeed been one of many hardships—deeds of love and stains of sorrow ; then, as we contemplate the past, let us pause for a while and study its lessons, praying that they may be stepping stones for further success and noble achievements, and, as we press forward, having in view the city and temple whose builder and maker is God, we shall receive the commendation, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

Leaving behind us the old year with its many sorrows and privations, let us pray that the one now opening up before us may

bring happy greetings and glad tidings to us all ; then, as good men, let us renew our vows and pledge our faith in him who spoke to Moses at the "burning bush," and Jacob on "Mount Moriah," that we may be better prepared to fairly meet every question presented for the good of the Order, always bearing in mind the fact that our labors should tend to our advancement in knowledge and virtue, and to the glory and honor of God.

OUR FRATERNAL DEAD.

Since our last Convocation, death, with the all-devouring scythe of time, has invaded not only our own, but the sanctuaries of our sister Jurisdictions, and many of our Companions of sterling worth have been summoned hence, and their places are now vacant, while their work remains as a shining light to guide us in our duty and make plain the way to glory and to God, hence it is right and proper that we, at the commencement of this Convocation, should stop and let our minds dwell on the subject of death, for it is death that terminates man's labors here below.

Rev. George Washington Dame, D. D., Past Grand High Priest and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, died at his home in the city of Danville, December 24th, 1895, in the 84th year of his age. His Companions say of him: "He was all the years of his life an earnest and zealous working Mason; his ripe judgment and wise counsel will be missed in all departments of Masonry in Virginia; his memory will ever be revered among his brethren and Companions."

M. : E. : Abner Townsley Longley, Past Grand High Priest of District of Columbia, died in the City of Washington, February 23, 1896, in his 75th year. Although well advanced in years, he was active in Masonry. His whole life was an exemplification of the noble principles of our Order—Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

This Grand Jurisdiction was called upon to give up another honorable and greatly beloved Companion. Lewis Guillian Stephens, R. : E. : Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, was stricken with apoplexy and died at his country home, near Forestville, Md., on May 17, 1896. Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, a position he held for twenty years, R. : E. : Companion Stephens was known to Capitular Masonry throughout our entire country,

and our Companions of the District of Columbia have our sincerest sympathy in their bereavement.

M. . E. . Michael Nisbet, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, died at his home in the city of Philadelphia, on the 7th of May, 1896. "Companion Nisbet, in his active Masonic life of nearly half a century, filled with recognized skill and ability almost every elective office of the Grand and Subordinate Bodies of Ancient Craft and Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction, and was ever conspicuous as a learned, earnest and zealous worker for the good of Free Masonry."

R. . E. . Frederick Kramer, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas, died at Colorado Springs, September 8, 1896, in the 67th year of his age. "Companion Kramer served his Grand Chapter zealously and faithfully as its Grand Treasurer from November, 1890, until the time of his death."

R. . E. . and Reverend Companion Thomas J. Melish, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, passed peacefully away at his home in Clifton, O., on Wednesday evening, November 11, 1896. Companion Melish was a good Mason and true; his life was a bright example of Masonic manhood and devotion to the teachings of the Order he loved so well."

In our own Jurisdiction some of the truest and best of the Royal Craft have been called to refreshment.

Companion Clarence Crenshaw, of Marion Chapter No. 12, died April 12, 1896; age, 45 years.

OF MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER NO. 19.

Companion Frank Mundy died August 23, 1896; age, 58 years.

Companion Robert E. Watkins died September 20, 1896; age, 66 years.

OF GASTON CHAPTER NO. 85.

Companion W. Franklin Pond died April 11, 1896; age, 62 years.

Companion Samuel J. Morney died April 13, 1896.

Companion John Gidin M. Luther.

PRATT CITY CHAPTER NO. 108.

Companion William Cullom Battle died May 9, 1896; age, 45 years.

MINERAL CITY CHAPTER NO. 101.

Companion Thomas H. Holt died August 1, 1896, after a useful and honorable life, not only as a Mason, but as an Odd Fellow, Knights Templar and Fellow citizen. Indeed, it can be truthfully said of him that he was always ready to visit the sick and afflicted, relieve the wants of the widow and orphan, and speak sweet words of consolation in the ear of a Companion in distress.

Companion Conrad Thebold died at Cincinnati, O., September 3, 1896.

OFFICIAL WORK.

There has been but little official work for me to do this past year, hence I shall consume but little of your time under this head of my report.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

On March 25, 1896, I officially visited Mineral City Chapter No. 101, and was officially received. After which I presided at the Exaltation of a team of three. The attendance was large, there being about sixty present, and the Companions all seemed to be enthusiastic over the work.

On March 26, 1896, I officially visited Decatur Chapter No. 38, and was officially received by the Chapter, after which I presided at the Exaltation of a team of three. The attendance at this Convocation was good, and the Companions who did the floor work were well versed in the Ritual and did what I call unusually good work.

On June 24, 1896, I officially visited and installed the officer, of Elyton Chapter No. 76, and Mineral City Chapter No. 101, at Lake View Park, near Birmingham, Ala.

On November 7, 1896, I officially visited Springville Chapter No. 88, and installed the officers. This Chapter is not as well equipped as it should be for the work. At the same time I found among the members a desire to succeed, and I feel confident that they will yet build up a good Chapter, and if they can be supplied with the Rituals, they will learn the work and become an important factor in Capitular Masonry in Alabama.

On November 19, 1896, I officially visited Eufaula Chapter No. 24, and was officially received by said Chapter and invited to preside at the conferring of the Most Excellent Master and the Ex-

altation of a team of three, but this honor I declined, for the reason that I felt that there was a treat in store for me if I should only insist on the work being done by Companion George M. Beauchamp, the Excellent High Priest. Need I tell you that the work was done well? You know the Companion would expect nothing else, but to you who have not had the pleasure of making his acquaintance, I want to say it was not only good work, but true work, and just such work as we all like to see. After the work there was a spread and a good time for all until the hour to part had come, when we said adieu to those we had known and loved before.

GRAND SECRETARY.

During the year the Grand Secretary has officially visited the Chapters below named.

Columbia No. 93, at Newton, Ala., and exalted three teams.

Land Mark No. 71, at Ozark, Ala., and exalted one team.

Marion No. 12, at Marion, Ala., and exalted two teams.

Pratt City No. 101, at Pratt City, Ala., and exalted one team.

Notasulga No. 92, at Notasulga, Ala., and exalted one team.

Thus it will be seen there has been some work done and some progress made, and more would have been accomplished had the officers of the Chapters been zealous in the work.

DISPENSATIONS.

On December 23, 1895, I granted a special Dispensation to Decatur Chapter No. 38, to receive and ballot on the petition of Bro. M. W. Brown, and if elected, to confer the degrees at the same Convocation.

On March 23, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Mineral City Chapter No. 101, to hold a special Convocation on March 25, 1896, and at said Convocation to transact all of the regular business usually transacted at a regular Convocation.

On March 25, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Companion James O. Bailey and eight others to reorganize Marion Chapter No. 12, located at Marion, Ala.

On April 28, 1896, for good and sufficient reasons given, I granted a special Dispensation to Decatur Chapter No. 38, to receive and ballot on petitions from Bro. Master Masons in good standing, and if elected, to confer the work on them at the same date.

On June 8, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Coosa Chapter No. 86, at Gadsden, Ala., to convene and elect officers on June 22, 1896, for the ensuing Masonic Year.

On June 18, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Fulton Chapter No. 32, to receive and ballot on the applications of Bro. E. L. Moore and D. M. Dismuke, and if elected, to confer the degrees at the same Convocation.

On September 17, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Thomas M. Bragg Chapter No. 99, to convene and elect officers, good and sufficient reasons having been shown for a failure to do so at the time prescribed by law.

On November 16, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Myles J. Green Chapter No. 80, to elect officers for the current Masonic year, the said Chapter having for good and sufficient reasons failed to elect at the time prescribed by law.

On July 20, 1896, I granted a Dispensation to Springville Chapter No. 88, to convene and elect officers, reporting their action to our Grand Secretary.

GRAND REPRESENTATION.

On February 21st I issued Commission appointing R. E. and Rev. Companion Louis S. Byrd, of Muldraw, I. T., as our Representative near the Grand Chapter of Indian Territory.

On March 20th I issued Commission appointing E. Companion Alfred E. Johnston, of Carson City, our Representative near the Grand Chapter of Nevada.

On September 22d I issued Commission appointing E. Companion Edward J. Jones as our Representative near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

On March 5th I nominated E. Companion Newton N. Polk, of Birmingham, Ala., for appointment as Representative of the Grand Chapter of Missouri near that of Alabama.

On March 26th, I nominated E. Companion Charles R. Bricken, of Luverne, for appointment as our Representative near the Chapter of Nevada.

These Companions will, no doubt, present their credentials and enter upon the discharge of their duty at the present Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

At our last Annual Convocation I stated to this Grand Chapter that I was finally convinced after a working experience of

twenty years, that there was a stern necessity for the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter of the United States for our Subordinate Chapters. Having passed another year in the chair, and visited quite a number of Subordinate Chapters, I see no reason now to change my views; indeed, if such a thing could be possible, I am to-day a stronger believer in its use than I was then.

While our Committee on Work is one that is well versed in the work, and in my opinion, give a better work than the General Grand Chapter, at the same time it is not the work we are expected to teach, neither is it in such shape as to be of benefit to the Craft; and as I stated in my last address, this is a busy age, and the men who have the capacity to learn the work from mouth to ear seldom have time to do so, hence we seldom find two High Priests that use the same work, and no two men in the vails who give correct answers, and I am free to confess that I can see no remedy for this but the Ritual under the restrictions of the General Grand Chapter.

With the work of the General Grand Chapter adopted, there can be no excuse for officers not doing their duty, neither can there be any excuse for failure to learn the work with the Ritual in the hands of the three first officers of each Chapter, Capitular Masonry in Alabama will grow as it has done under other Jurisdictions where the Ritual has come into use.

Referring to page No. 18 of the Proceedings of the last Grand Chapter, there is a set of resolutions offered by Companion George F. Moore, and adopted, providing for the raising of revenue and its disposition by this Grand Chapter, that appears to be in conflict with Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, hence I would respectfully recommend its repeal. It is, to say the least of it, a law of doubtful propriety, and if enforced would, in my opinion, work great hardship on the Subordinate Chapters.

TO THE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTERS.

While I would not burden you with advice, at the same time I think it well to remind you that nothing succeeds like success. You must, at all times, study the work and be prepared to give advice to your subordinates when asked for it. Learn the work and always try to do it well. Never allow your Chapters to be opened or closed in short form, and in every degree try to perfect

yourself so that the impression made will be a good one. Finally, as I have said to you before, don't accept office for honors you may expect from it, for I can assure you no position in life can honor a man who does not honor himself.

Finally, like the faithful sentinel on the outer wall, be at your post when duty calls.

DECISIONS.

It has been unnecessary for me to make any decisions on points of law the past year, the Constitution and edicts of this Grand Chapter, together with that of the General Grand Chapter, being sufficient guides to subordinate officers and Chapters.

CLOSING.

This, my Companions, closes my official work as your Grand High Priest, and I shall again assume my place in the ranks, prepared to work where duty calls; and while my work is not satisfactory (to me) or complete, yet I feel that I have done the best I could, and I feel that each of you will throw the broad mantle of charity over my mistakes and excuse them to the outer world.

In conclusion, permit me to return my sincere thanks to you for the many courtesies and distinguished honors you have conferred upon me. Leaving, as I do, the chair, I can more heartily reciprocate the wishes on my honored Companions who have preceded me, and join in wishing Royal Arch Masonry, as well as each and every Companion of the Order, every measure of success in the future.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN G. SMITH,

Grand High Priest.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

Grand Treasurer William H. Dingley submitted the following as his Annual Report, and moved its reference to the Committee on Finance, and it was so ordered :

WILLIAM H. DINGLEY, GRAND TREASURER,

In Account with Grand Chapter of Alabama, R. A. M.

1895.	DR.	
Dec. 2.	To balance.....	\$ 84 61
1896.		
Oct. 7.	Grand Secretary.....	\$628 00
	Grand Secretary, Bal. Con. Fund.	19 75
Nov. 19.	Grand Secretary.....	259 50— 907 25
		<u>\$991 86</u>
1895.	CR.	
Dec. 3.	By Grand Chaplain	\$ 20 00
5.	Committee on Correspondence....	75 00
7.	Grand Sentinel.....	18 10
11.	Grand Treasurer	50 00
17.	Committee on Work.....	6 60
1896.		
Mar. 22.	Contingent Fund.....	150 00
Oct. 9.	Grand Secretary's salary for 1896..	400 00—\$719 70
	Balance	272 16
		<u>\$991 86</u>
	WILLIAM H. DINGLEY,	
	Grand Treasurer.	

REPORT OF GRAND SECRETARY.

H. Clay Armstrong, Grand Secretary, submitted his Annual Report and moved its reference to the Committee on Finance, and it was so ordered :

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG, GRAND SECRETARY,

In Account with Grand Chapter of Alabama.

1896.	DR.	
Oct. 7.	To Dues collected to date.....	\$628 00
Nov. 15.	Dues collected to date.....	259 50—\$887 50
1896.	CR.	
Oct. 7.	By Amount paid Grand Treasurer....	\$628 00
Nov. 19.	Amount paid Grand Treasurer....	259 50—\$887 50

EXHIBIT "C."

REPORT OF GRAND SECRETARY.

CONTINGENT FUND.

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG, GRAND SECRETARY,

In Account with Grand Chapter of Alabama.

DR.

To Balance from 1895.....	\$ 2 15
Contingent Fund 1895-96.....	150 00—\$152 15

CR.

	By Am't Paid Alabama Printing Co.....	\$108 80
Feb. 1.	Paid Postage.....	15 00
June 15.	Paid Servant Hire.....	40
Sept. 8.	Paid Postage.....	3 00
Oct. 7.	Paid Postage.....	6 00
	Balance to Grand Treasurer.....	19 75—\$152 95

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG,
Grand Secretary.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Companion Palmer J. Pillans, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submitted his Annual Report. It was received and ordered printed with the Proceedings. (See Appendix.)

COMMITTEES.

The M., E., Grand High Priest announced the following Committees:

On Chartered Chapters No. 1—W. E. Oakley, W. A. Smart, W. C. Black.

On Chartered Chapters No. 2—B. M. Hill, W. T. Fuller, R. H. Tuck.

On Dispensations—Charles R. Bricken, H. B. Cowart, T. H. Moore.

On By-Laws, Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals—George A. Joiner, T. B. Dison, M. J. Gilchrist.

On Masonic Jurisprudence—Benjamin F. Pope, Lew Lazarus, J. S. Williams.

On Finance—L. J. Adler, George A. Beauchamp, Charles A. Mandy.

REPORT ON WORK.

Companion H. Clay Armstrong, from the Committee on Work, made Report on the M. M. Degree, and the Report was adopted.

On motion of Companion Benjamin F. Pope, the further Report of the Committee on Work was temporarily dispensed with and made a special order for 7:30 o'clock this evening.

Companion George F. Moore offered the following Preamble and Resolution, and the Preamble was concurred in and the Resolution adopted:

Whereas, At the last Annual Grand Convocation of this Grand Chapter a series of Resolutions, set forth at length on pages 18 and 19 of the Proceedings, were adopted by this Grand Chapter, and

Whereas, The said Resolutions were fully discussed before the Finance Committee and in the Grand Chapter, and the said Resolutions were found not to be in conflict with any provision of the Constitution of this Grand Chapter, and it was then believed that the system outlined therein would be of great benefit to the Subordinate Chapters; and

Whereas, It was distinctly stated and understood that if said plan of raising revenue was not successful, that its repeal would be sought at this Convocation; and

Whereas, Said Resolutions have not procured the results sought to be attained thereby; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the said Resolutions above referred to and set forth on pages 18 and 19 of the printed Proceedings of this Grand Chapter at its Annual Convocation commencing December 2nd, 1895, be and the same are hereby repealed.

On motion of Companion Pope, the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until 7:30 o'clock P. M.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

MONDAY EVENING, November 30, 1896.

The M. E. Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 7:30 o'clock.

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

The Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

On motion of Companion William E. Oakley, the Grand Chapter proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, with result as follows:

Josiah Jernigan.....	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
William J. Rhodes.....	M. E. Deputy Grand H. Priest.
Edward S. Gatchell.....	R. E. Grand King.
George F. Moore.....	R. E. Grand Scribe.
William H. Dingley.....	R. E. Grand Treasurer.
H. Clay Armstrong.....	R. E. Grand Secretary.
William C. Cleveland.....	R. E. Grand Chaplain.
Charles R. Bricken.....	R. E. Grand Capt. of Host.

The Grand High Priest subsequently appointed the following:

George A. Beauchamp.....	E. Grand P. Sojourner.
Basil M. Hill.....	E. Grand R. A. Captain.
William E. Oakley.....	E. Grand M. 3 Vail.
Lew Lazarus.....	E. Grand M. 2 Vail.
Thomas J. Thomason.....	E. Grand M. 1 Vail.
Charles A. Allen.....	E. Grand Sentinel.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

Companion George A. Joiner, from the Committee on Grand High Priest's Address, submitted the following Report, and it was adopted :

To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee to whom was referred the Address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, beg leave to submit the following Report:

It is gratifying to note from the words of the Address that interest in Capitular Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction is increasing, and that Subordinate Chapters visited exhibited considerable proficiency in the work. Still more gratifying is the evident tendency in many localities to larger growth, when present conditions are changed for the better. The policy of official visits is to be commended, and if it could be arranged for the M. E. Grand High Priest or one of the principal officers to visit each Chapter in the State between Grand Convocations, the results would be highly beneficial. At the last Annual Grand Convocation the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address said (on page 17 of the Proceedings), "Your Committee cannot agree with the M. E. Grand High Priest in his views expressed in that portion of his Address which recommends the use of printed Rituals in the Subordinate Chapters, believing, as we do, that it will lead to great confusion and possible disaster." We are now confirmed in the conclusion then reached, and, in view of the statement made by the efficient Chairman of our Committee on Work, that the work as adopted and practiced by this Grand Chapter follows closely and is substantially the work of the General Grand Chapter, we therefore reiterate our former opinion that printed Rituals might prove disastrous; that they are unnecessary, for one who will not learn the work now would not be likely to do so from a printed Ritual. We heartily commend the work as reported by our Committee, and only revert to the matter to call attention to the action taken thereon by the Grand Chapter at its last Annual Grand Convocation.

The good order and fraternal feeling existing in this Jurisdiction is shown by the fact that the Grand High Priest was not called on to render an opinion on any matter of conflict. This is a record worthy of special reference.

The tributes to deceased Companions should be furnished to Grand and Subordinate Secretaries, and we recommend that copies be sent to them.

In the retirement of our Grand High Priest after two years of faithful service we feel that we but express the unanimous sentiment of all the Companions here assembled and those they represent when we say his Masonic light has ever burned brightly and his Masonic conduct ever been in keeping with its obligations.

Fraternally submitted,

W. W. SCREWS,
P. J. PILLANS,
G. A. JOINER,
Committee.

CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 1.

Companion William E. Oakley, Chairman of the Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 1, made the following Report, which was adopted :

To the Grand R. A. Chapter of Alabama:

We, your Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 1, beg leave to report as follows:

We have examined with care the returns submitted and find—

CORRECT.

Monroe.....No. 4.	Montgomery.....No. 22.
Courtland.....No. 25.	Eufaula.....No. 24.
Sts. John.....No. 28.	Tyrian.....No. 54.
Mount Moriah.....No. 19.	Union.....No. 26.

Fulton Chapter No. 32 shows that the officers holding over were not installed. This is irregular. Its officers should have been installed.

Marion No. 12, incorrect. Omitted day and date of installation. The Report shows no amount for affiliation fee or annual dues, and one of its officers is omitted from its roster.

Fraternally submitted,

WM. E. OAKLEY,
W. A. SMART,
W. C. BLACK,
Committee.

CHARTERED CHAPTERS NO. 2.

Companion B. M. Hill, Chairman of the Committee on Chartered Chapters No. 2, made the following Report, which was adopted :

To the Most Excellent Grand R. : A. : Chapter of Alabama:

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

Decatur.....No. 38.	CollinsvilleNo. 57.
Landmark.....No. 71.	Myles J. Greene.....No. 80.
Gaston.....No. 85.	Mineral City.....No. 101.
Fort PayneNo. 107.	Pratt CityNo. 108.
Blotton.....No. 109.	

INCORRECT.

Clayton, No. 63. No date of installation of officers and no impression of seal.

Central, No. 64, does not give its membership in alphabetical order; no date of installation of officers; amount of fees for Degrees not given, and no impression of seal.

Faternally submitted,

B. M. HILL,
Chairman.

TESTIMONIAL FOR PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST JOHN G. SMITH.

Companion George A. Beauchamp offered the following Resolution, and it was adopted :

Resolved, That a Committee of three Past Grand Officers be appointed to procure a suitable jewel or testimonial to be presented to our retiring M. : E. : Grand High Priest, John G. Smith, in recognition of the valuable services he has rendered Capitular Masonry during his term of office as Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter.

Thereupon the M. : E. : Grand High Priest appointed the following Committee:

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG,
WILLIAM W. SCREWS,
JOHN G. HARRIS.

TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5, OF THE CONSTITUTION.

On motion of Companion William E. Oakley, the Grand Chapter proceeded to the consideration of the proposition to amend Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution submitted at the last Grand Annual Convocation, which is as follows:

Resolved, That Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter be amended so as to read as follows:

"No Chapter shall charge a less fee than thirty dollars for the Chapter Degrees, which fees shall be paid as follows: Fifteen dollars to accompany the petition, and five dollars to be paid before conferring each of the Degrees of P. M., M. E. M. and R. A., and in no case shall credit be given, nor shall any part thereof be refunded to any candidate, unless his petition be rejected."

And the amendment was lost, the vote being Yeas, 7; Nays, 16.

REPORT ON WORK.

Companion H. Clay Armstrong, Chairman of Committee on Work, made Report on the P. M. Degree, and it was adopted.

Companion George A. Beauchamp, from the Committee on Work, made Report on the M. E. M. Degree, and it was adopted.

TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5, OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Companion Sol D. Bloch offered the following Resolution to amend Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution, which was, on motion, laid over until the next Annual Grand Convocation:

Resolved, That Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter be amended so as to read as follows:

No Chapter shall charge a less fee than twenty dollars for the Chapter Degrees, which fee must, in all cases, accompany the

petition; and in no case shall credit be given, nor shall any part thereof be refunded to any candidate, unless his petition be rejected.

. INSTALLATION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

The Grand Officers were duly installed by P.: G.: H.: P.: H. Clay Armstrong, M.: E.: Companion John G. Smith acting as Grand Marshal.

The Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

TUESDAY MORNING, December 1, 1896.

The M. E. Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 9 o'clock.

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

The Minutes of yesterday evening's session were read and approved.

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

Companion Benjamin F. Pope, Chairman of Committee on Jurisprudence, made the following Report, and it was adopted:

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

Your Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence fraternally report that no question of Masonic law has been submitted to the Committee at the present Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.

Fraternally submitted,

BENJAMIN F. POPE,
LEW LAZARUS,
J. S. WILLIAMS,
Committee.

MARION CHAPTER, NO. 12.

The R. E. Grand Secretary offered the following Preamble and Resolution, which were adopted:

Whereas, Marion Chapter, No. 12, having paid all dues demanded by the Grand Chapter, therefore

Resolved, That the Charter of said Chapter be restored free of all cost.

