

1897
PROCEEDINGS
of the
GRAND
CHAPTER
of
Royal Arch Masons
of
ALABAMA



A.D. 1897 / A.I. 2427

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A.D.2017, A.L. 6017

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Royal Arch Chapter

OF

ALABAMA.

Seventy-First Annual Grand Convocation,

HELD IN THE

CITY OF MONTGOMERY,

BEGINNING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th, A. D. 1897.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1898.

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Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama

Seventy-First Annual Convocation

HELD AT

MONTGOMERY, DECEMBER 6th & 7th, 1897, A. I. 2427.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Alabama met in Annual Convocation at Masonic Temple, in Montgomery, December 6th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

PRESENT.

JOSIAH JERNIGAN	M. E. Grand H. Priest.
WILLIAM J. RHODES	M. E. Dep. Grand H. Priest.
EDWARD S. GATCHELL	R. E. Grand King.
WILLIAM W. SCREWS as	R. E. Grand Scribe.
WILLIAM H. DINGLEY	R. E. Grand Treasurer.
H. CLAY ARMSTRONG	R. E. Grand Secretary.
JAMES M. MASON as	R. E. Grand Chaplain.
CHARLES R. BRICKEN	R. E. Grand Capt. of Host.
GEORGE A. BEAUCHAMP	E. Grand P. Sojourner.
BASIL M. HILL	E. Grand R. A. Captain.
WILLIAM E. OAKLEY	E. Grand M. of 3rd Vail.
LEW LAZARUS	E. Grand M. of 2nd Vail.
THOMAS J. THOMASON	E. Grand M. of 1st Vail.
CHARLES A. ALLEN	E. Grand Sentinel.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	M.: E.: Grand H. Priest.
JAMES E. COBB.....	M.: E.: Grand H. Priest.
WILLIAM W. SCREWS.....	M.: E.: Grand H. Priest.
WILLIAM S. FOSTER.....	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.

Newell M. Thornton.....	Arkansas.
William Y. Titcomb.....	Connecticut.
Josiah Jernigan.....	Indian Territory
William Smaw.....	Iowa.
John G. Harris.....	Kansas.
Edward S. Gatchell.....	Kentucky.
Palmer J. Pillans.....	Louisiana.
William J. Rhodes.....	Maine.
William S. Foster.....	Maryland.
Newton N. Polk.....	Missouri.
Charles R. Bricken.....	Nevada.
William E. Oakley.....	Ohio.
George A. Beauchamp.....	Oregon.
Henry H. Matthews.....	Quebec.
James T. Beck.....	Rhode Island.
George P. Harrison.....	Texas.
James E. Cobb.....	Vermont.
Philip C. Candidus.....	Virginia.

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

No. 10	Tuscumbia.....	A. M. Moody*.....	H. P.
" 12	Marion.....	{ J. O. Bailey.....	H. P.
		{ F. H. Bates*.....	K.
" 19	Mt. Moriah.....	{ J. P. McQueen*.....	H. P.
		{ A. P. Smith*.....	K.
" 21	Mobile.....	William S. Foster*.....	H. P.

*Proxies.

" 22	Montgomery	Chas. R. Westcott	H. P.
		Robt. S. Teague	K.
		Warren D. Brown	S.
" 23	Talladega	William J. Rhodes	H. P.
		John R. Barrett	K.
" 24	Eufaula	George A. Beauchamp	H. P.
		Hiram H. Hawkins*	K.
" 25	Courtland	Reese B. Porter*	H. P.
		John B. Christian	H. P.
" 26	Union	Louis J. Adler	K.
		Thomas P. Whitby	H. P.
" 28	Sts. John	Edward S. Gatchell*	K.
		William E. Oakley	H. P.
" 38	Decatur	Sol D. Bloch*	H. P.
		Josiah Jernigan	H. P.
" 40	Camden	F. J. Cowart*	K.
		Elijah S. Whaley*	S.
" 54	Tyrian	J. M. Smith*	H. P.
		W. H. Robertson	H. P.
" 56	Zerubbabel	W. A. Stewart	K.
		T. F. Pitts*	S.
" 63	Clayton	Thos. J. Hoskings*	H. P.
		John N. Sansbury*	H. P.
" 64	Central	William A. Arnold*	K.
		J. F. Lewis*	S.
" 71	Landmark	John T. Adcock*	H. P.
		H. Clay Armstrong	H. P.
" 79	Hillabee	James M. Madison*	K.
		John N. Gilmore	S.
" 80	Myles J. Greene	Basil M. Hill	H. P.
		William T. Duke	H. P.
" 85	Gaston	Benj. H. May*	K.
		James S. Edwards	H. P.
" 88	Springville	George L. Smith	H. P.
		Joseph B. Bell*	K.
" 92	Notasulga	Charles R. Bricken	H. P.
		J. A. Walden*	H. P.
" 93	Columbus	C. E. Meglemry	H. P.
		Lew Lazarus*	K.
" 96	Daniel Pratt	T. J. Thomason	H. P.
		William T. Fuller*	H. P.
" 99	Thomas M. Bragg	N. N. Polk*	H. P.
		T. H. Moore*	K.
" 100	Rock Mills	Robert F. Lovelady	S.
		W. L. Clark*	H. P.
" 101	Mineral City	J. M. Ray, Jr.	K.
" 106	Graham		
" 107	Fort Payne		
" 108	Pratt City		
" 109	Blocton		