REPORT ON WORK.

Companion H. Clay Armstrong, Chairman of Committee on Work, made Report on the R. A. Degree, and it was adopted.

TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 5, OF THE CONSTITUTION.

On motion of Companion Charles R. Bricken, the vote by which the Resolution of Companion Sol D. Bloch to amend Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution, offered on yesterday, was ordered to lie over until the next Annual Grand Convocation, was reconsidered, and the following amendment offered thereto:

Provided, That all regularly ordained ministers of the gospel actively engaged in their calling, and who are in good standing with their respective lodges, shall be entitled, upon application therefor, to receive said Degrees gratuitously.

And the Resolution as amended was, on motion, ordered to lie over until the next Annual Grand Convocation.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Companion L. J. Adler, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, made the following Report, which was adopted:

To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Finance have carefully examined the books, accounts and vouchers of your Grand Secretary and Treasurer, and find the same correct in every particular.

We find that the Grand Treasurer had on hand a balance of.....\$ 84 61
Received since.....907 25

Total receipts.....\$991 86

He has vouchers for the following expenditures:

Grand Chaplain	\$ 20 00
Foreign Correspondence.....	75 00
Sentinel.....	18 10
Grand Treasurer	50 00
Committee on Work.....	6 60
Contingent Fund.....	150 00
Secretary's Salary	400 00—\$719 70

Balance on hand.....	\$272 16
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We find that the Grand Secretary has expended the following amounts and items from the Contingent Fund:

Printing.....	\$108 80
Postage.....	24 00
Servant Hire	40
	<u>\$133 20</u>

Balance on hand and turned over to Gr. Treas'r.	19 75—\$152 95
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We recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing Masonic year:

For Grand Treasurer	\$ 50 00
Grand Sentinel.....	15 00
Expenses Grand Sentinel at this Convocation.....	5 70
Committee on Correspondence.....	75 00
Committee on Work.....	10 00
Contingent Fund.....	150 00
Grand Secretary.....	400 00
Total.....	<u>\$705 70</u>

We regret to find that a number of Chapters are delinquent in the payment of annual dues, thereby lessening the receipts of the Grand Chapter, which has necessitated rigid economy in our appropriations. Your Committee believe that every officer should be compensated commensurate with the duties and dignity of his station, but the condition of our exchequer precludes this. We trust, however, that good times are coming, and that the future will be fruitful of better results.

Fraternally submitted,

LOUIS J. ADLER,
CHARLES H. MANDY,
GEO. A. BEAUCHAMP,
Committee.

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS AND
APPEALS.

Companion G. A. Joiner, Chairman of Committee on By-Laws, Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals, submitted the following Report, and it was adopted :

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on By-Laws, Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals beg leave to report that nothing has been referred to us for consideration. This emphasizes the fact, stated in last year's Report of this Committee, that Royal Arch Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction are at peace with one another, which is a cause for sincere rejoicing.

G. A. JOINER,
Chairman.

The Grand High Priest announced the following as the

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer J. Pillans Belknap.

ON WORK.

H. Clay Armstrong Montgomery.

William S. Foster Mobile.

George A. Beauchamp Eufaula.

CUSTODIAN OF THE WORK, *ex-officio*.

Josiah Jernigan, G. H. P. Troy.

ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

Benjamin F. Pope Gadsden.

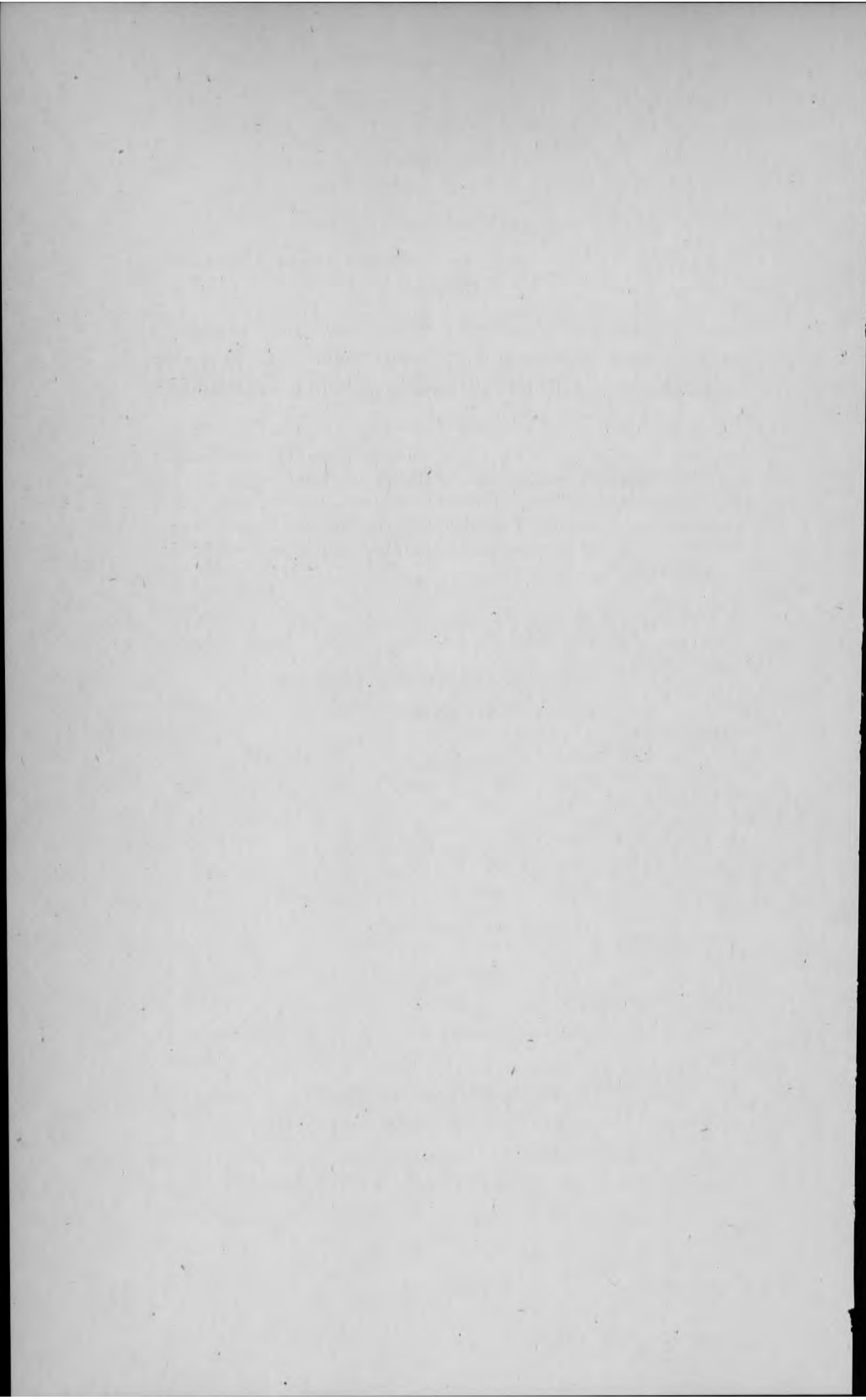
Oscar J. Cohen Mobile.

Robert Vance Blocton.

CLOSED.

After solemn prayer to the Throne of Grace by the R. E. and Rev. Grand Chaplain, the M. E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Alabama was closed in Ample Form.

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG,
GRAND SECRETARY.



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COUNCIL OF ANOINTED HIGH PRIESTS
OF THE
STATE OF ALABAMA.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 1, 1896.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Convocation of the Council of High Priests of the State of Alabama was held in Masonic Temple in the City of Montgomery at 4 o'clock P. M., December 1st, 1896.

PRESENT.

H. Clay Armstrong.....	M. E. President.
Charles R. Bricken.....	E. Vice-President.
William J. Rhodes.....	E. Chaplain.
William E. Oakley.....	E. Treasurer.
B. M. Hill.....	E. Recorder.
Ed. S. Gatchell.....	E. Master of Ceremonies.
William A. Arnold.....	E. Conductor.
W. T. Duke <i>as</i>	E. Herald.
B. Dixon Armstrong <i>as</i>	E. Steward.

MEMBERS.

W. W. Screws, B. Dixon Armstrong, Sol D. Bloch, T. J. Thomason, Josiah Jernigan, William H. Dingley and Benjamin F. Pope.

The Council was opened in due form.

REPRESENTATIVE.

M. E. H. Clay Armstrong was elected Representative to the Grand Council of Anointed High

Priests to be holden in the City of Baltimore in October, 1897, and in the event of his inability to attend, was authorized to appoint his alternate.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

H. Clay Armstrong.....	President.
Charles R. Bricken ..	Vice-President.
William J. Rhodes.....	Chaplain.
William E. Oakley	Treasurer.
Basil M. Hill.....	Recorder.
William J. Pierce.....	Master of Ceremonies.
William A. Arnold.....	Conductor.
William S. Foster	Herald.
Benjamin F. Jones.....	Steward.

COUNCIL CLOSED.

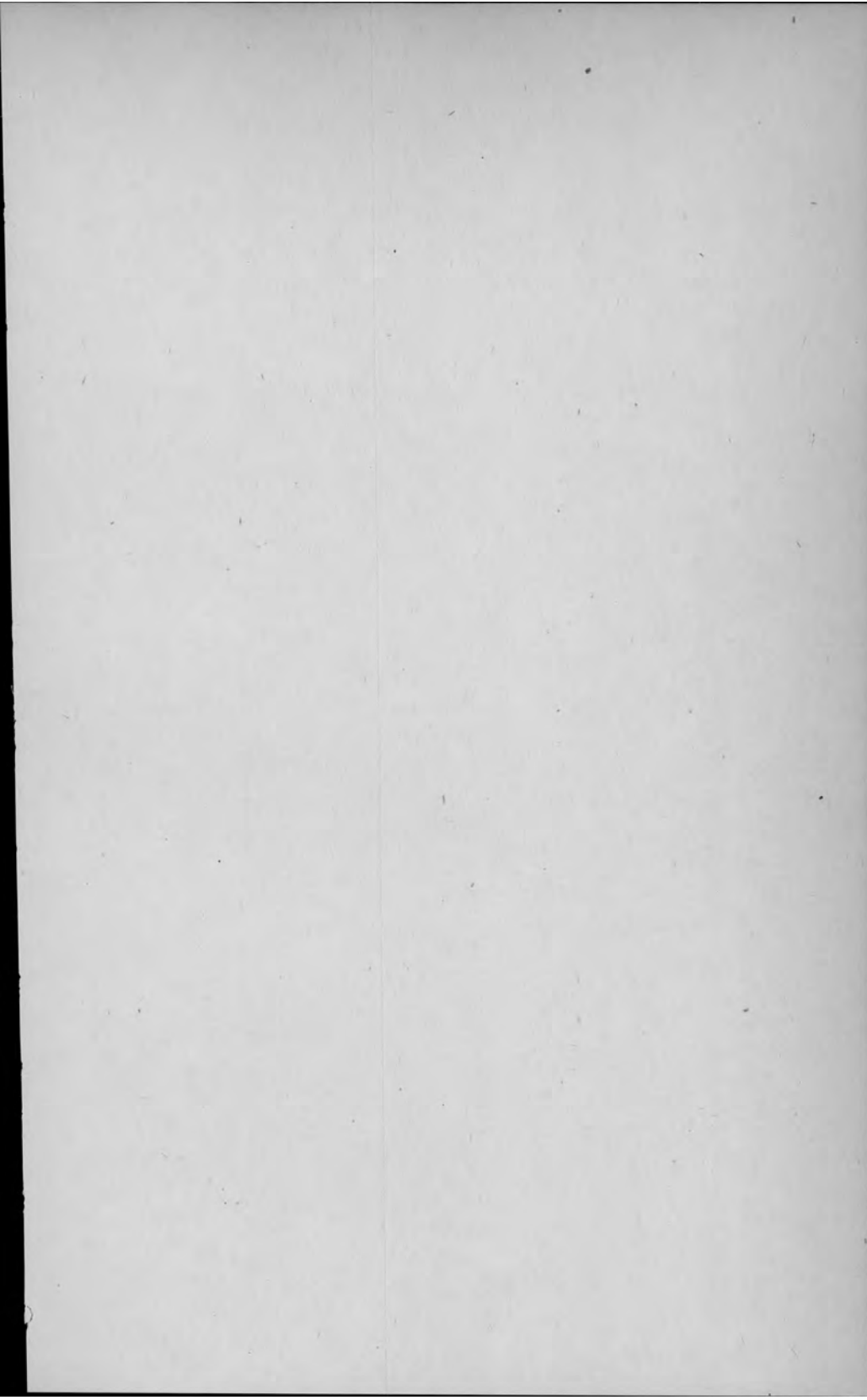
There being no further business to come before the Council, it was closed in Ample Form.

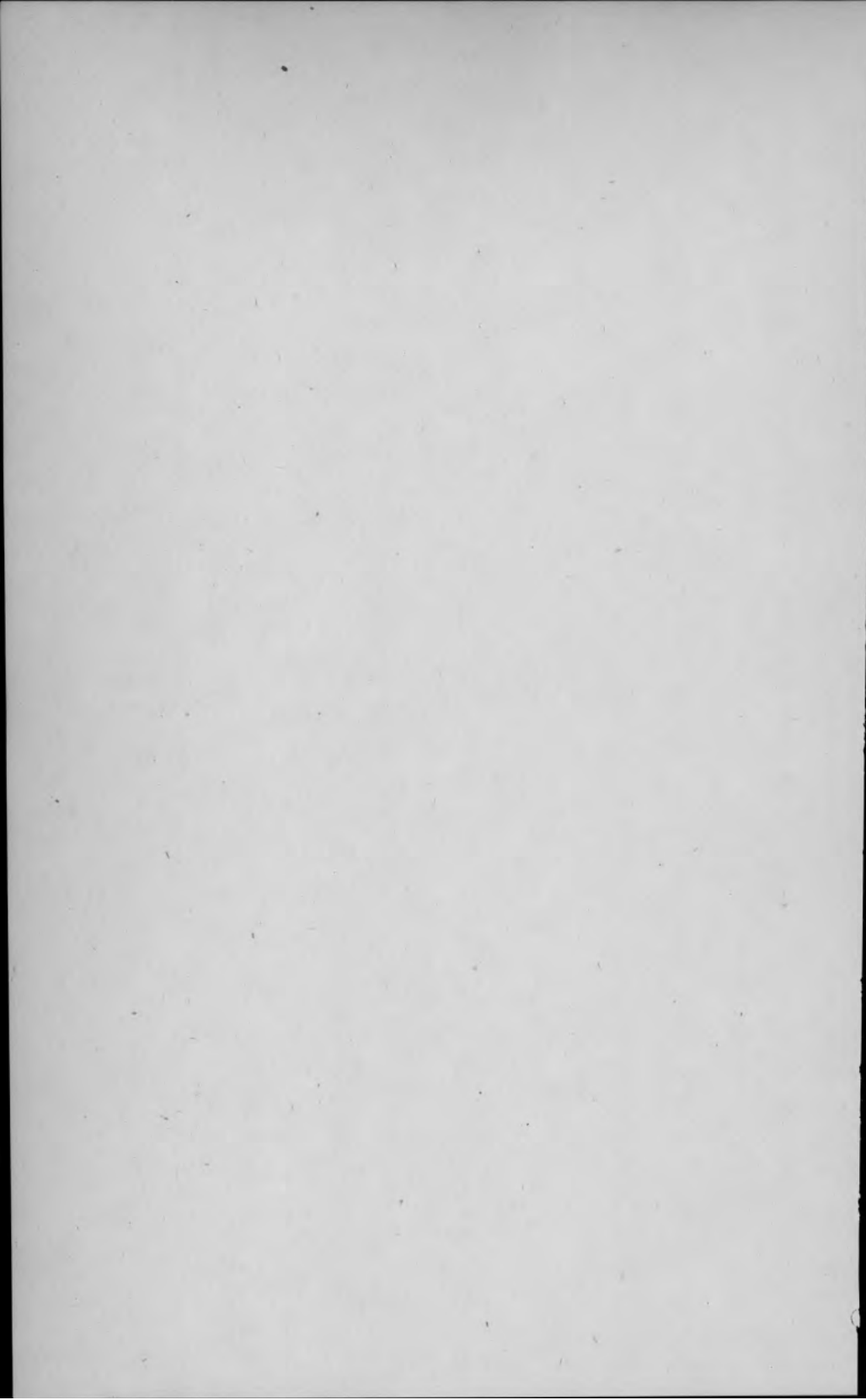
H. CLAY ARMSTRONG,

Attest: BASIL M. HILL,

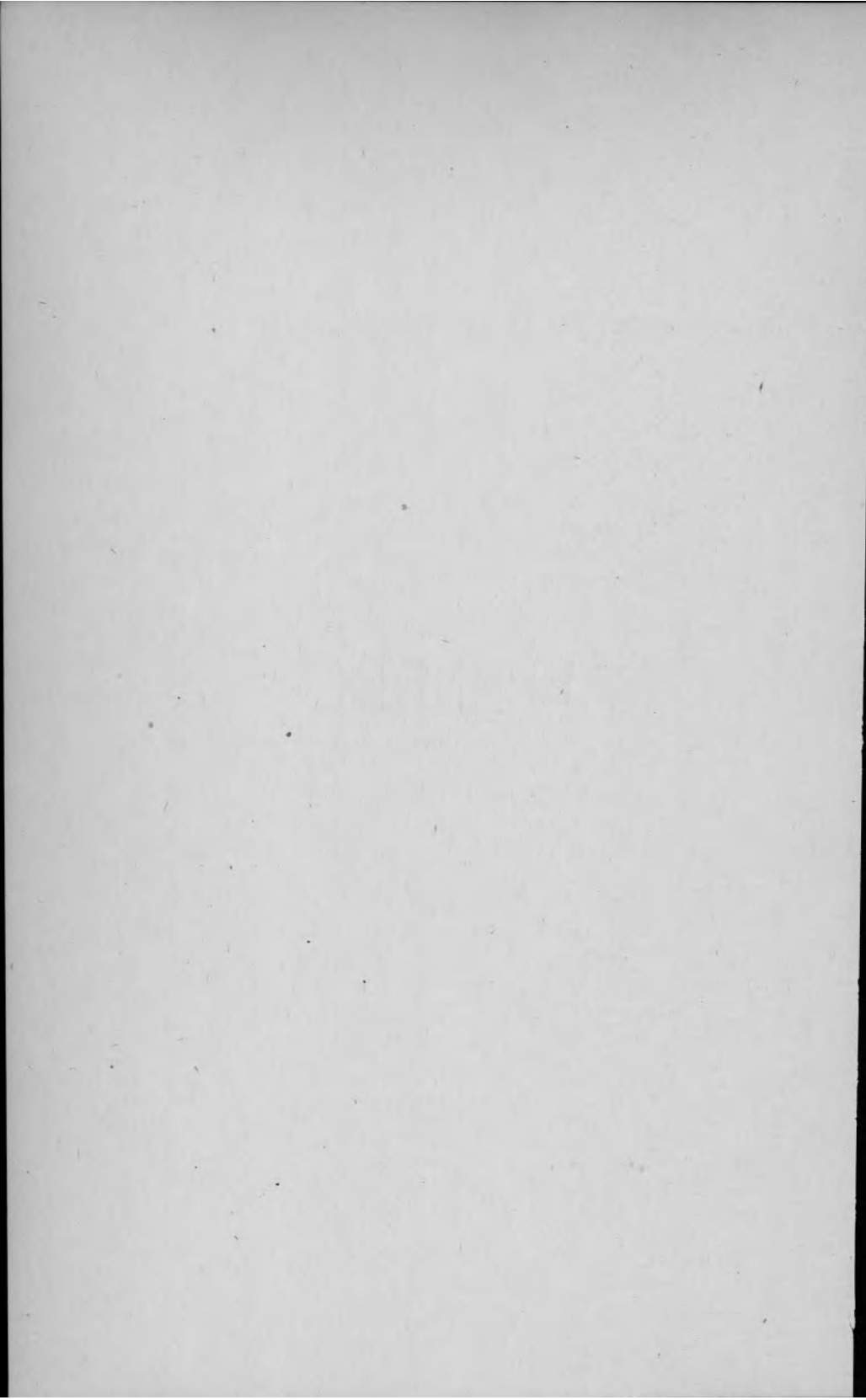
PRESIDENT.

Recorder.





APPENDIX.



REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

P. J. PILLANS, CHAIRMAN.

To the M. E. Grand Chapter of Alabama:

Your Committee on Correspondence begs leave to tender this, its report, having reviewed the Proceedings of the following Grand Chapters which are all that have reached it:

Arizona	1895	Montana.	1895
California.....	1896	Nebraska.....	1895
Colorado.....	1895	Nevada.....	1896
Connecticut.....	1896	New Hampshire.....	1896
Delaware.....	1896	New Jersey.....	1896
District of Columbia.....	1895	New York.....	1896
England.....	1896	North Carolina.....	1896
Florida.....	1896	North Dakota.....	1896
Georgia.....	1896	Nova Scotia.....	1895
Illinois.....	1895	Oregon.....	1896
Indian Territory.....	1896	Pennsylvania.....	1895
Indiana.....	1895	Quebec.....	1896
Iowa.....	1895	Rhode Island.....	1896
Kansas.....	1896	South Carolina.....	1896
Kentucky.....	1895	South Dakota.....	1896
Louisiana.....	1896	Tennessee.....	1896
Maine.....	1895	Texas.....	1895
Maryland.....	1895	Vermont.....	1896
Massachusetts.....	1895	Virginia.....	1895
Michigan.....	1896	West Virginia.....	1895
Mississippi.....	1896	Wisconsin.....	1895

ARIZONA—6TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1895.

Within this Jurisdiction are now only four Chapters, one having died out, and the members number 179, being nine less than at last Report. Bad, but we hope for better news next time.

Grand High Priest F. A. Shaw speaks thus of Arizona:

"The earth has not refused her accustomed yield.' While our mines have largely increased their out-put, it being estimated that the value of the copper product of 1895 will not fall short of \$20,000,000, and that the various gold mines throughout the Territory will yield, this year, not less than \$5,000,000, our cattle and other interests are also in a flourishing condition.

'For these and the manifold blessings we enjoy in this favored land, our hearts, like the pot of incense, 'that glows with fervent heat,' should glow with gratitude to the beneficent Author 'from whom all blessings flow.' "

He gives as one reason for visiting none of the Chapters the distances to be traveled, which, at six cents a mile, makes "the sacrifice too great for one of moderate means."

This Grand Chapter thinks that the Ritual of California, heretofore adopted, is too well known to render a change advisable.

It, however, became a member of the Collectors' Association.

A vote of thanks was adopted for Mrs. J. D. Moulton "for the beautiful bouquets of flowers which adorned the stations."

Rickmer N. Fredericks, Prescott, G. H. P.

G. J. Roskrue, Tucson, G. Sec'y.

We have no Report on Correspondence.

CALIFORNIA—42D ANNUAL, APRIL, 1896.

Chapters, 67; R. A. Masons, 5,178; gain, 56.

Our California Companions are still up and doing, with no abatement of zeal, though they have been harassed by what their Grand High Priest is pleased to style "this palpable Masonic fraud," Cerneanism.

In consequence of charges preferred against one Companion Granville A. Francis, of a Chapter in Michigan, and one Powell Samuel Lawson, of California, for a violation of the edicts of the Grand Chapter, an injunction was sued out by them against the officers of the Grand Chapter, and the Chapters acting as a court. Our Companion Davies, in his Correspondence, reports thus, stating the matter concisely, and we copy :

"The Companion in his complaint filed in the Superior Court, alleges this Grand Chapter to be influenced by schemers and conspirators, who, in pursuance of their conspiracy, caused certain acts to be passed which were unconstitutional, illegal, and in vio-

lation of the landmarks and usages of Royal Arch Masonry, and unless restrained by the majesty of the law, he feared injury in his personal and property rights, etc. The case has been argued and submitted, and in an exhaustive opinion in the case of Powell S. Lawson vs. A. Hewel, et als., Judge Catlin, not a Mason, tells Companion Lawson that the edict complained of must stand or fall by the doctrine of Masonry as defined, not by the courts, but by the authorities of Masonry. And that while the court may and should protect property rights, it cannot perform even that function when it cannot be performed without usurping an unwarranted power over the consciences and personal liberties of the citizen.

"Our Proceedings give the opinion in full."

The case was carried to the Supreme Court, where the position of the inferior was sustained.

After the rendition of the opinion by the Supreme Court, the Grand Chapter, upon review of the cases from the Subordinate Chapter, expelled them from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. This, we hope, may destroy this disturbing element, and that new life and new growth and increased zeal may result.

The Grand High Priest, intending to make many visitations to numerous Chapters, thus most admirably and correctly introduces the subject. We commend his utterances to our future Grand High Priests, believing that in this way Capitular Masonry, which has, for some time, been losing strength in this Jurisdiction, would be stimulated into life and activity.

The assets of Grand Chapter reach the sum of \$29,000.

Thos. Flint, Sr., San Juan, G. H. P.

Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco, G. Sec'y.

Companion William Abraham Davies, Past Grand High Priest, furnishes the well selected dishes with sauces of his own for the mental food of his Companions. It is needless, then, to characterize it as good, for that goes without saying.

Alabama for 1895 receives fraternal notice.

We believe that he is correct in the opinion that the Mason who is active in either Chapter or Commandery is also active in the Lodge. Indeed, he is almost always the good, reliable, all-round Mason.

COLORADO—21ST ANNUAL, SEPTEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 32; members, 2,514; gain, 12.

One new Chapter was organized under Dispensation, and received a Charter at this Convocation.

Says the Grand High Priest :

"We are still troubled with the companion who has only made use of the Chapter as a sort of platform, in order to step up a little higher, and for this reason many of our Chapters suffer from the absence of such as should be among its chief supporters. Upon this question I do not want to deliberate, for it is under constant discussion, without hitting upon the proper remedy. The one I would recommend, is simply to make the convocations a little more attractive by cultivating the social side of Masonry; or, let some of the companions prepare a course of lectures on Masonic topics, to be delivered when there is a scarcity of candidates, and I think that the Chapters will be able to note quite an increase in the attendance."

And so we may expect always to be.

Dispensations to advance candidates without the required examination as to proficiency were refused.

This Grand Chapter at this Convocation completed its twenty-first year, and so did Companion Ed. C. Parmelee as its Grand Secretary. Long may he live to give us such complete and neat copies of its Proceedings.

An effort to reduce the fees for conferring the degrees from fifty to thirty-five dollars, was defeated, as we are pleased to see.

Nothing of note disturbed the Convocation, and its session was harmonious and without noteworthy incident.

George T. Cooper, Amethyst, G. H. P.

Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence bears the impress of our excellent Companion, E. L. N. Foster, in which he reviews the Proceedings of forty-six Grand Chapters, covering 127 pages. Among them is found Alabama for 1894, which receives very full and pleasant notice, in which we are greatly pleased to find that in many points we are sustained by this able writer.

His estimate of the value of the Grand Secretary of his Grand Chapter is just and fully deserved, as follows :

"We are pleased to notice this appreciation of Ed's work, and at the risk of being considered presumptuous, we will say that, in our opinion, there are no Proceedings in which the tables are more complete and accurate than those our Grand Secretary prepares."

He is evidently no friend of the Wisconsin plan of administering to the needy.

It is exceedingly gratifying to us to find him so completely expressing our views as to the advisability of a fee for affiliation :

"Affiliates usually come from other Jurisdictions, and Masons who have by force of circumstances had to change their home, should hardly be taxed when they show a desire to sustain the Craft in their new home. In fact, if there is an affiliation fee they will consider whether it is best to dimitt from their old Chapter where perhaps the dues are less, or if already dimitted, will hesitate to join. And thus their valuable labors will be lost, for it is undoubtedly an assured thing that Masons will attend the bodies of which they are members much better than those in which they are only visitors."

The Colorado rule on the subject of the dimits of petitioners for a new Chapter, from the following, we presume, to be the same as prevails here in Alabama, *i. e.*, that the dimits should accompany the petition. When reviewing New York, he thus expresses himself :

"He differs with us only this far in the matter of dimits accompanying the application for Charter, viz: That if presented when the Chapter is constituted, it is sufficient. This, to our mind, is not as good as to accompany the petition, as the Grand Chapter record could not be complete until it knew to whom it was granting a Charter. It certainly seems better practice for the Grand Chapter to designate the names of those to form the new Chapter, and this it can only do if it has the dimits of the applicants. It works no hardships, and it is quite as easy for the petitioners to send their dimits with the petition, as to get them in time for the constituting of the Chapter."

It may be inferred that he disapproves of public installations, though, under the circumstances, he does "not wish to give his views."

He is opposed, we think, and with him we agree, to proselyting for the Chapter as for the Lodge, and for the same reason that

the "free will and accord" should run through all the degrees. We leave this interesting report with regret.

CONNECTICUT—98TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1896.

Chapters, 38 ; members, 5,433 ; gain, 218.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest James R. Post, after opening the Grand Chapter by his address, shows that the Craft are harmonious and zealous ; pays a fitting tribute to the numerous distinguished dead ; announces that he had made many visitations ; granted some Dispensations, though he was not called on for any decisions.

The treasury shows a balance of \$1,369.

This Grand Chapter authorizes the Grand Secretary to furnish all Masonic libraries, when asked for, with a copy of the Proceedings.

It also imposes and collects a fine from every Chapter not represented at its Grand Convocations.

It was determined to celebrate its Centennial Convocation, and to this end a proper committee was appointed.

Samuel S. Lamb, Waterbury, G. H. P.

James McCormick, Hartford, G. Sec'y.

Companion John H. Barlow, Past Grand High Priest, who, for many years now, has presented the Report on Correspondence, brought it forward again, in it reviewing kindly the Proceedings of Alabama for 1895. We thank him for his pleasant words of ourself, but his wish in our behalf can hardly be fulfilled, for already the labor of writing is becoming exceeding great, and a stenographer and typewriter is entirely beyond our reach.

His Report is an admirable summary of other Grand Chapters. He does not approve of the abolishment of the fifth degree, though he thinks great improvement could be made in conferring it.

We give the following for its soundness, in our opinion, although, in the Jurisdiction of Alabama, as the Constitution of the Grand Lodge provides for a summary suspension for dues owing for two years or more, and this Grand Body declares that the effect of this suspension is the same as from any other cause, what can a Chapter do but exclude one so suspended?

"We are a believer in dependent membership, but not a Companion can be suspended, even for non-payment of dues, without a trial. We think charges must be preferred and the Companion given an opportunity to be heard. If shown that he is unable to pay, let the dues be cheerfully remitted, and not to suffer his membership to be severed by a mere check mark."

DELAWARE—28TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 4 ; members, 595 ; gain, 12.

There was but little to be brought before Grand Chapter by Grand High Priest Eugene Massey, but he recommended that membership in the Chapter be made coexistent with that in the Lodge, and Grand Chapter declared that no member of a Chapter could retain good standing with a dimit more than one year old in his pocket.

He also recommended that the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter be the established Ritual of the Jurisdiction to produce uniformity in the work.

Virginus V. Harrison, Wilmington, G. H. P.

James H. Price, Wilmington, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence reviewing the Proceedings of forty-four Grand Chapters, in eighty-three pages, was made by Companion V. V. Harrison, and was deemed worthy of a higher estimate than heretofore, hence he was worthily elevated to the responsible position of Grand High Priest. Alabama is therein found and is courteously treated.

He thinks our position now taken that suspension or expulsion by a Lodge terminates a membership in the Chapter.

To public installations he is firmly opposed, and thinks that such work "can only be performed legally within a tiled Chapter."

He is with us as to the necessity of the actual presence of the Charter to make the Convocation a legal one, as see :

"Now while this view is supported by some of the brightest lights in the country, we beg to dissent and to place ourselves in line with the views of the Grand High Priest. We distinctly recollect that the Charter of a Lodge over which we were called to preside at one time, was temporarily out of place, and we were forcibly reminded that it was necessary that it be in the

room or our authority was *nil*. Now, Companions of the quill, what say you ? Were you ever placed in such a predicament ? Can you answer the question, what constitutes a Lodge ? If so, I dare say you will agree with the Grand High Priest of New York, that the Charter should be *absolutely present*."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—29TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 10; members, 2,192; gain, 51.

The assets of the Grand Chapter, consisting of securities bearing interest and cash, amount to \$5,633, and its annual cash balance is a growing one.

The following position of the Grand High Priest, Frank L. Campbell, appears to us to be eminently correct, though it seems not to be entertained by many :

"My reflection upon and consideration of this question has brought me to the belief that the same reasons do not lie for holding a Chapter petition for the same length of time that a petition for a Lodge is held before ballot, to-wit: four weeks. This, in my judgment, is well in the case of a profane seeking to become a Mason. It is meet in such case that the candidate's character and record be closely scrutinized, giving ample time for a committee and a Lodge to make careful and exhaustive inquiry, so that none may be received into the Order save those who will make true and worthy Masons. But if, after such scrutiny, a man is found worthy and well qualified, and so is made a Master Mason, there does not seem the same reason for applying an equally stringent rule to his application to receive the Chapter degrees. The presumption is that one found worthy to become a Master Mason is also worthy to become a R. A. A. Mason, and if there should be anything in any individual case tending to rebut this presumption, it would be easy for the committee or a member thereof, or for any member of the Chapter, to ask, in such case, that the petition lie over for further consideration."

Application for recognition was made by the Grand Chapter of Victoria, but action thereon was deferred, because no "evidence had been furnished the committee that said Grand Chapter had been legally organized." And to the request for exchange of

Representatives by the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales, the committee make this reply :

"Your committee therefore recommend that the request for exchange of Grand Representatives be fraternally declined, but whenever a Mark Master Mason hailing from the Jurisdiction of New South Wales presents himself for admission to any of our Chapters when working in the Mark Master's degree, he may be admitted upon complying with the usual Masonic tests and requirements."

Theodore G. DeMoll, Washington, G. H. P.
L. G. Stephens, Washington, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence in Alabama for 1894 is found, and is made by that venerable and distinguished Masonic writer, Companion Wm. R. Singleton. In it he has displayed his ability to "condense," and has by no means failed. The smallness of our treasury controls us.

In this report he avows his opinion that a chartered Chapter is a legal Chapter when properly opened, whether the Charter be present or not. This may be with regard to Chapters, but still, if so, why require a Dispensation to continue to work after the loss or destruction of the Charter? Certainly as to a Lodge this cannot be, for if this be so then also may any or all of the three great lights be removed, and an open Lodge still be a legal one.

"It has always been the opinion of this writer, and often expressed by him, that the actual presence of the warrant in the room of a Lodge or Chapter was not necessary when the presiding officer knew that it was in safe keeping. This was the opinion and decision of many distinguished Masons years since, and we are glad to find his views thus sustained by such Masons as were Lewis, Austin, Simonds, Williams, Taylor and Day, five of whom at least, had presided with eminent ability over the General Grand Chapter, and all had been Grand Masters of the State of New York."

The Report is exceedingly interesting, and we found many things which would have proved instructive to our Companions, but we have been compelled to omit them or give over presenting you with what follows, and we prefer to give you this :

"At one time recently the Grand Z. of Quebec was a visitor in this Jurisdiction, and we carried him to visit one of our Chap-

ters wherein at the time the R. A. degree was conferred, and we had the pleasure on that occasion of explaining to him why, in our system, the High Priest should be the First Officer, and the King his subordinate in the Chapter.

"In the American system of Royal Arch Masonry the principal object is the *recovery* of what had been lost for many years, as exemplified in the third degree. In all the systems of the Religious Rites of the Orient there was exemplified in the rituals of initiation, the Loss and Recovery. To the Postulant, in every ceremony, was finally communicated the 'Great Word' with which he was to make himself known as an Initiate.

"The Archi Magus or Chief Priest was the only person charged with this, and he alone could communicate this word to the postulant. The Chief Priest in every religious system was the Head or Principal. In the Hebrew economy the Chief Priest was always superior to the King after a King was selected. Prior to the selection of Saul, who was the first King of the Children of Israel, there were Judges elected, who followed Joshua, the successor of Moses.

"Now, under the Mosaic dispensation, Aaron the brother of Moses was the first High Priest, and in matters of religion was the Principal, Moses being the leader in the State in all other matters.

"We can now readily see why in Royal Arch Masonry the High Priest is the proper person to represent the High Priest of ancient times, and more especially to represent the High Priest of the Jews, viz :

"To the High Priest alone was committed the true pronunciation of the name of Deity. Tradition of the Rabbins informs us that this word was to be pronounced aloud by the High Priest, within the *Sanctum Sanctorum* of the Tabernacle, when it was in the 'Wilderness of the Wandering,' during the thirty-nine years after its completion. This custom was annually observed on the great Day of Atonement, when the High Priest went into that chamber to make atonement for himself and family and for all the people. At the same time the silver trumpets were sounded, and the people shouted to prevent the NAME being heard by the people.

"When the last temple or Temple of Herod was destroyed by Titus in the year A. D. 70, and the office of High Priest ceased, the NAME as pronounced properly, it has been asserted, was lost,

and scholars now assert that it is *ineffable*. But Royal Arch Masonry professes to have the word and its explanation, and the High Priest and *not* the King is the proper CUSTODIAN, with ancient authority to communicate the pronunciation to the postulants entitled to secure it from him.

"Is it at all likely that at the reconstruction of the Temple of Zerubbabel, upon the return from the Babylonish Captivity, such events transpired as represented in the Ritual, which is by no means at all probable, but in our opinion entirely fabulous and allegorical. Would the High Priest have surrendered his prerogatives in the communication of a word which belonged entirely to him and his office? When we consider that every one of our Masonic Degrees is modern, invented for a purpose by scholars to demonstrate figuratively great fundamental truths in morality and religion—for we think we can prove conclusively that these Degrees, from the Entered Apprentice upward to the final Degree, were originally designed to teach religious truths, and when we make a proper application of their signs and symbols, and also a proper interpretation of the allegories contained within them—we can see throughout, from the First Degree to the completion of each system, a regular progression in the knowledge of the Great I AM."

ENGLAND.

It is with no little pleasure that we acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of a Quarterly Convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on 5th of August, 1896, for not since we commenced these Reports, now thirty years ago, have we had anything from it.

M. V. E. Companion Wm. Wither Bramston Beach is the G. Z., and E. V. Companion Edward Letchworth, Grand Scribe E. A warrant for a new Chapter was granted to be attached to a Lodge at Margate, England, as is their way. This was granted upon the petition of fourteen Companions, with the three officers.

A handsome tribute was paid to a meritorious Companion who had served the Grand Chapter as President of the Board of General Purposes efficiently for a period of ten years, but declined further service, and he was also presented with a jewel.

It was also moved "that in the opinion of this Supreme Grand Chapter it is desirable that the practice of excluding from the

opening of Royal Arch Chapters Companions other than installed Principals be discontinued." This, however, was defeated. By this we are informed that the rank and file of the Craft must wait outside until the Chapter is opened.

At this Convocation also provision was made for a District Grand Superintendent, if a Prince of the blood Royal, to appoint a Pro-Grand Superintendent, who must be regularly installed, and entitled "when installed to all the privileges of a Grand Superintendent."

FLORIDA—50TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1896.

Chapters, 19; members, 675; gain, 36.

M. E. Grand High Priest John H. Stephens presided over this Semi-Centennial Convocation, and in his opening Address regrets that "Capitular Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction, during the year passed, has not progressed as we hoped to have it." Nevertheless, he asserts that—

"Greater interest than ever before has been manifested in Chapter work, and it is confidently predicted that with proper exemplification by our Committee on Work there will soon be perfect uniformity throughout this Jurisdiction—an end devoutly hoped for."

At the afternoon session M. E. Companion Irving E. Webster delivered an oration on the formation and growth of the Grand Chapter and the origin and growth of Capitular Masonry. From it we extract the following:

"And now, Companions, what fitting and acceptable word can I say in conclusion? Are we, Royal Arch Masons of to-day, any the better for our past fifty years of Capitular Masonry? Have we properly availed ourselves of the labor of those past years? Have we been true to the duties and responsibilities which have come to us from the past? Are we pressing toward the mark for the prize of our high calling? Are we striving to perfect ourselves more and more in the knowledge and practice of Capitular Masonry? These are suggestions which we well may consider."

The financial condition is improving, and we may hope for more cheering news next time.

William H. Jewell, Orlando, G. H. P.

William A. McLean, Jacksonville, G. Sec'y.

All necessary business was promptly despatched, and we sincerely hope that the skies may brighten and we may meet with a Report on Correspondence, which we fail to find on this occasion.

GEORGIA—74TH ANNUAL, APRIL, 1896.

Chapters, 95; members, 3,366; gain, 193.

Dispensations were issued for three new Chapters and these received Charters. Two Chapters were resuscitated with every prospect of success in the future.

Of the Royal Craft the Grand High Priest says:

"Harmony and good fellowship prevail in nearly all the Chapters throughout the State. Good and true work has also been done. The return of Chapters exhibit vitality and life. The gross gain of Royal Arch Masons in the Jurisdiction has been for the year, 233; Marked and on the way to Exaltation, 204; and the total number of membership on our rolls, as far as returns have come in and been tabulated, show a net gain of about 600. This, indeed, is an encouragement for our work, and we hope that in the near future much more will be done."

This Grand Chapter was driven at the last Convocation to the necessity of authorizing a loan of one thousand dollars, which had, however, been paid, and the Grand High Priest firmly stated the necessity of diminution of expenses, that expenditures may not exceed receipts.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$36.

Chas. Wessolowsky, Albany, G. H. P.

A. M. Wollihin, Macon, G. Sec'y.

Companion W. S. Ramsey again presented one of his excellent Reports on Correspondence, in which Alabama for 1895 finds its appropriate place. We heartily join with the Grand High Priest when in his address he thus expressed himself:

"May our Companion Ramsay be spared to us many, many more years, and may he be permitted, by the grace of God, to continue his glorious work and to illumine the Masonic world with the flashes of his thoughts and learning."

This Report is one of the most complete compendia of the Proceedings of other Grand Chapters that we have ever come across, and wonderfully full and complete, yet well condensed. This,

we presume, is the result of a "due regard for the finances of the Grand Chapter," as we have so often fully felt. Clear and concise and in an exceedingly agreeable style.

His conclusion contains the following thoughts, which we think fully worth giving you, my Companions :

"Some of the proceedings we had already reviewed in our report made to the last Convocation, and we merely referred to that fact. But not only is prosperity apparent, but peace and harmony sit supreme, and the utmost good will prevails. We may well pause to inquire into the cause of this happy state of affairs. We are of the firm conviction that the comprehensive account of the condition of Masonry throughout the globe, as furnished by the Correspondence Committee, imparting knowledge, inviting comparison of the principles and the teachings of our Order, and forcing the esteem of the votary for that institution whose teaching he obeys, and whose tenets are the regulations of his life, causes sober thought, serious reflection, and generous emulation as to who can best work and best agree."

ILLINOIS—46TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1895.

Chapters, 186; members, 16,414; increase, 541.

The Grand High Priest paid a feeling tribute to the memory of those of this and other Jurisdictions who had died during the year; issued a few special Dispensations and visited a few Chapters. He drew an order on Grand Treasurer for \$100 in aid of the aged widow of a P. V. G. V. H. V. P. V., and who was worthy and distressed, which act was promptly approved by Grand Chapter.

The funds of the Grand Chapter exceed \$19,000.

One thousand dollars was appropriated towards the Masonic Orphan's Home.

The Committee on Chartered Chapters, in their report, show that there should have been held by the various Chapters, in accordance with the requirement of their by-laws, during the year, 3,124 meetings, while in reality there are reported but 2,815, including 975 special. This is not a good show for attention and zeal.

A movement was made for increasing the compensation of the Grand High Priest from four to six hundred dollars, but the committee to whom it was referred did "not believe that there

should be any money compensation connected with this high and honorable position," and reported adversely, which was approved.

Within this volume is a very interesting account of the Thirty-fourth Annual Convocation of the Council of High Priests, of its rise and growth, and of that part of Palestine in which the scenes are located.

Geo. M. Moulton, Chicago, G. H. P.

Gil W. Barnard, Chicago, G. Sec'y.

Companion John M. Pearson, Past Grand High Priest, again presented the Report on Correspondence, reviewing Alabama for 1894 in a style pleasant and instructive. For his words of ourselves we thank him, for we suppose at times all of us find taffy not unpleasant.

He copies our resolution on the effect of suspension by the Lodge on the membership in the Chapter, and says:

"We presume the time limit, set in the above, is to give a chance to Companions suspended in the Lodge a chance to get back, but it has puzzled us and others to see by what right any Companion can sit in Chapter with a suspended Master Mason."

We don't undertake to defend our Grand Chapter, because we think exactly on this subject as is expressed by our good Companion.

We are pleased to find him one with us in his opposition to the use of printed Rituals, and to learn that "it was expressly forbidden in this Grand Jurisdiction."

He thinks the P. M. degree should "stay right where it now is," for "it don't hurt."

Here is what he thinks on dependent membership.

"Our Grand Chapter does not, never did, and we trust never will require any such thing. We do require affiliation with a Lodge by the petitioner at time his petition is presented. After that it is, and should be, a matter of his own free will. We were sorry at the time that the Grand Lodge of Iowa had asked this of the Grand Chapter. We thought it unbecoming and undignified, and we think the Grand Chapter of Iowa did right. However, the final solution of all these questions rests entirely in the hands of the Grand Lodge. Should our Grand Lodge ever say, (*Quod Jupiter omen avertat*) that an unaffiliated M. M. is 'not in

good standing,' that would be law in our Grand Chapter, *volens volens*. But the Grand Lodge has never said it."

But for the financial condition of our Grand Chapter we would dwell longer with him, but must now of necessity say *au revoir*.

INDIAN TERRITORY—7TH ANNUAL, AUGUST, 1896.

Chapters, 20; members, 682; gain, 44.

Grand High Priest Z. T. Walrond issued his Dispensations for the formation of three new Chapters, which were chartered at this Convocation and are enumerated above.

He thinks twenty-five per cent. of the R. A. M. Masons of the Territory are unaffiliated. Yet we cannot agree with him in the fact that great effort should be made to induce them to affiliate. That they prefer to remain outside raises the presumption that they are not desirable material.

He thus apologizes for an apparent too free use of the dispensing power:

"April 13, 1896, permitted El Reno Chapter No. 9, at El Reno, O. T., to suspend operation of By-Laws and receive report of committee and ballot upon petitions of four candidates (brethren residing in their city) without lying over a month. These latter Dispensations were reluctantly granted. In each instance, however, there were special reasons given and the material was unquestionably good."

Treasurer's balance consists of \$1,452, being \$295 over that of last year. A good showing.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances find nothing to do, another good showing.

A Grand High Priest's jewel having been ordered by Grand Chapter to be obtained by Grand Secretary Murrow for presentation to the retiring Grand High Priest Z. T. Walrond, and which he desired not to have purchased, placed Grand Secretary in a difficult position. But we suppose Grand Chapter was pleased with the reason assigned by Companion Walrond, which was—

"Whenever the Grand Chapter will undertake to assist the Grand Lodge in the erection and maintenance of a 'Masonic Home,' then I shall ask that the cost, or rather price, of this jewel shall be appropriated for this eleemosynary purpose."

This is truly a noble and unselfish act, rarely met with now-a-days.

B. M. Makey, Muskogee, G. H. P.

J. S. Murrow, Atoka, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is the product of our Rev. Companion Robert W. Hill, P. G. H. P., and is in every way worthy of its author. Alabama for 1895 receives fraternal notice. He thinks we erred when we declined to adopt the cipher Ritual of the M. E. General Grand Chapter, and cannot believe that oral lecturing will accomplish what he thinks desirable. We were somewhere taught that the attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue, and thus ought the secrets of Masonry to be imparted. We know that it is contended by some that there are no secrets save in the mode of recognition. This, we presume, it is not necessary to dispute. But we of this particular branch claim to be Masons, and that our principles and teachings are all Masonic. If this is so, then we are certainly under obligation not to commit any part to be placed upon paper or elsewhere, lest they be improperly obtained.

He thinks the doctrine of dependent membership may be presumed to be a method used by the Lodges to "whip its members into the traces" through the other bodies.

Under Colorado, and noticing Companion E. L. N. Foster, he uses this language :

"He is doubtful of the prerogatives of the Grand High Priest, and, while admitting that the Grand Master may be entitled to them, thinks the Grand High Priest entirely a creature of the Constitution, with all powers strictly limited by that instrument. We think much the same way, and yet find that most Constitutions provide that he shall exercise such authority as may be required for the welfare of the Craft, even where the special authority is not indicated except by the statement of a general principle."

The Grand Master was originally the head of R. A. Masonry, and the Grand High Priest, stepping into his shoes, is necessarily clothed with all his powers and prerogatives, unless they have been annulled or altered by competent authority.

Having somewhat overstepped our limits, we close with a hope that many of our Companions will read his dissertation on "The

Name of God," in which he shows philosophically the slow and gradual evolution in the Hebrew mind by which the conception and belief in the unity of God was reached. We have made a few extracts from it in another report.

We thank the Companion for his kind words of ourself.

INDIANA—50TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1895.

Chapters, 91; members, 6,479; increase, 164.

R. E. Companion Henry W. Mordhurst, acting in the position of Grand High Priest, he being the Deputy, opened this Convocation of this Grand Chapter in due form, and announced that one week after the Grand Chapter had closed he was advised by wire that the G. H. P. recently installed had passed from earth to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. Thus the semi-centennial, which had been cheered in anticipation, became a period of mourning, and the habilaments were apparent in the chair of the G. H. P. To his memory, his virtues and his worth, a fitting tribute is paid by the presiding officer.

He arrested the Charter of a Chapter whose condition was moribund. He recommended the publishing of the pictures of P. G. H. Priests in the Proceedings, and as the result, we have them brought down to the present.

A few decisions were called for, and these were in every instance approved.

This being the fiftieth annual, this semi-centennial was duly celebrated by a banquet and some very excellent post prandial speeches. P. G. H. P. Long introduced it with a very full historical address, in which the difficulties that surrounded our Companions, and the obstacles overcome by them, are fully delineated, and the zeal and perseverance of those early R. A. Masons fully illustrated.

Henry W. Mordhurst, Fort Wayne, G. H. P.

Wm. H. Smythe, Indianapolis, G. Sec'y.

M. E. Companion Thomas B. Long again presented one of his most excellent Reports on Correspondence. When presenting it he used this language:

"Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence beg leave to report that the chairman of said committee has prepared the usual

annual review of the transactions of sister Grand Chapters, embracing, on this occasion, those of every Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the world, and your said committee respectfully asks that the same be printed with the Proceedings of this annual Grand Convocation."

Which must have been as gratifying to the members of the Grand Chapter as to himself. This boast cannot often be made, and may never again. From the conclusion of his address above alluded to, we copy :

"Ever since the invention of the sublime degree of the Royal Arch—which was but a few years later than the distinct establishment of the Master Mason's degree—the Ark of the Covenant has been the culminating object of interest in our most beautiful and impressive ceremonies; and as long as Capitular Masonry shall continue to exist, which will be through all the ages of time, this sacred object—built to perpetuate the covenant of God with man—must continue to fill us with reverence for His Holy Name, and inspire us with renewed love for the principles of the Royal Craft, and unchanging fidelity to our honored Institution, and to each other as Brethren and Companions.

"In connection with the Ark of the Covenant, Masonic fidelity—of which we have such an overwhelming example in the life and death of Hiram the Builder—and the almighty power of the third great tenet of our profession, that divine attribute, and foundation of every virtue, truth,—are beautifully illustrated by a legend coming down to us from the building of the second Temple.

"After the work had long been interrupted by the hostile incursions of the Samaritans, and when our ancient Companions had become weary of toiling with the sword in one hand and the trowel in the other, Zerubbabel, their leader and Prince, undertook a personal journey to the Persian Kingdom, with the expectation of securing the intervention of Darius to compel his subjects to cease to hinder the work until it should be completed. After innumerable hardships and contests, our zealous Companion was seized and carried in chains into the presence of the Persian monarch, the second successor from Cyrus whose decree had delivered the Children of Israel from the bondage. Zerubbabel was instantly recognized, through a friendship formed between Darius and himself in earlier years, and was offered his

freedom and safety upon the condition that he would reveal to the sovereign the secrets of Essenism, the Freemasonry of the period. Scorning the unworthy proposition, and offering to submit to death rather than dishonor,—the King of Persia then conceived the idea of effecting his object by a bribe more powerful than any ever offered to man in all the annals of time. To some extent concealing his anger at the attitude of the intrepid Prince and leader, he feigned hospitality, and instructed his chancellor to exhibit to his guest the treasures of the royal vaults. They abounded in the sacred objects and utensils so long before seized at the destruction of the Temple, and carried with its spoils to Babylon,—and the wily chancellor exhibited them in consecutive displays, each one calculated to arouse more powerful feelings in the breast of Zerubbabel than the preceding one, and at each time offered the treasures displayed as the price of the Masonic integrity of the beholder. When all others had failed in effect, he brought the Prince suddenly before the Ark of the Covenant, which the world believed to have been destroyed in the conflagration of the Temple. The mind of man can scarcely conceive what must have been the overpowering emotions of the religious enthusiast and exile in the sacred presence of this holy object, or the unexampled temptation of its offer for the secrets the Persian monarch so ardently desired. Language cannot describe the condition of heart, and mind, and soul which came to the Prince with the promise that he should carry this holiest of objects back to his people, and the contemplation of the love and power that would surround and invest him, as the restorer of this visible dwelling place of the Godhead. But the recollection of the fidelity of Hiram Abif prevailed, and integrity triumphed over the highest of earthly temptations.

“Admiration succeeded curiosity in the breast of Darius, and Zerubbabel was received into unfeigned and sincere favor. In a subsequent social discussion—recounted by the historian Josephus—concerning the relative force of various attributes, Zerubbabel’s powerful argument in support of the overwhelming importance of truth above all other things gained him complete ascendancy over the Persian Sovereign’s mind, and led to the promulgation of the desired decree to the hostile Samaritans, and the bestowal of honors and the promise of safe conduct to the Jewish Prince back to the city of his God.

“Let the Ark, then, O my Companions, be a constant reminder to us of the duty of everlasting fidelity to our Institution, and to

each other; and this legend of Zerubbabel's journey to Darius teach us again the beauty of brotherly love and relief, and impress us anew with the almighty force and importance of truth."

In reviewing Alabama for 1894 he alludes to the repeal by our Grand Chapter of the edict requiring trial before suspension in a Lodge to sever the membership in the Chapter, and thinks that "the rights of Chapter membership rest upon a frail foundation indeed in Alabama." This edict was adopted a great many years ago, when suspension for N. P. D. was not thought to affect the Masonic standing of a brother except as to his Lodge, but when the Grand Lodge declared that this constitutional provision cut him off from all the rights and privileges, no Master Mason could hold Masonic intercourse with him. Hence the repeal.

We are personally very thankful for his very kind words, which are fully appreciated. Having occupied so much space, we must desist.

IOWA—42D ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1895.

Chapters, 114; members, 7,046; gain, 109.

There were three new Chapters organized by Dispensation of the G. . H. . P. ., A. N. Alberson, and these received Charters at this Convocation.

He thinks that a much greater interest has been exhibited in the Cryptic degrees than of late, and attributes this to the fact that the High Priests are now better skilled in the work, but he adds :

"I fear there has been a tendency, however, to bunching, or rather wholesaling the work too much. My advice has been, where I had an opportunity to give it, in cases where they were compelled to get outside help, to only fill up a quorum, then work deliberately, for these beautiful degrees should not be slighted by the attempt to work too many in one evening. I know of no Chapters now which are not able to work the degrees without outside assistance."

In the Grand Chapter Charity Fund are found available \$8,298.

This Grand Chapter was visited by a P. . G. . H. . Priest of Nevada, who was received with entitled honors.

Grand Chapter declined to enter into any arrangement with Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery for dispensing charity, on the score that "the receipts of this Grand Body are insufficient to meet such additional expenditures." Yet we find that it was not wanting in the proper feeling for an appeal in behalf of a delicate widow of a R. A. Mason, who had also children dependent upon her and she in great need, having come up from one of the Chapters, the Grand Chapter appropriated \$150 to be expended by the H. P. of the Chapter as needed by her.

Leroy T. Weld, Nevada, G. H. P.
 Alf Wingate, Des Moines, G. Sec'y.

P. G. H. P. Thomas R. Ercanbrack presented the Report on Correspondence, such as he only can produce—lively, witty, instructive, and distinguished by the aptness of its quotations. It is written in an easy, quiet style that so captivates the reader as to preclude the laying it down. From it we thought of making many extracts, but abandoned the idea, lest by such contrast the rest of our own would prove tiresome. So we leave the Companion, only thanking him for the kind words of ourself.

KANSAS—31ST ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 82; members, 5,057; gain, 31.

This induced the G. H. P., John H. Spencer, to say that "we will be unable to congratulate ourselves on any decided gain." Still another new Chapter was authorized.

This Grand Chapter considers itself by no means only a legislative body or a judicial tribunal, for the G. H. P., becoming aware of the destitute condition of the aged widow of a deceased Grand Chaplain, immediately proffered aid, which act was approved by Grand Chapter and the aid continued.

A new code of laws was recommended.

The G. H. P. noticed the absence of M. E. Owen A. Bassett, and told of his afflicted condition, and this Grand Chapter not only sent a message of condolence and sympathy, but appropriated \$200 towards the expense of the surgical operation performed.

Provision was made for the preparation and printing of a copy of the Ritual when fully revised and corrected "of errors and crudities."

It was also—

Resolved, That commencing with this Grand Convocation, and hereafter at all subsequent Annual Convocations, the apron worn by the retiring Grand High Priest shall be presented to him as a souvenir."

Samuel E. Bussey, Emporia, G. H. P.

Jacob DeWitt, Salina, G. Sec'y.

This last presented a very enjoyable Report on Correspondence containing Alabama for 1894. In it we find him earnestly deprecating "the cheapening of the degrees" by diminishing the cost of Dispensation and Charter.

He is as averse as ourself to the use of the Grand Chapter seal on mere letters of introduction.

We are no great admirer of the Past Master's degree as a part of the Chapter, but we think he is eminently correct in saying, "It is the fault of the G. . H. . P. . and of the Grand Chapter if the workmen continue, not only to make a farce of the degree, but make fools of themselves and apes of the candidates."

KENTUCKY—96TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1895.

Chapters, 81; members, 2,826; gain, 64.

One new Chapter was chartered at this Convocation, having been authorized by a Dispensation from the G. . H. . P. .

The G. . H. . P. . congratulated the Craft upon the better state of the finances than for some time past. He also thus spoke of the Home, that shining illustration of the bigness of the hearts of our Kentucky Companions:

"As the Kentucky Masonic Home is the pride of Kentucky Masons, I think it fit to mention it at this time. Though under the direct control of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Chapter has been a strong factor in its success. Soon after you elevated me to the office of Grand High Priest, I was placed in charge of the Home as Superintendent. I never realized its needs until then. The responsibility I took upon myself when I became Superintendent has grown every day. To control, as it were, the lives and characters of 240 children, who know no father's care, is indeed a great task. I ask, and believe I shall receive your support in discharging my duty. Our numbers are steadily on the increase, and with numbers comes expense. We, as Royal Arch Masons, must help to bear the burden. Much valuable time and

labor is given to the Home by our excellent Board of Directors, and by the physicians who come at our call, day or night, with no other reward except good done to their fellow kind. The eyes of the world are turned toward us to see our success or failure. In one week, since I have been Superintendent, more than fifteen hundred strangers entered our Home. Many of them left calling heaven's richest blessings to rest on Kentucky Masons, for their care of the Widow and Orphan."

Treasury balance over \$2,000.

Under a resolution of the Grand Chapter we find a complete roll of membership of the several Chapters subordinate to this Grand Chapter in these Proceedings.

John G. Orndorff, Russellville, G. H. P.

Henry B. Grant, Louisville, G. Sec'y.

Companion James W. Slaton once more presented his review of Proceedings, including Alabama for 1894 among the fifty reviewed, Louisiana alone being unheard from.

It is such a Report as one might reasonably expect from one so well skilled in all that pertains to Masonry, and who has filled so many positions of honor and responsibility in the various Masonic bodies. It was prepared under very peculiar circumstances, and is necessarily a condensed one, but nevertheless not by any means devoid of interest.

The edict of our Grand Chapter providing that suspension for non-payment of dues was adopted when the suspension was supposed to have no other effect than to cut the brother off from Lodge privileges, but as soon as the Grand Lodge declared that it should operate as a suspension from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, the Companions so acted, and by oversight the edict was allowed to remain until the attention of the Grand Chapter was called to the inconsistency by G. H. P. McKinnon.

LOUISIANA—49TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 19; members, 1,005; gain, 66.

Heartily do we, and so will all R. A. C. Masons, unite with G. H. P. A. C. Allen in the following sentiment:

"And, to-day, while the clouds of international strife are lowering, when the peace of this world's governments is endangered,

let us of Louisiana, standing true to the example of our fathers, send fraternal greetings to our Companions across the seas, and unite with them in their laudable efforts to preserve the integrity and glory of this era of high moral advancement, and maintain a lasting peace and good will among the nations of the earth."

Dispensation was granted by G. . H. . P. . for one new Chapter, and this received a Charter at this Convocation.

We copy the following from the notice of the G. . H. . P. . of the strictures of Companion Drummond on his address of last year, because we think it gives the true position each Companion occupies toward his obligation:

"He charges me with assuming that a cipher work is a violation of *our* obligation. I plead guilty to the charge as far as my obligation is concerned. His conscience and his obligation are entirely with himself, and do not, in any manner, concern the honest convictions of any Mason here who has the courage of his own opinion."

After an investment in bonds of par value of \$1,000, the Grand Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$1,869.

The Grand Chapter of Victoria received cordial recognition.

The Convocation was harmonious, and a large amount of business was attended to.

R. H. Cage, Franklin, G. H. P.

Richard Lambert, New Orleans, G. Sec'y.

Companion Herman C. Duncan, P. . G. . H. . P. ., again presented the Report on Correspondence, reviewing the Proceedings of Alabama for 1894 thus:

"Alabama has a regulation to the effect that suspension in Lodge for non-payment of dues does not work suspension in Chapter. Anent this the Most Excellent said:

"It will be seen at a glance that edict is in conflict with a M. M. and R. A. M. obligation. In our Convocation we necessarily hold communion with, and conversations on Masonry, in this contingency, with a suspended M. M. I recommend that this edict be abrogated and one substituted, whose force will suspend in the Chapter when suspended from any cause in a M. M. Lodge."

"To receive his polish in Chapter the man must be brated on his legs; if they are knocked from under, we doubt the polish being rubbed in. The work of the Chapter will accomplish precious little with the man without standing, and understanding, also, in Lodge.

"One of the Chapters did not have its seal 'plumb.' Why it should be required to be 'plumb,' we know not. Perhaps the Reviewing Committee meant straight. Another failed to write 'none' 'where it should occur,' and failed to put enough heft to the handle of the press. There are critics in Alabama.

"The Grand Chapter repealed the edict obnoxious to the views of the Most Excellent, as above quoted.

"The Correspondence Committee quotes poetry at our committee. We regret to have to say that our vision is so perverted that we cannot detect the application."

MAINE—70TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1895.

Chapters, 55; members, 5,714; gain, 206.

One Chapter that was chartered at this Convocation is included in the above.

G. H. P. Seward L. Stearns in his Address makes this remark:

"The regulation forbidding the use of printed rituals should be repealed or some effective steps taken for its enforcement. An institution invites disrespect when its statutes become dead letters and are disregarded by its own membership."

This Grand Chapter is in good financial condition, having some \$2,500 in treasury, besides the Charity Fund of near \$5,000.

Henry S. Webster, Gardiner, G. H. P.

Stephen Berry, Portland, G. Sec'y.

Companion J. H. Drummond, whose "one hundredth Report to Masonic Grand Bodies of Maine" this is, presented, as he always does, a very full and complete review of fifty-two Grand Chapter Proceedings, including those of the Grand Mark Lodge of England. Alabama receives very courteous notice.

Of substitutes he says:

"We believe his statement that the use of two substitutes is not 'recognized by any of the Grand Jurisdictions' is so erroneous that

the precise reverse is nearer the truth. The fact is that the fundamental law permits the use of substitutes, or it does not; if it does not, no emergency justifies their use; if it permits their use at all, it permits it whenever the High Priest deems it desirable; there is no half way or part way in the matter."

That an officer elected to his same position should be re-installed, we have never entertained a doubt; but he makes the point so clear in the following that we give it to you:

"As applied to an *officer*, the term 'he succeeds himself' is constantly used; and as applied to a civil officer, the phrase is legally correct and accurate; that being so, it is correct in *Masonic* law. By the same reasoning we should dispense with the election as well as the installation, and ought to, because if the officer is not re-installed, the election is of no effect whatever. To omit the election is a violation of the Constitution; to omit installation is equally a violation of it, because such omission destroys the election. In fact, installation is so connected with the election that the omission of either is a practical omission of the other. Our Companion's Grand Lodge is right."

The Report, as all that emanates from this distinguished Companion, is of very great interest, and we say of it, as he said of the Report from Colorado, you must go and read it, for it cannot be readily condensed. We, however, close with what he says of the Degree of Past Master:

"But he goes too far. He denies that there is any Past Master's Degree connected with the Mastership of a Lodge. But at a time, whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, a ceremony was invented for the Master of a Lodge, and it has been called the Past Master's Degree, and Masons concurred in calling that ceremony by that name, and the term gained general use among Masons, and that use has continued to the present time. So firmly was the usage established that Webb and his associates, in order to keep up the old idea that the Royal Arch Degree could be conferred only on Past Masters, and also to make the number of Degrees *seven*, adopted an imitation of it for the Chapter. The inventors of it had a right to give it a name, and when common usage sanctioned the name given to it, that was its name. But Companion Mayo says that it is not a *proper* name for it; can't help that, it *is* its name all the same; he says it is not a Degree, and to call it so is a misnomer; can't help that, it *is* so

called, all the same. Usage makes words and names; and when common usage among the Craft for quite a century has given a name to a ceremony, it is too late to kick as to its propriety; we cannot turn back the wheels of time and do it over again.

"But after all, the main thing is, that this so-called Degree has from a time before Webb's day been conferred on Masters of Lodges, either as a part of the ceremony of installation or as instruction to the Master; in both cases, it was deemed of very essential service in qualifying him for the duties of the chair. Whether this is so or not, is now of no consequence; it has become an ancient usage of the Craft, and there is no right to change it. It may be true that, while Webb took the number necessary to constitute a Lodge from the old ceremony, the name 'Degree' was not applied to it till Webb did it; of this we are not sure, and it makes no difference, for the name is now a part of the language."

MARYLAND—98TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 18; members, 1,662; gain, 80.

The above includes one Chapter organized under Dispensation from G. . H. . P. . Edward R. Trippe and chartered at this Convocation.

The address is confined to matters of local interest only, save that he recommends the Grand Chapter to join the Masonic Collectors Association, and the committee reported favorably thereon.

The session was a short one, but all matters before it were promptly completed.

There is a treasury balance of somewhat over \$800.

Wm. H. Shryock, Baltimore, G. H. P.

G. L. McCahan, Baltimore, G. Sec'y.

This latter is the G. . G. . H. . P. . of the General Grand Chapter, which will hold its Centennial Convocation in the city of Baltimore in 1897.

Few of the Correspondents present a pleasanter, and none a sounder or more comprehensive Report on Correspondence than our good and learned Companion Ed. T. Schultz, whose name appended to his reports in fac simile so puzzled us many years ago. Alabama for 1894 receives fair notice, and from this we clip:

"The law of his Grand Lodge permits Lodges to suspend members from the rights of the Fraternity for non-payment of dues, but the Grand Chapter, considering this too harsh, some years ago declared that suspension by a Master Masons Lodge should not affect the Brother's standing in the Chapter unless such suspension by the Lodge 'should be after trial and conviction.' He quite properly called attention to the fact that this is in conflict with the obligations of both Master Masons and Royal Arch Masons."

At the time the suspension was looked upon only as a suspension of Lodge membership, but when Grand Lodge declared that its effect was the same as suspension for any other cause, this edict was overlooked, although the members of Chapters, mindful of their obligations to the Fraternity, acted properly under the circumstances.

You have our thanks, dear Companion, for your kind words of ourself.

Personally we have always held opinions like those expressed by him in the following :

"We have said, and repeatedly, that when a Companion is deprived of his Masonic rights by action of Lodge or Grand Lodge, no matter how unjust such action may be regarded, the capitular rights of the Companion are to the same extent affected. So far, therefore, we are in perfect agreement as to the effect of a law or edict of a Grand Lodge defining the status of a Brother. But our contention has been that all such laws and edicts are unjust and un-Masonic; that no Brother or Companion can, without a violation of the fundamental laws and regulations of the Fraternity, be deprived of his Masonic or capitular rights without trial and after conviction."

As germane to this, we give some other thoughts of his :

"In the good old days the rights, privileges and benefits of Masonry were held to be so sacred and inviolable that a Brother could not be deprived of them except for the commission of some grave offense against the Fraternity, and then only after the preferment of charges, a fair trial, and conviction by his brethren. It was then universally held that if a Brother, thus convicted, was subsequently restored to his rights in the Fraternity—that is, *pardoned* by his Lodge or Grand Lodge—such pardon only restored him to the *rights of the Fraternity*, not to Lodge member-

ship. He was simply a non-affiliate, and had the right to apply for membership to any Lodge. But in these days, when a Companion may be deprived of his Masonic, as well as his Capital rights without trial, and merely because of his failure to pay a few dollars Lodge dues, or because he may see proper to withdraw his membership in a Lodge, it would seem desirable to relax the old rule, especially in those Jurisdictions where a removal of the cause for the suspension restores without further action. But how about those Jurisdictions whose regulations prescribe that all restoration and reinstatement must be by petition and unanimous ballot? Would it not seem that in such Jurisdiction at least, a unanimous ballot should also be required in the Chapter?"

MASSACHUSETTS—97TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1895.

Within this Grand Jurisdiction are 74 Chapters with a membership of 13,944, the increase during the year having been 659. Well may the G. . H. . P. ., J. Gilman Waite, say: "In sketching a resume of those matters, which should become a part of our history, we are first impressed with the general prosperity which has crowned the labors of the Craft."

At the several quarterly Convocations business purely routine was transacted, save the presentation of a Jewel to M. . E. . G. . H. . P. . Waite. At that of September the destruction of the Masonic Temple by fire, which occurred on the 7th inst., was announced. Because of this great loss we know that the Companions of Alabama will deeply sympathize with those of Massachusetts, and in their behalf we tender it.

Of the necessity for the prompt collection of annual dues, the G. . H. . Priest says:

"There is no more trite maxim in business than this: 'Short accounts make long friends.' May not the same be true in Masonry? I am led to believe so, on general principles. In what better way can you bankrupt a Companion's interest in the body than by allowing him to become its creditor on long time? As a man values what he pays for, so will your membership appreciate and attend upon the body they help to support."

We fully concur with him when he says "that a Lodge room is no place for a 'reporter' to pursue his vocation," and to which the Committee on Address add:

"We believe that this Grand Chapter should declare with no uncertain sound its disapproval of any Chapter sending out unsealed notices of private business of the Chapter, such as balloting on candidates, action on delinquents, and other kindred subjects; and we are in full accord with the Grand High Priest in his statement that the Chapter is not a proper place for a reporter for the secular press to ply his vocation."

At this Convocation the several degrees were fully exemplified, for which the thanks of the Grand Chapter were tendered to the "Grand Lecturers and their assistants for the efficient and satisfactory manner" in which the work had been performed.

The Grand Chapter, having more than nine thousand dollars invested, and a cash balance of more than three thousand dollars, ordered another one thousand to be invested in interest-bearing securities.

J. G. Waite, Medford, re-elected M. E. G. H. P.

Seranus Bowen, Boston, re-elected G. Sec'y.

Companion Bowen presented his fifth Annual Report on Correspondence, which is as full of good things as those of its predecessors. Alabama for 1894 is found therein in its appropriate place.

Having frequently expressed our appreciation of the great benefits to result from the official visitation of subordinate Chapters, he notices this and says:

"He believes in the system of official visitations, so do we. In this jurisdiction every Chapter is officially visited during the year. We know of no single thing that does so much to stir up the officers and members of the Chapters to do their best as this system. We would like to see it faithfully tried in Alabama."

We assure our valued Companion that we were entirely satisfied with his explanation of how we came to be credited with the title of M. E. in the published Proceedings of the 125th anniversary of St. Andrew's Chapter, and only alluded to it lest others might be misled, and for the same reason we now give what he says:

"As we have written Companion Pillans, the error in title which he mentions was an error of proof-reading. We deplore the error, and also regret that the Grand Chapter of Alabama

did not long ago honor itself by making him its Grand High Priest."

Everywhere throughout the Report he expresses his opposition to the printing of the Ritual, and in one place says, "We believe the printing of Rituals is a mistake," and we ask if it is not a crime.

In the following extract, to us there appears to be a large share of common sense:

"The Grand High Priest made one decision which accords with law and common sense, that a Brother with an artificial leg, who could comply with the requirements of the Ritual, is eligible for the degrees. Why should he not be eligible, just as well as a Brother who is unable to see without glasses. We have heard men who couldn't see at all without the aid of glasses argue that no man should be permitted to receive the degrees without he could literally comply with all the requirements without the aid of mechanical appliances. If glasses are not mechanical appliances, what are they?"

He is averse, and properly so, we think, to the introduction of singers who are not R. . A. . Masons into Chapters to aid in conferring the degrees. How can any such be allowed within the tiled hall?

We had marked much other for notice, but must let them pass while thinking of our financial condition.

MICHIGAN—47TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 127; members, 12,677; gain, 346.

One new Chapter was added by Dispensation of G. . H. . P. . during the recess, but this was continued until the Convocation of 1897.

Among the decisions of the G. . H. . P. ., Chas. D. Blanchard, we find the following:

"Question. Can a Companion be expelled for non-payment of dues?

"Answer. No. The application of extreme penalty in punishment for a minor offence is at variance with both civil and Masonic law."

Which appeared to us to be an unwarrantable interference with the rights of the subordinates and the independence of the Companions, and we were pleased to see that the Committee on Jurisprudence agreed with us, as appears from the following in their report :

"This answer is not in accordance with Edict XV, which provides that when a Companion has been tried and convicted for the Masonic offense of non-payment of dues, the Chapter shall forthwith inflict the penalty of expulsion or indefinite suspension, as it may deem proper; and in case the Chapter shall neglect or refuse to inflict such penalty, the Grand High Priest shall arrest the Charter of the Chapter refusing to execute this edict.

"This decision should not be approved."

That noble effort at charity, the Masonic Home, during the year was greatly in need of help, and the G. . . H. . . P. . . , notwithstanding the appropriation previously made, issued a very earnest appeal to the various Chapters to come up to its help, and thirty-six Chapters appeared at the Captain's office and settled up. Nearly two-thirds of the Chapters, however, failed to respond. This is what must be expected of voluntary contributions. Grand Chapter also adopted the following:

"Your Committee on Finance to whom was referred an appropriation to the Michigan Masonic Home, would respectfully recommend that the sum of five hundred dollars be contributed to aid said Home, providing the said Home is accepted by the Grand Lodge at its next session."

This Grand Chapter became a member of the Collector's Organization, and paid the required fee.

Lon B. Winsor, Reed City, G. H. P.

J. S. Conover, Coldwater, G. Sec'y.

This latter, by the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, is the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, but he shared the honors this year with those appointed with him, and indeed the most of this excellent Report is their product. Alabama seems not to have been received, much to our regret.

MISSISSIPPI—48TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 43; members, 1,388; gain, 41.

G. . H. . P. . Gus J. Bahin delivered a short address, giving thanks to the Supreme Ruler for all his mercies, and exhorting Companions to so live as to exemplify the beauties of Masonry; for "God has been very good to our land. He has blessed it with 'peace, health and plenty.' To-day our people are in better condition than they have been for years."

He granted thirteen Dispensations, four for installing officers and constituting Chapters, and nine for authority to confer degrees "out of time." The Law Committee, in their report, recommended the approval of all save four, which were found to be incompatible with former rulings or unauthorized by the statutes. Now, what is the status of Companions so made without proper authority, or in contravention of the laws of the Grand Chapter?

Grand Treasurer shows a balance of \$978 as against \$626 last year. This is gratifying.

The various degrees were fully exemplified.

Resolution granting a salary to the Grand Lecturer was repealed, as it had not intended it as a permanency, but a "gratuity to provide for the declining days" of their late beloved Grand Lecturer.

James T. Harrison, Columbus, G. H. P.

J. L. Power, Jackson, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is presented by M. . E. . Companion P. M. Savery, and, like his previous reports, is very complete. Alabama for 1894 finds a place there. He makes a liberal extract from our G. . H. . Priest's Address, and notes most flatteringly the resolutions of our Grand Chapter in regard to our Reporter. In his name we express our thanks for his kind words.

MONTANA—6TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1895.

Twelve Chapters having a membership of 660, and a gain during the year of 28. Still there is one other working U. D.

The cash balance in treasury is \$880.

It is said by the G. . H. . P. ., Dee W. Baker, that—

"The Craft during the past year has not been altogether as prosperous as we could have desired, yet, it is gratifying to state, that the outlook for the future of Royal Arch Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction is very promising."

He also complained, as others in other Jurisdictions, that many are very lax in the selection and recording a mark, and recommends that Grand Chapter should make this absolutely requisite before the candidate can be "exalted to the Royal Arch Degree." Grand Chapter coincided in this view, and the law so stands at present.

A resolution of condolence with the D. : G. : H. : Priest, who was prevented from attendance by sore family affliction, was adopted.

The Committee on Chapters U. D., in their report on one so situated, recommend that the Dispensation be continued for many irregularities. Also said, "We also find that on June 28th, at a meeting, they placed the annual dues at one dollar per year, which we consider too low." It would be well if this good example were more generally followed.

Joseph J. Hinson, Helena, G. H. P.

Cornelius Hedges, Helena, G. Sec'y.

Our good Companion Hedges presented a Report on Correspondence written "currente calamo," and in a style both attractive and interesting and full of instruction.

We quote somewhat of what he says when reviewing Alabama for 1894:

"The official acts of the year had been few and unimportant. There was complaint at the non-attendance at Chapter meetings. Yes, there is a duty of attendance, but it may be made a pleasant duty if those charged with official duties would exert themselves to make it so. And it can be done.

"Grand Secretary Armstrong evidently made the exemplification of the work interesting, and secured a vote of thanks in evidence of that fact.

"It savors a little of hypercriticism in the case of Chartered Chapters complaining that in some cases 'the seal is stamped the wrong way.' 'The seal must be plumb.'"

To all of which we give our adherence.

He is one of those who thinks that a Charter having once been issued, it makes no difference whether present or not, because

the Grand Chapter records will at any time establish the fact.

He expresses this view taken by us on the subject of recognizing a new foreign Grand Chapter which the General Grand Chapter had deferred for further information, when he says:

"So long as we solicited and accepted the authority to organize our Grand Chapter under the General Grand Chapter, pay dues to it, accept its legislation as binding, surely our Grand Chapter is not an independent sovereignty, and we are estopped by our history and acts from so claiming."

Companion Ercanbrack, of Iowa, he says, "runs to poetry as a duck takes to water." But we applaud him most when he utters: "We think too much stress and time given to Ritual, while other interests of the Chapter as much or more essential to its credit and prosperity, are neglected."

Well, we can't follow him further, for we cannot afford the space for all of his good things, nor for the half of what we had marked.

NEBRASKA—29TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 52; members, 3,042; gain, 51.

We think G. . . H. . . P. . . F. E. Bullard struck the right note when he said that "the Craft would have been better subserved had the application for Dispensation and for Charter been denied," as we find in the following:

"Notwithstanding the fact that our revenue is not materially less than in the preceding year, an examination of the tabulated returns will show that many of our Chapters are dormant. Some of them have had no work for a number of years, and are struggling to maintain their existence. I have hoped that the pressure of the times would so far relax as to give them encouragement, but so far the outlook is not hopeful. It is evident that Chapters have been established where the real interest of the Craft would have been better subserved had the application for Dispensation and for Chapter been denied. Weak subordinates do not add material strength to the Grand Chapter, and while I concede it to be possible for a few earnest and devoted Companions to maintain a weak Chapter in a creditable manner, history and experience tells a different story."

For we have been long since satisfied that Dispensations for new Lodges and Chapters are frequently issued without proper investigation.

G. : H. : P. : recommended joining the Collectors' Association and the appropriation therefor, which was done.

The Grand Chapter is seeking incorporation, and also to be rid of the Degree of P. M.

Charles J. Phelps, Schuyler, G. H. P.

Wm. R. Bowen, Omaha, G. Sec'y.

The writer of the Report on Correspondence was again Companion C. J. Phelps, who was at this Convocation elevated to a more elevated, though, perhaps, not more influential or useful position, that of M. : E. : G. : H. : P. : Alabama for 1894 receives due consideration.

He does not like the requirement that a petition for Dispensation for a new Chapter shall be accompanied by the dimits of the petitioners, and thinks "it better even to have a member carried on two rolls than on none."

He strongly advocates the representative system, and says: "The fact that the many do not perform any duty is not sufficient in itself to condemn the system as useless."

He thinks it well for a Grand Chapter to require a H. : P. : elect to have conferred upon himself the Degree of the order of High Priesthood previous to installation. To this there may be many objections urged, and some of them very grave and insuperable.

NEVADA—23D ANNUAL, JUNE, 1896.

From the mountains comes the gratifying intelligence that—

"Nothing has occurred during the past Masonic year to disturb the even tenor of our way as Royal Arch Masons. It has been a year of unprecedented depression in all the industries of our State, yet Royal Arch Masonry seems to hold its own. More degrees have been conferred in Constituent Chapters than in the preceding year."

The condition there is improving. We had not the Report last year. But the statistics show that there are eight Chapters, two hundred and eighty-seven members, with a loss since last report of seven.

G. : H. : P. : Truman Coffin has no stomach for the representative system, as may be seen by the following:

"The system of Grand Representatives is a somewhat complicated and cumbersome one, and leads to some small jealousies and some fine distinctions of preference and prestige, and does not, so far as I can discover, bring the sisterhood of Grand Chapters or the Royal Companionship into any closer or more fraternal relationship. It greatly increases the work of the Grand Secretary, and so far as I can see, results in but little if any substantial good.

"The Grand Representatives seem to be always appointed upon the suggestion or recommendation of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter within the Jurisdiction of which they are to reside, and seem to me to quite as much represent the Grand High Priest to whose Jurisdiction they are accredited, as they do the Grand Chapter which they are nominally appointed to represent."

Of this the Committee on the Address say: "We do not recommend the abolishment of the system of appointing Grand Representatives."

G. : H. : P. : was called on for but one decision, and that pertained to territorial jurisdiction, or rather to what determines the place of residence of the petitioner.

The Treasury balance last year was \$291, while it has swelled this to \$302, a hopeful sign.

There was but little business, and that local and routine in its character, so it was quickly despatched.

J. S. Burlingame, Carson City, G. H. P.

C. N. Noteware, Carson City, G. Sec'y.

We find no Report on Correspondence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—77TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1896.

Chapters, 24; members, 3,335; gain, 114.

A Dispensation was issued for a new Chapter and this received a Charter at this Convocation.

Grand High Priest W. F. Knight thus greets the Companions:

"We bring you tidings of renewed interest in Capitular Masonry; notes of progress are seen and heard on every hand; the welfare of our Order is uppermost in the minds and hearts of
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tried and true men, who are doing something to place Chapter Masonry upon a higher plane and inspire our fellowmen to nobler and higher ways of life and living; and so it is with especial pleasure that I bid you welcome to this annual session, invite your attention to a review of the year that has passed, and ask you to form new plans for the future, taking such wise counsel together as will continue and promote the peace and harmony that everywhere abounds, remembering and grateful ever, in hours of pleasure and rejoicing, to the Giver of all good gifts for the rich blessings of life and health, and that we are permitted to assemble together under such satisfactory and happy auspices."

The treasury balance holds more than \$2,000.

The business of Grand Chapter was local in character and promptly despatched.

William F. Knight, Laconia, G. H. P.

George P. Cleaves, Concord, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is again presented by our amiable and astute Companion, Albert S. Wait, P. G. H. P.; Alabama for 1895 receives fraternal notice. We are much gratified at finding our views as to the proper respect to be paid to the General Grand Chapter are so completely endorsed by him, as appears from the following:

"He also speaks, and it seems to us justly, of 'the futility and impropriety' of Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter undertaking to determine whether they will recognize other Grand Chapters. It seems to us that such recognition is peculiarly the province of the General Grand Body, whose decision should be conclusive upon the State Grand Chapters."

He entertains the opinion that an objection to advancement after the candidate has received one degree, should be required to be stated, that its validity may be judged of by the Brethren or Companions, and believes that this is but Masonic justice.

In reference to the physical qualifications required by the ancient charges, he admits that perfection was required in the Apprentice, but doubts its applicability to succeeding degrees, and, continuing, says:

"But another consideration is to our minds conclusive of this whole question, so far as the ancient charges can settle anything.

It is this: The three degrees of Masonry have existed from beyond legal or historic memory. These charges, formulated with those degrees existing, make no reference to any but the Apprentice. If it had been intended that misfortune should debar the Apprentice from advancing to the other degrees, it is inconceivable that they should not have provided specifically for that event. The fact that they make no reference to any such is conclusive that no such thing was intended. The truth of this whole matter is that speculators and theorists in Masonry, after the manner of many speculators and theorists in theology and biblical literature, have carried their theories to the extent of reading into the ancient Masonic Constitutions, as the others into the sacred text, what was never there. This exclamation, 'Away with the false doctrine that a landmark as fundamental as this shall be ignored,' has no force with us. There was never any such landmark with the scope claimed for it; nor is Masonry a science that ignores humanity or common sense, which it is made to do by these speculative theories.²³

NEW JERSEY—40TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1896.

Chapters, 38; members, 3,234; gain, 56.

Grand High Priest J. P. Fulper, from an elevated point, thus takes advantage of it and thus addresses his Companions:

"As a traveler in a mountainous country pauses ever and anon when his foot reaches some new height, to look back upon the distance which he has achieved, and searches eagerly for the most remote point in the horizon which he remembers to have passed, and when he finds it follows with his eye every intervening hill-top which marks his progress, and traces in all its deviations the winding path through the separating valley which led him to where he stands; so does it become us, standing to-day upon one of the mountain-peaks in the history of Royal Arch Masonry in the State of New Jersey, to look back upon the past year and gather from its eventful lessons that wisdom of experience which can both guide and gild the future."

He granted a number of Dispensations, but refused in every instance to aid in the railroading process of candidates. Among his refusals, however, we find the following:

"I received a request from the High Priest of Centennial Chapter, No. 34, asking for a Dispensation to hold a Special Convocation on December 3d, in the rooms of Adelpbic Chapter, No. 33, at Paterson, the meeting to be held conjointly with Cataract City Chapter, No. 10, and Adelpbic, No. 33, to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of Capitular Masonry. Three Chapters to meet at the same place and time, for the same object—a triumvirate. As the Constitution does not confer such powers on the Grand High Priest, it was refused."

And in reference to this the Committee says:

"The firm and steady refusal of the Grand High Priest to grant Dispensations for proceedings of questionable propriety and without real necessity meets our hearty approval, as also his expressed disapproval of the combination of several Chapters in a single Convocation. Such matters, in the opinion of your Committee, however pleasant in a social sense, are unnecessary and are apt to lead to confusion."

A Chapter complained of its inability to hold a meeting because of the non-attendance of the High Priest, who held the Charter, and the investigation was eventually left to the Grand High Priest, who has all the power necessary in the premises.

The Treasurer shows a balance of \$1,948, and in addition the Trustees have \$2,463.

H. G. Wagoner, Somerville, G. H. P.

G. B. Edwards, Jersey City, G. Sec'y.

This latter, a P. G. H. P., presented the Report on Correspondence, kindly noticing Alabama for 1895.

He condenses well and efficiently, and thus notices the Address of Grand High Priest Smith:

"Companion John G. Smith, by virtue of his office, sounded his gavel at the Annual of 1895, at Montgomery.

"His spring campaign of official visits was not a great success, for of it he says, 'To my surprise and astonishment, failed to find but two Chapters with work on hand.' The languor surrounding Royal Arch Masonry he opined to be consequent upon the absence of zeal and inefficiency of those having charge of the working interests of the Craft in their hands. There is nothing that will more effectually wreck a Masonic body than inefficiency of the officers.

"Speaking from the experience of a working Mason of twenty years, he felt it incumbent upon him to recommend the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter as one of the necessities of the times, from observation of the inaptitude of the many to obtain the work by oral communication, either by ability or devotion of the required time. The Committee to whom the Address was referred did not coincide with him in this view, for they said that they thought the use of printed Rituals would 'lead to great confusion and possible disaster,' and this was but the echo of the feeling of the Body."

NEW YORK—99TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 187; members, 19,400; gain, 613.

This Grand Chapter was opened in ample form by the G. : H. : P. :, Marvin I. Greenwood, with Representatives of 183 Chapters, but three not being present. G. : H. : P. : announced that he had issued a Dispensation for a new Chapter, and Committee on Dispensations recommended a Charter.

G. : H. : P. : visited many Chapters, and reports having "found the records well kept, the book of marks well nigh complete."

The D. : G. : H. : P. : visited many Chapters, and concludes that "these visits are productive of excellent results." He also visited several Grand Chapters of sister Jurisdictions, and concludes that—

"By such visits a general interest is engendered and an opportunity given to extend the right hand of fellowship, and thereby to promote that fraternal intercourse which we, as one great family of the Royal Craft, earnestly desire."

A petition was received praying for Dispensation to organize a new Chapter signed by eighty petitioners. This was referred to the Committee on Charters, who recommended that in view of the fact that these petitioners failed to obtain the recommendation of the nearest Chapter, which refused to give it, some provision should be made so "that the Grand Chapter may have, without question, the right to review in cases of like character." A proposition for amendment to the Constitution was offered, but promptly laid on the table.

A well deserved tribute to the long service of the distinguished Grand Secretary was expressed in the adoption of the following:

Resolved, In view of the long continued service of R. L. E. Christopher G. Fox, as Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter, which will, at the close of his present term of office, have extended over a period of thirty years, that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a testimonial, for presentation to him at the next Annual Convocation, at an expense not to exceed the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars."

These tributes are readily paid to the retiring presiding officer, whose term was of only a year's duration perhaps, while those of minor positions, who may have devoted the best years of their lives to the Order, are only remembered when they die by perhaps a page of the Proceedings and the picture of death and grief. Indeed, the presentation of such testimonials now are almost perfunctory and mean naught.

The Grand Chaplain delivered an able address, somewhat philosophical, on "Freemasonry; A Science Adapted to the Age."

G. E. W. Stivers, New York, G. H. P.

Christopher G. Fox, Buffalo, G. Sec'y.

We have the Report on Correspondence of 273 pages, again presented by Companion George J. Gardner, in which Alabama for 1894 finds place.

We give what he says of the recognition of foreign Grand Chapters by our State Grand Chapters as containing the true doctrine. Some years since we took this position, and had we been sensitive, might have felt badly at some of the remarks made of our position, but we deemed then, as we think now, that we should await the action of our superior, and be governed accordingly. Suppose we recognize, and after a time the General Grand Chapter refuses, what position do we occupy and how could we escape the necessary odium that could be heaped upon us?

"On this question of recognition a difference of opinion exists, some Grand Chapters claiming that they are as capable of judging as to the regularity of newly-formed Grand Bodies as the General Grand Chapter itself, and are not willing to concede a power to that body, seemingly of supremacy, in any one particular, but claim an equality in all legislative or other functions, while other Grand Bodies prefer its judgment to their own.

"Among the latter we place our own Grand Chapter, which has always pursued a conservative course by awaiting the action

of the General Grand Chapter. The question of the validity of the action of two of the newly-formed Grand Chapters is now in the hands of competent authority to determine, placed there by the General Grand Chapter, and we await a report from that source before reviewing their Proceedings."

He speaks approvingly of the Address of our G. . H. . P. . McKinnon, and quotes liberally, regretting the want of space to reproduce more.

We find him, however, objecting to our railroading candidates through, and exclaiming, "Alas! for such rapid travelers," and subsequently elsewhere he puts this:

"Query—Are not cases of emergency sometimes overstrained or misnamed on frivolous grounds?"

The exceedingly trivial objections to returns sometimes made by committees, is thus met by the remark, "The question arises, is not a circle alwas plumb?" This where the fault found was that the seal was not plumb.

His opposition to granting Dispensations to elect officers or install them because the Chapter had simply neglected to do its duty at the proper time, is firmly expressed.

We give his language on printed Rituals, our views you have had:

"Is it not time that some measures should be taken to suppress this method of imparting our esoteric work? We have standing upon the statute book of the Grand Lodge of this Jurisdiction a prohibition of 'the use of any written or printed or written and printed Ritual of Work and Lectures, under such Masonic penalty as may be inflicted for the violation of an O. B. N.' Should not this be enforced or repealed? Time was when our Ritualistic or esoteric matter was transmitted from brain to brain and properly memorized without the aid of a 'Redding hand book' or a General Grand Chapter cipher. Alas! the degeneracy of our times. Will not the spirit of the fathers rise from their graves and reprove our modern innovations? While intimating that he favors printed Rituals as standard authorities for reference only, taking the article together, we think our Correspondent condemns their use generally."

A burial service for the Chapter meets with no aid from him. With this extract from his conclusion, we close:

"Brethren of the Guild, for the many happy hours we have spent in perusing the brilliant thoughts, the eloquent passages, the earnest sympathetic expressions tendered in the hour of sorrow, we thank you. 'Some of you we know and love—others we have met through a series of years, only on the silent page, but we would know you all by the sight of the eye and the touch of the hand, so that we may be the better able to welcome you to the joys beyond the river, whither we are all hastening.' Many have crossed the border of that 'undiscovered country' since first we entered the reportorial circle, and yearly we miss from our band one after another of our co-laborers. How touching are the words of our poet-laureate, who has already preceded us to the spirit land"—

"There's a world where all are equal—we are hurrying toward it fast—

We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are past,

We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there, To try the blocks we offer by His own unerring square.

"We shall meet upon the level there, but never thence depart; There's a mansion—'tis all ready for each zealous, faithful heart, There's a mansion and a welcome and a multitude is there, Who have met upon the level and been tried upon the square."

Au revoir.

NORTH CAROLINA—48TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1896.

Chapters, 23; members, 818; gain, 34.

There was issued by the G. . H. . P. . during the recess of the Grand Chapter a Dispensation for the organization of a new Chapter, but of this we see nothing further.

The G. . H. . P. . made the usual recommendation to the Grand Chapter in order to enforce compliance with the requirement touching the selection of the mark. At the present time is the mark so essential as to render all these enforcements necessary? We would be glad to learn why all this fuss about a thing so utterly useless. After one is selected, how many get one and wear one? Indeed, the display of such tokens is beginning to be an index of the fraud or dead beat. We have but once in our long Masonic career had one presented to us with full purpose, and then by one absolutely unworthy.

Grand Treasurer reported a balance of more than \$300, which compares most favorably with Alabama's \$84.

Grand Chapter made the necessary appropriation to the Masonic Collectors' Association, and a committee was appointed to confer with the several Chapters and urge the necessity of raising \$2,500 for the erection of a Memorial Cottage at the Oxford Orphan Asylum.

Walter S. Liddell, Charlotte, G. H. P.

H. H. Munson, Wilmington, G. Sec'y.

Companion James Southgate, P. G. H. P., furnishes the feast for his Companions, derived from the markets of the other Grand Chapters, and makes it both varied and interesting. We find that our Alabama was not slighted.

He speaks kindly and approvingly of our G. H. P. Smith, and also of the Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence in relation to dimits. Yet we find him saying:

"We still do not agree with the law in your Grand Lodge, Companion, which makes suspension for N. P. D., a crime, and, believing this as we do, we must condemn your Grand Chapter for being a '*particeps criminis*.'"

We would like our esteemed Companion to explain how, when the Grand Lodge says that one suspended N. P. D. is suspended, a member of a Chapter could say he is not, or how he could hold any Masonic intercourse with him?

We give you what he says on physical perfection:

"Have we not, Companion, departed from many of the 'land marks' and phrases in the old constitutions? Masonry, like fashions, has to conform to the age of progress in which we live. In 'ye olden tyme' the man who lost a foot had to walk on a stump all his days, but in the age of progress, surgery has made inventions which will enable us to modify our old notions of the 'letter of the law.' I can't believe the Companion would black-ball a profane, all right in every other particular, in mind, heart and estate, if he should have an artificial foot, if not '*his*' foot. The case we mentioned, of the man in our Lodge with one arm, lost it *after* he had been made a Mason, and this debars him from going further *because* of his *physical* 'imperfection.' This I have always maintained, although I have seen a conductor on the train who had an artificial arm, punch tickets equal to many who had

two good arms. Let us not be too straight-laced, Companion, and let up just a little, as others do. Why, in our recollection, the Methodists would not allow men and women to sit together in their churches, but customs and fashions have changed, and now families sit together. Times change and men also must change. I am the last Mason in the world to advocate or vote to give the degrees to one unable to make the steps, give the signs, etc., but I confess I am not such a strict constructionist as my Companion Long and those who agree with him."

And in another place:

"The Masonry of this age, Companion, is speculative and not operative. What have we to do as Masons with the building of houses? Operative or actual Masons are required for that work, and as speculative Masons we would pay more attention to the mental and spiritual qualifications, instead of laying so much stress on the loss of an eye, a toe, or a foot, we would more nearly conform to the teaching we hear on our first entrance into a Lodge, that it is the internal and not the external qualification which should recommend a man to be made a Mason."

We must, however, leave thee reluctantly, our worthy Companion.

NORTH DAKOTA—7TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1896.

This Jurisdiction embraces within its arms 14 Chapters, members 798, gain 33. A Dispensation for one new Chapter was issued by the G. . H. . P. ., and this was chartered at this Convocation. In this connection G. . H. . P. . recommended some limitation to this dispensing power, and provision was made requiring that there should be a definite number of Master Masons within the Jurisdiction of the proposed new Chapter ere the Dispensation be granted.

He also thought it well to require the proper proof of qualification before one should be placed in the East.

He recommended the exemplification of the work at each Grand Convocation, and this was adopted.

We find him struggling with the fact that M. . M. . Masons won't choose their marks, and recommends a compulsory course. But why? If marks were useful, as formerly, there would not be found any one who would let the opportunity for selecting one,

slip, but as they have outlived their usefulness, no one cares for one unless he is fond of making a display of symbols. Hence, the necessity of whipping up the delinquents.

Albert B. Herrick, Lisbon, G. H. P.

Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, G. Sec'y.

There is no Report on Correspondence.

NOVA SCOTIA—26TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1895.

Chapters, 14; members, 673; gain, 8.

We failed to get the Proceedings of this Grand Chapter last year, and are the more pleased at having them this.

One of the Subordinates is situated at St. Johns, New Foundland, near which is a representative of the G. . H. . P. ., who keeps his superior fully advised of its condition. It is a strong Chapter and seems to be a live one, although but little work was done by it, owing to various surrounding circumstances.

From the address of the G. . H. . P. . we learn that the Chapters are in a fair and satisfactory condition.

The treasury balance is \$310. Business purely local in interest.

Simon W. Crabbe, Charlottetown, G. H. P.

Alex. Ross, Halifax, G. Sec'y.

No Report on Correspondence.

OREGON—36TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1896.

Chapters, 27; members, 1,290; gain, 52.

Dispensations for two new Chapters were issued, and at this Convocation to these Charters were granted.

Of the Craft G. . H. . Priest J. M. Hodson, in his address, says: "Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions that have prevailed throughout the State during the year, I am very pleased to say that official reports show there has been a general advance in Capitular work, and our membership will show a gain."

He thinks that experience and observation teach that the system of Grand Representatives "is not only useless, but liable to cause ill feeling among Companions." He nevertheless filled a few vacancies.

Several of the Chapters having exempted some of their members from the payment of dues, and also deprived Grand Chapter of dues also, for which he could find no authority, he laid this fact before Grand Chapter for the exercise of its wisdom, whereupon it was—

“Resolved, That any Royal Arch Mason in good standing who has been a contributing member to any Subordinate Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction for twenty years or more, may, at the option of the particular Chapter of which he is then a member, be relieved from all Chapter dues, and that this Grand Chapter relieve the Subordinate Chapter from the payment of Grand Chapter dues on such member.”

There was also adopted a resolution denouncing the drumming for candidates for the degrees.

Cash balance \$2,500.

A resolution prohibiting the naming of a Chapter for any living Companion was also adopted.

John H. Irvine, Canby, G. H. P.

Jas. F. Robinson, Eugene, G. Sec'y.

Companion J. M. Hodson, now P. G. H. P., once more, and at the request of the Grand Chapter, prepared the Report on Correspondence, though at the time G. H. P., in it reviewing Alabama for 1895.

Of Companion Smith's Address, he says it “is a plain, practical paper,” and approvingly copies from it.

We thank him for his approval of our hostility to cipher Rituals, and would that others thought with him.

We are inclined, without further consideration of the question, to agree with his limitation of the exercise of power of a Grand Chapter, as indicated in this:

“For official misconduct the Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest, certainly, so far as official relations extend, has jurisdiction, but not for personal conduct. For un-Masonic behavior outside of his relations to the Grand Chapter, a Companion is amenable only to his Chapter, with a right to appeal to the Grand Chapter if dissatisfied with the acts of his Chapter. We never heard of any organization of any kind that claimed both original and appellate jurisdiction over exactly the same particular act.”

For a proper comprehension of his views, we add:

'If the Grand Chapter has original jurisdiction over a Companion for un-Masonic conduct, pray where does its appellate jurisdiction come in? It certainly has jurisdiction over the official and personal conduct of its members while in attendance upon its Convocations; but suppose one of its members not in attendance was to commit some gross Masonic offense, would you have him brought to trial before the Grand Chapter? We think not. The Grand Chapter has a right to purge itself of any unruly member, to eject him if necessary to protect its honor and dignity; but the Subordinate Chapter is the place to try him for his rights and privileges simply as a Royal Arch Mason."

For some time past has the dispute as to the propriety or necessity of the P. M. Master's degree been on hand, and we presume its useless discussion will continue, so we give what he says on the subject, not being able to imagine what Canada will think of a part of it:

"We remarked last year that there had been more nonsense put forth concerning the Past Master's degree than any one Masonic question. He says, 'By the way, with whom is the sense, with whom the nonsense?' In our opinion the 'nonsense' began with the origin of the degree. In practice, it has continued all along its history. When the law became crystalized into a 'landmark' that none were eligible to the Royal Arch except Past Masters, it became a prohibition to the founding or maintaining of Chapters. The law must be recognized; hence, all Royal Arch Masons must recognize that degree. All who hoped to gain the Royal Arch must recognize and obtain that degree first, and there was no such a degree except that conferred previous to, or at the installation of, an actual Master; therefore, when Chapters were organized to take charge of the Royal Arch and Lodges ceased to have any more to do with the conferring of the Royal Arch, then every candidate must be given that degree, and the nonsense comes from the writer who insists that there are two degrees called Past Master, and that one can not recognize the other. From time immemorial the degree has been recognized, and while usage has differed somewhat in different jurisdictions, so long as Chapter Masons recognize Master Masons, Lodges and Ancient Craft law, that long they are Masonically bound to recognize what it recognizes. He does not think it necessary to have the Charter present in order that the work be regular. We have had our say on that, and have never seen any

argument presented on the other side, many brethren simply saying it don't make any difference, we know there is a Charter and that is sufficient. There are certain necessary things named which constitute a Lodge, and if any one or two of them are absent, then the Lodge is not there, can not be legally opened nor work, and any attempted work would be technically void, while it might be morally right and no disturbance be caused; yet, as an abstract principle, the Charter must be present."

We continued the quotation covering the necessity of the presence of the Charter because we endorse this view.

PENNSYLVANIA—101ST ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 121; members, 15,957; gain, 478.

In addition there are three M. V. M. V. Lodges, with a membership of 1,035.

At the Quarterly Communication of March 7, 1895, a petition was received for authority to organize a new Chapter, and the authority was granted.

At this also a M. V. M. V. Lodge was opened, and the degree fully exemplified.

At that of June 6th, in addition to the ordinary business transacted, a Lodge of M. V. E. V. Masters was opened, and the exemplification of this degree was made, and at that of September 5th the Royal Arch degree was exemplified.

A Special Communication of the Grand Chapter was held to commemorate the completion of the one hundred years of its existence. This was indeed a grand, and, to the Royal Arch Mason, a most interesting and enjoyable affair. A review of the origin and growth, the difficulties and harassments that beset this Grand Chapter during this long period, was assigned to four exceedingly able and studious Companions by periods covering a quarter of a century each, thus insuring faithfulness in the discharge of the duties and accuracy in all the details of historical facts. We have nowhere been more interested than in what was communicated by each of these brilliant Companions. The pride of our Pennsylvania Companions must have been greatly aroused while the knowledge of the steadfastness and perseverance of the founders of the Grand Chapter were shown to them in such charming light. Of course, there was a banquet, at

which the early recollections of many of the older members were recounted.

A distinguishing feature of the celebration, however, to us is, that this volume also contains in detail the celebrations of the several Chapters simultaneously with the Grand Chapter, so that it may be said that every Companion of the Jurisdiction, whether able to be present in Philadelphia or not, took part in this great and unique celebration.

The Annual Communication was held in December, when the officers elect were duly installed, and we learn from the Correspondence Report that in this jurisdiction "only the elected officers are installed."

Ezra S. Bartlett, Philadelphia, G. H. P.
Chas. Casy, Philadelphia, G. Sec'y.

The Proceedings of the several Grand Chapters are divided among the committee consisting of five members, and they not being circumscribed by a limited purse, perform the work most thoroughly. Alabama is not, however, found therein, and we presume was not received. Companion Henderson thinks that there should not and need not be any variation in the rendition of the Ritual by the various High Priests, though the only method of obtaining it be by tradition. We can hardly think such perfection attainable, indeed it could perhaps only be accomplished by reading it. Don't suppose, my good Companion H., that we are in favor of ciphers or any other written method, for more than a half century since we learned that this ought not to be, in a very impressive manner.

He has not been afflicted by the craze that seized our rites a decade or more ago against the use of substitutes. He does not think that Royal Arch Masons should bury their dead. Nor do we. He thinks the Representative system a useless one.

Under Iowa Companion E. A. Tennis, P. . G. . H. . P. ., informs us that the acts of the G. . H. . P. . are never reviewed or made the subject of criticism by committees, but that "he administers the affairs of his station in accordance with law and ancient usage," and that no thought of disagreement has occurred. He is as bitterly opposed to cipher Ritual as ourself, as appears under Kansas.

We would like to follow all the writers, but if we do, our Report would be made too long, and we must, therefore, omit much

that is marked. We have not used the scissors, because we wish to preserve the volume.

QUEBEC—19TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 11; members, 487; gain, 15.

The Grand Z. ., E. T. D. Chambers, opened in Ample Form this Nineteenth Convocation of this Grand Chapter. From his Address we take:

"Peace and prosperity have prevailed throughout our Jurisdiction since our last Annual Convocation. It has occurred to many of us, I have no doubt, within the last few weeks, that we have unconsciously acquired the habit of speaking of peace—national and international as well as Masonic peace—as a matter-of-fact commodity for which no special gratitude is due. May the lessons of the past month not be thrown away upon us, and may our thankfulness for present and prospective peace go out from full and grateful hearts to Him who alone can still the storms of human passion and the murmurs of self-will, and whose blessing has so rested upon the mighty empire of which we are proud to form a part that there are no terrors for her in national isolation, nor yet in studied affronts, whether intended to cater to the prejudices of a hostile democracy upon one continent, or to feed the warlike passions of vainglorious legions upon another."

And elsewhere this invocation:

"Let us work while it is to-day. A few more years at the most and we shall be divested of our implements of labor and summoned within the veil to present for the examination of the Grand Master Overseer of Heaven and Earth the work hewn by us here, together with that Signet of Truth by which we are sealed until the day of our redemption. And may there be given to you and to me, in that day, in the words of our patron saint, 'A white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it.'"

The balance to credit of General Fund is \$451, and to that of the Benevolent Fund is \$709.

M. . E. . Companion J. B. Tresidder, G. Z.

Will H. Whyte, G. S. E.

The G. . S. . E. ., also P. . G. . Z. ., again produces a well-written and carefully-digested Report on Correspondence, and in it are the Proceedings of Alabama for 1894 and 1895. From his review of the latter we infer from the following extract that he is in favor of a Ritual put on paper and in the hands of the officers:

" 'In early days, by tradition was the work conveyed, and by this means only did we obtain it; but the world is faster now, and our Brethren cannot spare the time thus orally to be instructed.'

"Quite true, Companion, we are living in a fast and rushing age. Steam, electricity and other kindred forces are annihilating time and space, and the inhabitants of this mundane sphere are carrying their hurrying, bustling propensities into everything."

From many parts of the Report it is evident that the writer is no advocate of the recently advocated doctrine of "dependent membership," and in support of our view we extract a sentence of his, under California:

"The doctrine of dependent or rather compulsory membership is a production of the 'wild and woolly West;' the Eastern portion of the continent does not appear to worry itself very much over it; no doubt, feeling Masonry does not require 'offensive' measures against any portion of itself."

Having given, under District of Columbia, Companion Singleton's opinion of the misnomer as he thinks of Chapter officers in Quebec, we now give Companion Whyte's reply thereto, that you may have both sides of the question and be able, with a little Biblical study, to determine which is correct:

"And yet, Companion Singleton, even after your lucid explanation of the American Royal Arch, we are not convinced of the error of our ways. We have not the slightest objection to the nomenclature of your officers if they fit in with the idea of your Ritual. But we think the placing of the officers in both the American and English Rituals is not in strict keeping with Biblical history. You call your second officer the King. Zerubbabel was never a King. He was, it was true, the lineal head of the house of David. He was the son of Shealtiel, and grandson of Jehoiachin the King, who was carried captive into Babylon, and was, as we call him, a 'Prince of the People.' He was appointed by Cyrus—'Tirshatha,' or Governor of Judea, was granted

cedars from Lebanon and money for the rebuilding of the Temple and the holy vessels given back to him. Our degree relates to the building of the second Temple, and the only authorized party at the head of that holy and sacred enterprise was Zerubbabel the Governor. Turn to the volume of the Sacred Law and the record in Ezra and Haggai and Zechariah, shows that the Governor was assisted in the work of rebuilding by Joshua, the son of Josedech the High Priest, and aided and encouraged by Haggai the Prophet. The latter is always called a Prophet, never a Scribe. See Haggai I, 1 and 12; II, 2; Zech. IV and 9, says 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, his hands shall also finish it.' These three worthies above mentioned were the heads of the Jewish Sanhedrin, and Zerubbabel held full sway and authority by the decree of Cyrus. We think also an error was made in the early Rituals of the English Arch Degree when they placed Haggai the Prophet second and Joshua the High Priest third; to our mind they should have been reversed. All through Holy Writ the record shows Zerubbabel builded, aided by Joshua the High Priest, and assisted and encouraged by Haggai the Prophet. Solomon the King built the first Temple; Zerubbabel, Prince and Governor, built the second. But we must pause; limit is more than covered."

And so must we, for the same reason, and as was closed our review of Companion Singleton, with his extract, so we do this with that of Companion Whyte.

RHODE ISLAND—98TH ANNUAL, MARCH, 1896.

Chapters, 10; members, 2,438; gain, 91.

Grand High Priest A. L. Anthony says of the Craft:

"In rendering an account of my stewardship for the year ending to-day, I am pleased to announce that the same degree of peace and harmony prevails in our Chapters as heretofore; no appeals or grievances have been brought to my attention, nor have I been called upon to render any decision during that time."

And again: "The number and financial condition of our Chapters is very gratifying."

He refused a Dispensation to confer degrees out of time, and the Committee on the Address, in reference to this, says:

"In this connection, your Committee would express approval of the conservative manner in which the prerogatives of Grand High Priest, as they are recognized in this State, have been exercised by Grand High Priest Anthony."

The neglect of the selection and recording of marks by the Companions is a source of annoyance to him, and he recommended that some action be had, but none was proposed, although the Committee sympathized with him.

He expressed the hope that a return to the bosom of the General Grand Chapter will have been accomplished ere the next Triennial, to be held in Baltimore, and that some action might be had at this session. But the Committee thus provides:

"Your Committee find themselves in general accord with the expression of opinion on the part of the Grand High Priest in respect to the resumption of relations on the part of this Grand Chapter with the General Grand Chapter; but in view of the fact that it does not seem to have been expected that so important a subject should be passed upon to-day, your Committee recommend the postponement of positive action; and they further recommend that this matter of a proposed resumption of relations be made the special order of business at the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter."

The Treasurer reports on hand \$4,209, and Grand Chapter also holds securities for \$5,877.

After making provision for the "Annual Dinner," the election was held, and Caleb L. Knight, of Woonsocket, was elected Grand High Priest, and William R. Greene, of Providence, re-elected Grand Secretary. After installation, Grand Chapter repaired to the "Annual Dinner." So much for being not overgrown.

M. E. Companion H. W. Rugg, P. G. H. P., presented the Report on Correspondence, which consists of a commentary on a few of the questions of the day, displaying sound judgment and a knowledge of what he is writing about.

He regrets that so few read these Reports, or indeed, any Masonic literature, else there would be less ignorance on the various questions as they arise.

He deplors the probable eventual loss of the Cryptic degrees, and for their preservation makes the following suggestion:

"If the Past Masters' and Most Excellent Masters' degrees were dispensed with, then a place could be made for the Cryptic degrees, and the Royal Arch system would become more intelligible and symmetrical, taken as a whole. It is a question, indeed, as to just where the Cryptic degrees, if thus incorporated in the system, ought to be placed; but, doubtless, a right adjustment could be made if the matter was taken hold of with a purpose to simplify and perfect the organization, and to retain in the appropriate place, with a proper respect to its character and worth, whatever is now included in the degrees to which reference is here made."

He is evidently no advocate of a Cipher Ritual, yet would like uniformity in work, "at least among Chapters of the same jurisdiction, and in substantial elsewhere."

He regards the use of substitutes as necessary for the well-being of Chapters and as just to the candidate, and shows that from the first they have been used; is an advocate for the Representative system; says, "Printed Rituals have no supporters; a half apology for their use, under certain conditions, constitutes all the favor shown to them, so far as our remembrance goes, in any Jurisdiction;" and after some time spent on public installations, he closes, thus:

"It is better, all things considered, to keep Masonic work and Ritual instruction pretty much to ourselves, and not to invite the attention of the outside world at all frequently to any exhibition of Masonic ceremony or symbolism."

SOUTH CAROLINA—85TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1896.

This old Jurisdiction embraces 20 Chapters with a membership of 689, and we fear a shrinkage of perhaps 30. Four Chapters appear to have made no returns. We regret to state that this shrinking has now continued for some years, and with prosperity among the citizens of this good State, this should not be, and we hope will not continue.

G. . H. . P. . J. T. Barron pronounces the work of the Craft to have been good, square and true, and that "the officers are becoming more familiar with the new Ritual." Is not this change in the Ritual a prime cause of the declension of the numbers, as it also produced naturally a diminution in the interest of the

Companions? We know this to have been the consequence in this, our own Jurisdiction. The interest of the older members is destroyed, zeal perishes, and a period of bare existence ensues and continues until time, the great healer, shall correct the evil done. Nevertheless we have hope, and this is kindled by seeing that one new Chapter was springing into existence, fostered by Dispensation from the G. . H. . P. .

Nothing but the ordinary routine of business was transacted.

J. T. Barron, Columbia, G. H. P.

A. E. Fugle, Columbia, G. Sec'y.

The R. . E. . Grand Secretary presented a Report on Correspondence, in which he claims to have received our Proceedings for 1894, but gives us no further notice. Of these Reports the M. . E. . Grand High Priest says: "I trust that the time will never again come when we may feel compelled to discontinue this potent agency for the good of the Craft," and in this wish and hope we sincerely join him.

For a notice of our Proceedings we wish for "better luck next time," and if the Reporter continues in the mind expressed by him below, we will not be disappointed:

"We intend in future to try and present a complete report of all the Grand Chapters if possible to get them in time and the printer's ink will hold out."

The Report is necessarily very much condensed, but is nevertheless very sprightly and instructive, and cannot be spared, we think.

SOUTH DAKOTA—7TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1896.

Chapters, 26; members, 1,491; loss, 11.

G. . H. . P. . H. J. Rice is pleased thus to speak of the Order:

"It affords me pleasure to say that within our Jurisdiction peace and harmony exist, and that during the interval since we last met, no unpleasant complications have arisen to disturb Capitular Masonry. I wish I could report to you that all our Chapters were prosperous. In too many instances the report comes up, 'We are doing very little work; 'tis hard to get a quorum.'"

What is the trouble and what is the remedy? are serious questions. In too many cases it arises from the fact that the Chapter is looked upon as a mere stepping-stone to enable some to reach something beyond. Too many who pass the veils fail to comprehend anything beyond the idle amusement of an evening, and after they have taken all the steps, and reached the highest pinnacle, have failed to find the true beauties of Masonry."

And the Grand Secretary adds:

"For the first time since the organization of this Grand Chapter, I am compelled to report that a Chapter is delinquent, Olivet No. 28 has not been heard from; and I have also to state that for the first time there has been a decrease in membership."

Yet, on the other hand, there are no grievances to adjust, and the G. . H. . P. . was required to make several decisions, which indicates that the Craft is alive and concerned in its affairs. The next report, if business confidence revives, will tell another tale.

The G. . H. . P. . granted a Dispensation for conferring the degrees in less time than the Constitution requires. To the exercise of any such power this Grand Chapter is averse, though this act is approved because of the peculiar attendant circumstances, and the committee, when criticising the act, say: "We have, however, become fully convinced that cases may arise in which this stringent rule may be relaxed." On this subject we find Companion Levoy, P. . G. . H. . P. ., in his Report on Correspondence under District of Columbia on this subject, saying, and with much truth:

"We can find no action of the Grand Chapter on the recommendation, hence the Constitution remains as it was, to be violated under the guise of prerogatives of future Grand High Priests."

It is believed by Grand Chapter that the exemplification of the degrees in Grand Chapter would prove of great value, so the Chapter at the town where the Grand Chapter next meets, is requested to prepare for a full exemplification of the R. . A. . Degree.

Grand Chapter begins to think that the corps of Grand Representatives is greatly more ornamental than useful, so it has instructed the Grand Secretary to furnish a list of such as have

not communicated with this Grand Chapter for three years to the G. H. P., that their places may be filled by others.

Cash balance, \$1,377.

George V. Ayers, Deadwood, G. H. P.

George A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, G. Sec'y.

An admirable Report on Correspondence is made by P. G. H. P. L. G. Levoy. It is characterized by great fairness, independence and courtesy. Alabama for 1895 is found in its accustomed place. We are gratified at finding that South Dakota has no cipher Ritual. He apparently allows certain inherent powers and prerogatives to Grand Masters as having been the custom from a remote antiquity, but thinks that a Grand High Priest possesses none not authorized by the law creating his office.

Our own position is similar to the one he combats in the following, and we coincide with the views of Companion Slaton, of Kentucky:

"Now, it strikes us the only allegiance we can find of State Grand Chapters to the General Grand Chapter, is the matter of being taxed. The State Grand Chapters, as we understand it, have equal sovereignty with the General Grand, and retain their sovereignty in its fullest extent, the laws of the General Grand being mandatory on Chapters immediately subordinate to it, and advisory only as far as Constituent Grand Chapters are concerned. We feel, then, that Grand Chapters have the right to recognize their peers, if satisfactory proof of their legality as a Sovereign Body is presented when application for recognition is made, and which in this case accompanied their application in every Jurisdiction where request was made."

With one additional extract, we must leave our good Companion. Here it is. It affords food for reflection. Is an unaffiliate of long standing in good standing?

"Under Delaware, quoting Companion Harrison on dependent membership, the following:

"Because 'dependent membership' is not based on 'good standing,' or the want of it, but upon *affiliation*, whereas, under the ancient usages of the Craft an unaffiliated Mason 'is in good standing,' until he has been regularly disciplined."

"We have, since reading the above, examined thoroughly the old Constitutions of 1721 and the Regulations of December, 1813, promulgated at the union of the two Grand Lodges in England that year, and can find no direct regulation regarding affiliation; in fact, to the writer it seems that it was never expected that brethren should be anything else than members of the Lodge that made them. The only place in the Constitution of 1721 that we could find relating to withdrawal from a Lodge, is the following clause:

"VIII. No set or number of Brethren shall withdraw or separate themselves from the Lodge in which they were made Brethren, or were afterwards admitted members, unless the Lodge becomes too numerous; nor even then without a Dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy; and when they are thus separated, they must either immediately join themselves to such other Lodge as they shall like best, with the unanimous consent of that other Lodge to which they go, (as above regulated) or else they must obtain the Grand Master's Warrant to join in forming a new Lodge."

"So that we are compelled to believe there is no ancient usage recorded that considers an unaffiliate in good standing or otherwise."

TENNESSEE—67TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1896.

Chapters, 68; members, 2,755; gain, 18.

It is said by G. .H. . P. . A. G. Kimbrough, that this "Grand Jurisdiction has been blessed with peace and prosperity," and in connection with this he mentions the slight difference between this Grand Chapter and that of Virginia because of probable violation of jurisdiction which had descended to him, and which, we hope, has been fully and fraternally settled ere this.

Dispensations for two new Chapters were issued by him. These received their Charters at this Convocation. In addition, Grand Chapter recommended that Dispensations for still two others be granted.

We regret exceedingly to find a necessity existed, and still continues to borrow money for current expenses, but are satisfied that this necessity will have soon passed away.

W. D. Henderson, Athens, G. H. P.

W. A. Clendenning, Nashville, G. Sec'y.

Seldom do we encounter a more interesting or pleasanter Report on Correspondence than that presented by Companion H. H. Ingersoll. Alabama receives fraternal mention. A liberal extract is made from the concluding portion of G. . H. . P. . McKinnon's Address with entire approval, and a recommendation to his Companions to carefully read it.

Alluding to the reported loss of the printed Ritual in Kansas, he says:

"And this committee may be pardoned for expressing regret that only twenty-three were lost instead of the whole; not only the whole number owned and claimed by Kansas, but by all the other Jurisdictions in these United States, for this Correspondent has the regrets of an old foggy, Bourbon, if you choose, that ever any Ritual was printed, and the belief that it will be better for Capitular Masonry when all those printed have been lost never again to be recovered! A Fraternity that cannot preserve the secret portion of its Ritual without printing it, so as to expose it almost necessarily to betrayal or discovery, seems to be far on the road toward the loss of its most valuable possession! Memory was given man with which to preserve and transmit these secret bonds; and when memory ceaseth then the fraternity should also cease! Those who do not value Masonry enough to keep its sublime secrets in mind will not maintain the sublime and exalted rank of the Fraternity among the children of men. So says an old foggy, and he believes it, too!"

We are glad to find that there still exist a few "old fogies" besides ourself.

We give you also what he further most appropriately says elsewhere:

"With such proceedings and with efficient lectures, what Grand Chapter cannot dispense with printed cipher Rituals furnished to officers for their instruction and guidance, and forbidden to their use? Away with such nonsense! Better lose a word now and then! Where the work can be read, read it; and where it is not to be read, let us recite it as best we may, without seeming even to be appearing to violate sacred obligations!"

He admires the form and ceremony used in opening and relieving the officers of the Grand Chapter in Massachusetts, and thinks the same might with profit be adopted by all of us. So do we, for we well recollect in the earlier part of this century

when judges, lawyers and sheriffs wore appropriate dresses, and the chief official was received in the court with great formality, the reverence for the court displayed by the people, but which has now completely passed away.

He by no means countenances the order of High Priesthood being controlled by the Grand Chapter, for he asks:

"What have others than High Priests to do with the Order of High Priesthood? What has a Masonic body, however worthy, composed in part of others than High Priests, to do with such an Order? It does not seem logical that those not possessed of the secrets of the Degree, not entitled to receive it, should aid in regulating or controlling it."

We think him correct in his position that "without examination before progression intelligent Freemasonry is impossible."

Our esteemed Companion is a wide-awake Reporter, and very gracefully wears the mantle that has fallen to his shoulders.

TEXAS—46TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 133; members, 6,098; gain, 417.

The authority of the G. : H. : P. : , John H. Stone, was invoked in the formation of three new Chapters, and they received Charters, and the Committee on Petitions recommended that Dispensations be issued for five more. At this Convocation five dormant Chapters were restored to life and vigor.

A well deserved tribute to worth was exhibited by Grand Chapter when it restored the salary of the Grand Secretary, which, under pecuniary pressure, had been previously diminished. If there is any officer of Grand Chapter deserving of full and favorable consideration, it surely is the capable and well worked Secretary.

The D. : G. : H. : Priest, in reporting his doings to the Grand Chapter of the propriety and necessity of choosing and recording the mark, says, in answer to an inquiry from the H. : P. : of a Chapter:

"From these it is plain the Chapter must keep a 'Book of Marks,' and the choosing and recording of a mark is one of the rules of the Chapter. How long he may delay, is left within his own conscience, but as long as he may delay, so long he is post-

poning a solemn vow that he has made. Should he die without choosing and recording his mark, his vow will have been broken; should he ask for a dimit in this condition, he has not conformed to the 'By-laws, Rules and Regulations' of his Chapter, hence should be a bar to a dimit. When his attention has been called to his vow, and he still refuses, then charges should be entered against him. My ruling is: The dimit should be withheld."

The treasury holds a balance of \$4,756, and we learn from the Report on Correspondence that "we do not pay mileage and per diem." Neither do we in Alabama, either in Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge, or elsewhere in Masonic bodies.

Grand Chapter—

"*Resolved*, That the jurisdiction over the person of a rejected applicant for the Royal Arch and appendant degrees, shall attach to the Chapter so rejecting him for a period of five years from the date of such rejection, and that after such time the Chapter shall have no jurisdiction by reason of such rejection. That any law in conflict herewith be, and the same is hereby repealed."

A. S. Bunting, Weatherford, G. H. P.

Geo. Lopas, Jr., Houston, G. Sec'y.

Companion John A. Terrell brings forward a most interesting Report on Correspondence, in which we find Alabama for 1894. We are not certain but that we fully agree with him when he expresses his opposition to conferring the degrees on anything but flesh and blood, yet would he refuse them to one so near-sighted as to be unable to see without glasses?

We are in full agreement on the subject of a written or printed ritual, whether in cipher or it be a book of Hindoo Theology, and say with him, "Away with such infractions of the true principles and landmarks of our ancient and noble Order." For our views on this subject, we refer him to our report to Grand Lodge in 1894, introduction.

We concur entirely in his view of the condition of the candidate, and the effect of objection to advancement, as expressed in the following:

"We still insist that an applicant is still a *candidate* for each and every degree until he has received that degree, and is not entitled to any privileges as a brother or Companion of that de-

gree until he has received it, and that any member of the 'family' should have the right to object to his entering as a member of the household at any time before he receives the degree which places him upon the same plane with the objector; and such objection should serve the same purpose as a black-ball, and the reason thereof should no more be discussed than should the reason for casting a black-ball."

He holds to continuous membership in the Lodge as necessary to good standing in the Chapter, and properly denounces the gross manner in which some of our beautiful degrees are conferred, and exclaims, "Let it be stamped out, if need be, by the expulsion of those who will persist in the practice."

He can see no reason for requiring a High Priest to have the Order of High Priesthood conferred upon him before he can be installed. Nor do we, indeed, as one must pass the ordeal of election before the Council will proceed to confer it, the High Priest elected by the Chapter might be prevented from ever becoming the High Priest, although his Chapter were unanimous in their wish to that end.

But, good Companion Terrell, however much we may desire to tarry with you, our financial condition admonishes us that we must forego that pleasure if we would have you see what we think of you.

VERMONT—79TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1896.

Chapters, 27; members, 2,718; gain, 58.

An application for a Dispensation for a new Chapter was filed with the M. E. G. H. P., who instituted inquiries into the surrounding conditions, and being satisfied that if established it would not only prove a weak Chapter itself, but tend greatly to weaken the nearest Chapter already in existence. So he referred the petition to the Grand Chapter, with the recommendation, however, that it be not granted, but instead that the neighboring existing Chapter be authorized and required to hold its Convocations alternately in the two different towns. On this recommendation the Grand Chapter acted and so provided. This will assuredly be better than to have two Chapters drawing out a meagre existence, neither very active or capable.

He says that "each Chapter and District Convocation seem to have a system of floor work of their own, and no two alike in all

things." It is this condition, perhaps, that induces them to be such strenuous advocates of the cipher. In consequence he recommends the preparation of one.

Balance in treasury is over \$5,000.

At this Convocation it was—

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter recognizes the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales as an independent Grand Body, sovereign within its Grand Jurisdiction, extends fraternal greetings to the same, and invites an exchange of Representatives."

No decisions were made; no grievances reported.

Daniel N. Nicholson, Burlington, G. H. P.

Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is again the product of that able scholar, Companion Marsh O. Perkins, who reviews Alabama for 1895. He speaks of the Address of G. . H. . P. . Smith as an "able and interesting paper," and continues thus:

"Alluding to the want of interest in certain Chapters, he rightly declares that it is too frequently caused by the want of zeal and the proper instruction of the officers. As a step to remedy the evils arising therefrom, he recommended the adoption of the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter, but Grand Chapter, having a holy horror of 'printed work,' refused to adopt his suggestion. In this connection we note that the thanks of the Council of the Order of High Priesthood were unanimously extended to M. . E. . Companion J. W. Chamberlain, of Tiffin, Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Rituals of that order, "for the gift of a complete and elegantly bound copy of the new Ritual." Consistency, thou art indeed a jewel!"

He speaks of ourself as unanimously adverse to cipher, and hints that somewhere we are taught that one was left by the first Grand Masters, to which we are very greatly indebted. Well, this may or may not have been, but without doubt, in the very inception of our learning, we are differently instructed, and forcibly enough, too.

VIRGINIA—88TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 38; members, 2,407; gain, 21.

G. : H. : P. : G. Wilson Poe complains that "Capitular Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction, candor compels me to say, is not as flourishing as Ancient Craft Masonry," and it is his opinion that these degrees are too often sought only as stepping stones for recruits to Commanderies and Shrines, and are so hastily conferred that the recipients retain no knowledge of them, and in consequence of their ignorance become indifferent and negligent.

He issued a Dispensation to revive an extinct Chapter, and refused one for a new Chapter for excellent reasons.

A very earnest appeal was made by him in behalf of the Masonic Home, which, being approved by the Committee on the G. : H. : Priest's Address, was referred to that on Finance, but of it further we find nothing. Yet we find that fifty dollars per night is appropriated for "refreshments" for Grand Chapter.

He expressed some anxiety for a Report on Correspondence, but we find none. We well recollect when the Reporter for this Grand Chapter was a power in the guild.

WEST VIRGINIA—25TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1895.

Chapters, 20; members, 1,216; gain, 100.

It is very gratifying to a Grand Chapter and Companions generally when a G. : H. : P. : can, as does M. : E. : Companion Neil Robinson, say:

"COMPANIONS: In the year that has passed since our last Convocation, Royal Arch Masonry has advanced steadily within our Jurisdiction. The reports from the subordinate bodies will show an increase in membership and in property. Harmony has prevailed, and not one case has been appealed or referred to your Grand High Priest for a decision."

An application having been made for the formation of a new Chapter, the committee to whom it was referred reported adversely, because "there is not enough evidence presented to justify" such a step.

Samuel N. Meyers, Martinsburg, G. H. P.

Odell S. Long, Charleston, G. Sec'y.

With Grand Chapter, and with Companion Torrence, whose illness prevented the preparation of the Report on Correspondence, we sincerely sympathize.

WISCONSIN—46TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1895.

Chapters, 71; members, 5,676; gain, 70.

G. . H. . P. . Samuel Wright issued Dispensations for three new Chapters, and at this Convocation Charters were granted to four.

We are pleased with his desire to curb the disposition for new Chapters, on which subject he speaks thus:

"From these facts we can but learn that in the location of a new Chapter great care should be taken in order that no material injury be inflicted upon the older one by divesting it of territorial jurisdiction. Observation teaches us that to sustain a Chapter of seventy-five members—the average size in this State—it requires a *Lodge* membership of at least 225. A regulation, therefore, prohibiting the issuing of Dispensations for new Chapters, by which the territorial jurisdiction of any of the present Chapters would be reduced so as to contain only Lodges with a combined membership of less than 200, I think, would be advisable."

He thought smoking during the work should not be allowed, and the Committee on Jurisprudence thought no action of Grand Chapter necessary, as this was at the discretion of the E. . H. . Priest.

He disliked requiring a unanimous ballot on applications for affiliation, and Grand Chapter declared "That only four-fifths of the ballots cast in favor of an applicant shall be necessary to elect to membership."

Grand Chapter has a good balance in cash.

The following was enacted limiting the effect of a rejection:

"*Resolved*, That Section 10 of Article II of the Constitution be amended by striking out all after the word 'rejection,' in fourth line, and inserting words, 'provided that in case the candidate removes from the jurisdiction of the rejecting Chapter, it shall lose jurisdiction after a period of three years.'"

Thomas Pryor, Jr., Dodgeville, G. H. P.

John W. Laffin, Milwaukee, G. Sec'y.

Companion Wm. C. Swain, P. . G. . H. . P. ., again presented one of his superb Reports on Correspondence, in which Alabama for 1894 receives fraternal notice. He thus notices our provision for the destruction of the good standing in Chapter after suspension by the Lodge :

"A suspension or expulsion upon trial and conviction by a Master Mason's Lodge shall be binding upon the action of the Chapters of this Jurisdiction, and that, from and after the first day of June, 1895, one under suspension by a Master Mason's Lodge for non-payment of dues, shall also stand suspended as a Royal Arch Mason."

"If the above action was proper, why give an offending Brother six months leeway before he becomes suspended?"

We thank the Companion for his very kind words of ourself.

He devotes some space to the defence of what is known as the Wisconsin proposition. This he does in reply to Companion Drummond.

We have thus completed this, our thirtieth consecutive review of the Proceedings of the various Grand Chapters. During this period many are the changes that have been wrought, and many more numerous are the Grand Chapters than at that earlier period. Now complete harmony prevails, while then the angry feelings engendered by the war found display among some of the Correspondents.

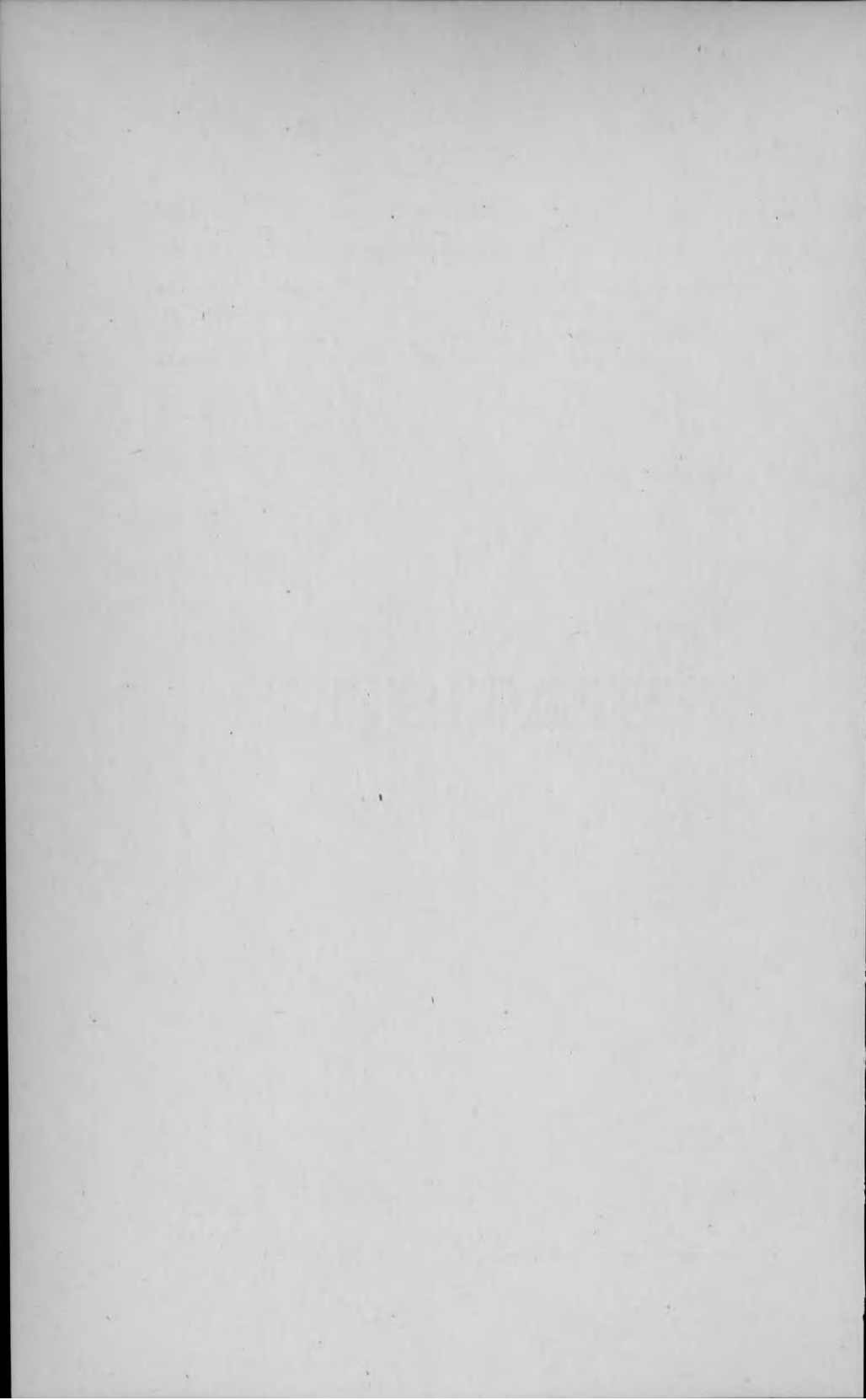
In 1867, when we commenced, there were reported within our Jurisdiction 2,577 R. . A. . Masons, active members; in 1876, 1,345; in 1885 these were reduced to 502; but since then great improvement has taken place, and in 1895 there were reported 1,007 active R. . A. . Masons. While our membership was large, the suspensions N. P. D. was large also, but after they became in much smaller ratio to the total membership, for in 1867 there were 262 suspended N. P. D., while in 1895 there were but 62, so that we are now losing from this cause only one where we lost two then. The dismissions also are now even smaller in proportion than then, and the difference greater than in the suspensions for non-payment of dues.

In the first decade we lost 1,232; in the next, 841, but in the third, the last, our gain was 503. We may then take hope that our days of depression are at an end, and that henceforward our progress will be onward and rapid. As reported at present, but

one in ten Master Masons become R. : A. : Masons. Hoping and praying that our anticipations may be realized, we fraternally submit this report to your charitable and indulgent consideration.

PALMER J. PILLANS,
Chairman.

STATISTICS.



NAME AND NUMBER OF CHAPTERS MAKING RETURNS,

With the number of Members returned, Amount of Dues paid to the Grand Chapter, and the number of those Advanced, Presided, Received and Accepted, Exalted, Affiliated, Rejected, Dimitted, Died, Suspended, and Reinstated since last return.

Chapter Number.	NAMES OF CHAPTERS	No. of Members.	Am't of Dues rec'd	Advanced.	Presided.	Rec'd & Accepted.	Exalted.	Affiliated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Rejected.	Suspended.	Reinstated.
4	Monroe.....	27	20 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	Tuscumbia.....	21	31 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
12	Marion.....	17	..	6	6	6	6	..	..	1	..	..	..
19	Mt. Moriah.....	28	21 00	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	1	..
21	Mobile.....	44	33 00	4	4	4	2	2	1	2	..	..	..
22	Montgomery.....	45	33 75	3	3	3	3	..	3	1	..	4	..
23	Talladega.....	32	24 00	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	3	..
24	Eufaula.....	44	33 75	3	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
25	Courtland.....	15	11 25	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
26	Union.....	31	23 25	6	6	6	6	..	4	..	..	1	2
28	St. John's.....	43	32 25	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	5	..
32	Fulton.....	24	18 00	3	3	3	3	..	2	..	..	..	..
38	Decatur.....	40	29 50	8	8	8	8	2	3	1	1	7	1
40	Camden.....	12	9 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
54	Tyrian.....	60	45 00	3	3	3	3	..	..	1	..	..	..
56	Zerubbabel.....	11	8 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
57	Collinsville.....	15	11 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
63	Clayton.....	18	12 75	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	1
64	Central.....	18	13 50	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
71	Landmark.....	37	18 50	2	2	2	2	..	2	..	..	1	..
79	Hillabee.....	13	9 75	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..
80	Myles J. Greene.....	19	14 25	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
85	Gaston.....	19	..	1	1	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
86	Coosa.....	34	..	3	3	3	3	..	1	..	..	4	11
88	Springville.....	22	16 50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
92	Notasulga.....	16	12 00	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..
93	Columbus.....	18	13 75	3	3	3	3	..	1	1	..	..	..
96	Daniel Pratt.....	17	12 75	3	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
99	Thomas M. Bragg.....	21	15 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
101	Mineral City.....	136	102 00	16	16	16	16	2	5	3	..	8	1
106	Graham.....	22	15 75	7	7	7	7	..	..	..	..	11	1
107	Fort Payne.....	22	16 50	4	4	3	3	1	..	..	..	6	..
108	Pratt City.....	48	38 25	11	11	11	11	1	..	1	1	..	..
109	Blotcon.....	19	14 25	2	2	2	2	1	..	..	..	1	..
		1008	\$711 25	91	91	87	84	11	31	26	3	73	20

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

- Tuscumbia, No. 10—James A. Barton, Henry C. Barton, James Caden, W. J. Casey, George E. Geise, James E. Pride, Martin B. Patterson, E. R. Sims, Walter S. White.
- Mt. Moriah, No. 19—William O. Monroe.
- Montgomery, No. 23—G. W. Culverhouse, T. A. Dillard, Edward C. L. Gabbett, William J. Kerlin.
- Talladega, No. 23—John M. Huey, W. T. Hamilton, DeWitt Rogers.
- Union, No. 26—William F. Adams.
- St. John's, No. 28—William F. Aycock, Allen C. Jones, John F. Schirmer, Edward A. Scott, Charles E. Wallin.
- Decatur, No. 38—William R. Jones, Dolphin C. Davis, Louis D. Seward, John B. Graham, William A. Crawford, Louis C. Branscomb, John A. Hesse.
- Camden, No. 40—Edward N. Jones, John R. McDowell, Neil McArthur, William McConnico.
- Zerubbabel, No. 56—Daniel T. Green, R. R. Spinks, James M. Wilson.
- Clayton, No. 63—J. T. Floyd, A. V. Lee, L. H. Lee.
- Landmark, No. 71—John R. Ard.
- Hillabee, No. 79—John M. Mason.
- Coosa, No. 86—Alexander F. Lankford, Henry H. McDill, Edgar Welsh, James E. Wood.
- Thos. M. Bragg, No. 99—Columbus W. Payne.
- Mineral City, No. 101—John S. Clements, Harry Hawkins, Thomas Larney, John W. Mullin, H. F. McFarland, E. B. Norton, Charles Rolland, James M. Swan.
- Graham, No. 106—C. B. Cole, B. O. Bridges, J. B. M. Cooper, A. J. McEachin, J. B. Colwell, Coke Weir, R. E. Merrill, William McMahan, William L. Kemp, A. J. Haley, S. J. Rigsby.
- Fort Payne, No. 107—James West, Joel F. Baker, Isaac Frankle, Frank Iddings, Lorenzo D. Lewis.
- Blocton, No. 109—Willis F. Pledger.

SUSPENDED FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

- Fort Payne, No. 107—William R. Poe.

RE-INSTATED.

-
- Union, No. 36—Thomas Hudson, Aug. 6, 1896; Samuel F. Bondurant, Aug. 6, 1896.
- Decatur, No. 38—John C. Eyster, May 21, 1896.
- Zerubbabel, No. 56—James M. Smith, Dec. 1, 1895; Westly C. Wyatt, May 23, 1896.
- Clayton, No. 63—J. N. Williams, Nov. 2, 1896.
- Coosa, No. 86—William J. Alexander, June 24, 1896; John B. Bass, July 11, 1896; John H. Disque, June 23, 1896; Ephraim G. Lafollett, June 24, 1896; Daniel G. McCaulley, July 15, 1896; Joseph Bevans, June 10, 1896; R. O. Randall, July 18, 1896; James C. Smith, June 22, 1896; Benjamin L. Stewart, June 22, 1896; Preston L. Walker, June 22, 1896; Augustine L. Woodliff, June 9, 1896.
- Notasulga, No. 92—Ralph T. Armstrong, April 5, 1896.
- Mineral City, No. 101—William A. Bird, March 12, 1896.
- Graham, No. 106—Angus J. McEachin, Sept. 26, 1896.

IN MEMORIAM.

Sacred to the Memory of the

TWENTY-SIX COMPANIONS

Of the Chapters, Whose Deaths are Reported in the
Returns of November, 1896.

CHAPTER.	No.	NAME.	DATE.	Age.
Marion.....	12	Clarence Crenshaw...	April 21, 1896	45
Mt. Moriah....	19	Frank H. Mundy.....	Aug. 23, 1896	58
".....	19	Robert E. Watkins....	Sept. 20, 1896	66
Mobile.....	21	Daniel Smith.....	May 26, 1896	67
".....	21	Henry Allen Lowe.....	July 2, 1896	38
Montgomery...	22	Benj. L. Barksdale....	Nov. 23, 1895	—
Talladega.....	23	William N. Boynton...	July 22, 1896	62
".....	23	Robert A. Sissen.....	—	—
Decatur.....	38	Henry C. Saunders....	April 4, 1896	—
Tyrian.....	54	Willis D. Henderson...	March 25, 1896	60
Clayton.....	63	L. Lee.....	June —, 1896	—
Central.....	64	Henry Wilson.....	—	—
Hillabee.....	79	George W. Porter....	March 22, 1896	—
".....	79	Daniel B. Broun.....	Sept. 3, 1896	—
Myles J. Greene	80	James M. McNamee.....	June 1, 1896	64
".....	80	Julius C. Phillips.....	Nov. 11, 1895	59
".....	80	Martin W. Smith.....	May 17, 1896	70
Coosa.....	86	Benjamin L. Stewart...	Aug. 3, 1896	36
Gaston.....	85	Walter F. Pond.....	April 11, 1896	62
".....	85	Lemuel J. Mooney....	April 13, 1896	—
".....	85	John G. McLuther....	—, 1896	—
Columbus.....	93	John B. Yelverton....	Feb. 12, 1896	60
Mineral City...	101	Peter Zinzer.....	Oct. 29, 1895	45
".....	101	Conrad Theobald....	Sept. 3, 1896	30
".....	101	Thomas H. Holt.....	Aug. 1, 1896	—
Pratt City.....	108	William C. Battle....	May 9, 1896	45

DIED.

- Marion, No. 12—Clarence Crenshaw, April 21, 1896, aged 45.
Mt. Moriah, No. 19—Frank H. Mundy, Aug. 23, 1896, aged 58; Robert E. Watkins, Sept. 20, 1896, aged 66.
Mobile No. 21—Daniel Smith, May 26, 1896, aged 67; Henry Allen Lowe, July 2, 1896, aged 38.
Montgomery, No. 22—Benjamin L. Barksdale, Nov. 23, 1895.
Talladega, No. 23—William N. Boynton, July 22, 1896, aged 62; Robert H. Sissen.
Decatur, No. 38—Henry C. Saunders, April 4, 1896.
Tyrian, No. 54—Willis D. Henderson, Mar. 25, 1896, aged 60.
Clayton, No. 63—L. Lee, June, 1896.
Central, No. 64—Henry Wilson, 1896.
Hillabee, No. 79—George W. Porter, Mar. 22, 1896; Daniel B. Brown, Sept. 3, 1896.
Myles J. Greene, No. 80—James M. McNamee, Jan. 1, 1896, aged 64; Julius C. Phillips, Nov. 11, 1895, aged 59; Martin W. Smith, May 17, 1896, aged 70.
Coosa, No. 86—Benjamin L. Stewart, Aug. 3, 1896, aged 36.
Gaston, No. 85—Walton F. Pond, April 11, 1896, aged 62; Lemuel J. Mooney, April 13, 1896; John G. M. Luther, 1896.
Columbus, No. 93—John B. Yelverton, Feb. 12, 1896, aged 60.
Mineral City, No. 101—Peter Zinzer, Oct. 29, 1895, aged 45; Conrad Theobald, Sept. 3, 1896, aged 30; Thomas H. Holt, Aug. 1, 1896.
Pratt City, No. 108—William C. Battle, May 9, 1896, aged 45.

IN MEMORIAM.

THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY

.....OF.....

M. . E. . AND REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON DAME, D. D.,
*Past Grand High Priest and Grand Chaplain of the Grand
Chapter of Virginia.*

Died December 24, 1895, aged 84 years.

M. . E. . ABNER T. LONGLEY,
*Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the
District of Columbia.*

Died February, 23, 1896.

R. . E. . LEWIS G. STEPHENS,
*Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the
District of Columbia.*

Died May 17, 1896.

M. . E. . MICHAEL NISBET,
Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

Died May 7, 1896.

R. . E. . FREDERICK KRAMER,
Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas.

Died September 8, 1896.

R. . E. . AND REV. THOMAS J. MELISH,
Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

Died November 11, 1896.

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that made returns.....	34
Chapters that paid dues.....	31
Chapters that were represented.....	27
Number of members present.....	71
Members reported at this Convocation.....	1008
Dues received at this Grand Convocation.....	\$711.25

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced.....	91
Presided.....	91
Received and Accepted.....	87
Exalted.....	84
Affiliated.....	11
Rejected.....	3
Dimitted.....	31
Died.....	26
Suspended for Unmasonic Conduct.....	1
Suspended for Non-payment of Dues.....	73
Re-instated.....	20

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

Chapters square on the books.....	33
Chapters Under Dispensation.....	
Chapters delinquent.....	6
Charters forfeited.....	2

Gordon, No. 73, and Bell Chapter, No. 83.

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

No.	NAME.	LOCATION.	COUNTY.	POST-OFFICE	HIGH PRIEST.	SECRETARY.	CONVOCAION.
4	Monroe	Perdue Hill	Monroe	Perdue Hill	John A. Savage	William J. McCants	Thurs on or bef f m.
5	Eunomia	Huntsville	Madison	Huntsville	Thomas J. Rowland	Amos L. Moody	Monday at 2d Sat.
10	Tuscumbia	Tuscumbia	Colbert	Tuscumbia	J. O. Bailey	Gatus R. Johnson	1st Tuesday.
12	Marion	Marion	Perry	Marion	Samuel J. Carpenter	James P. Barclay	2nd Friday.
19	Mount Moriah	Eutaw	Greene	Eutaw	Edward L. Merkel	Chas. J. Pearce	1st and 3d Monday.
21	Mobile	Mobile	Mobile	Mobile	Charles R. Westcott	Francis M. Purfoy	2nd Tuesday.
22	Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery	William J. Rhodes	George A. Joiner	2d Friday.
23	Talladega	Talladega	Talladega	Talladega	George A. Beauchamp	Henry C. Holleman	1st Thursday.
24	Eufaula	Eufaula	Barbour	Eufaula	Malcolm J. Gilchrist	William T. Simmons	3rd Tuesday.
25	Courtland	Courtland	Lawrence	Courtland	John B. Christian	Junie Harwood	1st Thursday.
26	Union	Uniontown	Perry	Uniontown	Edward S. Gatchell	Elbert S. Starr	4th Monday.
28	Sts. John	Selma	Dallas	Selma	Joseph A. Groves	Eugene M. Marshall	3rd Friday.
32	Fulton	Orrville	Dallas	Orrville	Wm E. Oakley, Sr.	Thomas F. Turley	4th Tuesday.
38	Decatur	Decatur	Morgan	Decatur	William A. George	Joseph P. Benson, Jr.	Fri on or bef f m.
40	Camden	Camden	Wilcox	Camden	Josiah Jernigan	Charles F. White	2nd and 4th Sat.
48	McKinley	McKinley	Marengo	McKinley	Andrew J. Shepherd	Thomas A. Shepherd	4th Saturday.
54	Tyrion	Troy	Pike	Troy	George W. Roberts	John B. Appleton	4th Friday.
56	Zerubbabel	Camp Hill	Tallapoosa	Camp Hill	B. S. Warren	T. F. Pitts	1st and 3rd Mon.
57	Collinsville	Collinsville	DeKalb	Collinsville	William F. Aldrich	Samuel S. Holbrook	1st Sat after f m.
63	Clayton	Clayton	Barbour	Clayton	William A. Arnold	Berry P. Garner	3rd Saturday.
64	Central	Aldrich	Shelby	Aldrich	William L. Johnson	George M. Gamble	Sat bef 3rd Sun.
71	Landmark	Ozark	Dale	Ozark	H. Clay Armstrong	Theodore D. Power	1st Tuesday.
79	Hillabee	Alex'der City	Tallapoosa	Alex'der City	John N. Gilmore	John C. Christ-topher	2nd Thursday.
80	Mytes J. Greene	Opelika	Lee	Opelika	Herman Herzberg	Benjamin F. Pope	1st Monday.
85	Gaston	DeSotoville	Choctaw	DeSotoville	Basil M. Hill	Edward M. McClendon	Sat bef 3rd Sun.
86	Coosa	Gadsden	Eto'wah	Gadsden	William J. Duke	George W. Arbery	2d and 4th Saturday.
88	Springville	Springville	St. Clair	Springville	James S. Edwards	John W. Draughton	3d Saturday.
92	Notasulga	Notasulga	Macon	Notasulga	George L. Smith	Joseph B. Bell	Tues af Mon preced fm
93	Columbus	Newton	Dale	Newton			
96	Daniel Pratt	Prattville	Autauga	Prattville			

99	Thos. M. Bragg	Luverne.....	Crenshaw	Luverne	Charles R. Bricken. ...	Thos. W. Coster.....	2nd and 4th Mon.
100	Rock Mills	Rock Mills.....	Randolph	Roanoke.....	Lewis Lazarus.....	Augustus J. Camp.....	2 d and 4th Thurs.
101	Mineral City	Birmingham..	Jefferson. ...	Birmingham	Anderson W. Duke,...	Alfred C Saxon.....	1st and 3 Saturday.
106	Graham	Graham	Randolph.....	Graham.....	William W. Haralson	William T. Fuller.....	2d Friday.
107	Fort Payne	Fort Payne.....	Dekalb	Fort Payne	Newton N. P. ilk.....	Pat Felton, Jr.....	1st and 3d Tuesday.
108	Pratt City	Pratt City	Jefferson...	Pratt City	Thomas B. Dison	Samuel Hartley.....	2d and 4th Monday.
109	Blount	Blount	Bibb.....	Blount			

MEMORANDA.

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

Arkansas.....	Newell M. Thornton	Abbeville.
Canada.....		
Connecticut.....	William G. Titcomb.....	Anniston.
District of Columbia.....		
Florida.....	Benjamin F. Pope.....	Gadsden.
Georgia.....	Edward F. King.....	Gainesville.
Illinois.....		
Indiana.....	John A. McKinnon.....	Selma.
Indian Territory.....	Josiah Jernigan.....	Troy.
Iowa.....	William Smaw.....	Eutaw.
Kansas.....	John G. Harris.....	Montgomery.
Kentucky.....	Edward S. Gatchell.....	Selma.
Louisiana.....	Palmer J. Pillans.....	Belknap.
Maine.....	William J. Rhodes.....	Talladega.
Maryland.....	William S. Foster.....	Mobile.
Massachusetts.....	George A. Joiner.....	Talladega.
Minnesota.....	John Snow.....	Tuscaloosa.
Mississippi.....	Joseph A. Groves.....	Orrville.
Missouri.....	Newton N. Polk.....	Birmingham.
Nebraska.....	John G. Smith.....	Birmingham.
New Jersey.....	John R. Barr.....	Eufaula.
New York.....	John W. Bush.....	Birmingham.
Nevada.....	Chas. R. Bricken.....	Luverne.
North Carolina.....	Wm. G. Cochrane.....	Tuscaloosa.
Nova Scotia.....		
North Dakota.....	Thos. T. Rowland.....	Tusculumbia.
Ohio.....	John G. Smith.....	Birmingham.
Oregon.....	Geo. A. Beauchamp.....	Eufaula.
Quebec.....	Henry H. Matthews.....	Montgomery.
Rhode Island.....	James T. Beck.....	Camden.
South Carolina.....	John M. Caldwell.....	Anniston.
South Dakota.....	Simon Klotz.....	Birmingham.
Texas.....	Geo. P. Harrison.....	Opelika.
Vermont.....	James E. Cobb.....	Tuskegee.
Virginia.....	Philip C. Candidus.....	Mobile.
Washington.....	Wm. C. Cleveland.....	Columbia.
Wisconsin.....	Lawrence H. Lee.....	Clayton.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALA-
BAMA NEAR OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS.

W. W. Garland.....	Morrilton.....	Arkansas.
Wm. B. McArthur.....	Ottawa.....	Canada.
Isaac Baker, Jr.....	Hartford.....	Connecticut.
Charles W. Hancock....	Washington.....	Dist. Columbia.
Geo. S. Hallmark.....	Warrington.....	Florida.
Wm. Abram Love.....	Atlanta.....	Georgia.
Philander W. Barclay..	Cairo.....	Illinois.
Nicholas R. Buckle....	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.
Louis I. Byrd.....	Muldrew.....	Indian Territory
Wm. Walbraham.....	Creosa.....	Iowa.
T. P. Rodgers.....	Topeka.....	Kansas.
William Ryan.....	Louisville....	Kentucky.
Wm. Robson.....	Robson's..	Louisiana.
James M. Nerons.....	Bucksport ..	Maine.
Gustav A. Eitel.....	Baltimore.....	Maryland.
Frederick G. Walbridge.	Boston ..	Massachusetts.
Wm. F. Dickinson.....	Redwood Falls.....	Minnesota.
Robt. L. Saunders.....	Jackson.....	Mississippi.
Thomas E. Garrett.....	St. Louis.....	Missouri.
John N. Westburg.....	Omaha.....	Nebraska.
Frederick G. Weise.....	Bordentown.....	New Jersey.
Thos. S. Kenan.....	Raleigh.....	North Carolina.
Alfred E. Johnston....	Carson City ..	Nevada.
Wm. H. Tapping.....	Grand Forks.....	North Dakota.
Daniel Small.....	Halifax.....	Nova Scotia.
William Sherer.....	Brooklyn, P. O. Box 2065.	New York.
C. C. Bates.....	Akron.....	Ohio.
Rocky R. Earhart.....	Portland.....	Oregon.
Edward J. James.....	Philadelphia.....	Pennsylvania.
Angus Grant.....	Montreal.....	Quebec.
John P. Sanborn.....	Newport.....	Rhode Island.
Augustine E. Smythe....	Charleston.....	South Carolina.
J. W. Orcutt.....	Chamberlain.....	South Dakota.
Wm. S. Matthews.....	Memphis.....	Tennessee.
W. L. Sortwill.....	Comanche.....	Texas.
Justin W. T. Washburn.	Montpelier.....	Vermont.
Alfred S. Lee.....	Richmond.....	Virginia.
Edward L. Ingram.....	Seattle.....	Washington.
Alexander M. Evans....	Midway.....	West Virginia.
Wm. G. Swain.....	Milwaukee.....	Wisconsin.

GRAND SECRETARIES AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

Alabama.....	H. Clay Armstrong.....	Montgomery.
Arizona.....	Geo. J. Roskrige.....	Tucson.
Arkansas.....	Jas. A. Henry.....	Little Rock.
California.....	Thos. H. Caswell.....	San Francisco.
Canada.....	Thos. Sargent.....	Toronto.
Colorado.....	Edward C. Parmelee.....	Denver.
Connecticut.....	Jas. McCormick.....	Hartford.
Delaware.....	Jas. H. Price.....	Wilmington.
District of Columbia.....	Arvine W. Johnston.....	Washington.
Florida.....	Wm. A. McLean.....	Jacksonville.
Georgia.....	A. M. Wolihin.....	Macon.
Illinois.....	Gill. W. Barnard.....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	Wm. H. Smythe.....	Indianapolis.
Indian Territory.....	Jos. S. Murrow.....	Atoka.
Iowa.....	Alf. Wingate.....	Des Moines.
Kansas.....	Jacob DeWitt.....	Salina.
Kentucky.....	Henry B. Grant.....	Louisville.
Louisiana.....	Richard Lambert.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	Stephen Berry.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	Geo. L. McCahan.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts.....	J. Albert Blake.....	Boston.
Michigan.....	J. S. Conover.....	Coldwater.
Minnesota.....	Thos. Montgomery.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. H. Power.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	Wm. H. Mayo.....	St. Louis.
Montana.....	Cornelius Hedges.....	Helena.
Nebraska.....	William R. Bowen.....	Omaha.
Nevada.....	Chauncey N. Noteware.....	Carson City.
New Brunswick.....	Wm. A. Ewing.....	St. John.
New Hampshire.....	Geo. P. Cleaves.....	Concord.
New Jersey.....	Geo. B. Edwards.....	Jersey City.
New South Wales.....	Alf. J. Burbidge.....	Sydney.
New York.....	Christopher G. Fox.....	Buffalo.
North Dakota.....	Frank J. Thompson.....	Fargo.
North Carolina.....	H. H. Munson.....	Wilmington.
Nova Scotia.....	Alexander Ross.....	Halifax.
Ohio.....	Chas. C. Keifer.....	Urbania.
Oregon.....	Jas. F. Robinson.....	Eugene.
Pennsylvania.....	Charles Cary.....	Philadelphia.

Quebec	Will H. Whyte, Box 1797.	Montreal.
Rhode Island.....	William R. Greene.....	Providence.
Scotland.	R. S. Brown.....	Edinburgh.
South Carolina.....	A. E. Fugle.....	Columbia.
South Dakota.....	Geo. A. Pettigrew.....	Flandreau.
Tennessee	W. A. Clendenning.....	Nashville.
Texas	Geo. Lopas, Jr.....	Houston.
Vermont	Warren G. Reynolds.....	Burlington.
Virginia.....	James B. Blanks.....	Petersburg.
Washington.....	Yancy C. Blalock	Walla Walla.
West Virginia.....	Odel S. Long.....	Charleston.
Wisconsin.....	John W. Laffin.....	Milwaukee.
Gen. Grand Chapter.	Christopher G. Fox.....	Buffalo, N. Y.

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