*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,

WILLIAM S. FOSTER,

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER:

Since we last assembled in Grand Convocation, another year, like a rolling billow upon the shoreless ocean of time, has vanished into the mists of the past. Its events have become matters of history; its acts are irrevocably fixed. They will confront us in the great hereafter, approving or condemning. If our lives have been conformed to the lofty teaching of Masonry, if they have been modeled after the virtues therein inculcated, we may confidently face our actions at any bar of judgment, temporal or eternal.

I greet you, Companions, with pleasure and gratitude—pleasure to renew the sweet associations of by-gone days, and grateful that, after a year of perils and disasters, so many of us are permitted to convene in our annual assemblage. It has indeed been a year of peril. War, plague and famine have prevailed in various parts of the world, and the nations have been sorely afflicted. In our own beloved land, that dread pestilence “which walketh in darkness and wasteth at noonday,” has left its pall of sorrow over many a home. Even this beautiful city, our Masonic as well as our civic capital, has not been spared. But a few days since its thoroughfares were deserted, a shadow of gloom and desolation hung over it, and the yellow ensign of terror and despair floated at many of its thresholds. But, thank

God, the pall has been lifted and the terror has passed. Paralyzed industry and commerce have been restored; smiles and cheery greetings have succeeded days of foreboding and sadness.

Out of this fearful ordeal has come a sweet and glorious consolation, for which we may all thank God and take courage. This consolation is drawn from the many noble examples of self-sacrifice and heroic devotion to duty, which the prevalence of the plague afforded us. Those grand men and women who elected to stay at the post of duty and face death that they might feed the starving poor, minister to the stricken and smooth the pillow of death, have earned the lasting gratitude of their fellows and demonstrated the God-like possibilities of human nature. No man can do a higher or nobler thing than they have done. Their conduct gives us a splendid illustration of the spirit and teachings of Masonry.

The year, notwithstanding the providential drawbacks, has been a fairly prosperous one for the Order. Judging from the numerous requests that have been made for authority to confer Degrees out of statutory time, I think the growth in membership will compare favorably with former years.

OUR FRATERNAL DEAD.

Since our last Convocation the Angel of Death has visited our Jurisdiction and taken from us some of our best-loved Companions, among whom are the following:

Companions John W. Menefee, of Fulton Chapter No. 32, died May 29, 1897.

LaFayette Henderson, of Mineral City Chapter No. 101, died April 28, 1897.

William F. Davis, died Dec. 21, 1896, aged 68; John H. Poole, died Jan. 27, 1897, aged 69, of Marion Chapter No. 12.

Duncan Dew, Jr., of Mt. Moriah Chapter No. 19, died Oct. 9, 1897, aged 66.

Richard R. Hunley, of Talladega Chapter No. 23, died June 14, 1897, aged 70.

Daniel B. Campbell, of Courtland Chapter No. 25, died Dec. 1, 1896, aged 62.

Theodore A. Hall, of Sts. John Chapter No. 28, died—

John R. McDowell, of Camden Chapter No. 40, died Feb. 7, 1897, aged 84.

P. M. Fancher, of Central Chapter No. 64, died June 16, 1897, aged 81.

George H. Thomas, of Landmark Chapter No. 71, died Feb. 1, 1897, aged 52.

In other Grand Jurisdictions the following illustrious and honored Companions have gone to their final repose since our last Convocation :

M. E. Companion John Sherman Castle, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut, died at Waterbury, Nov. 11, 1896, aged 63 years.

M. E. Companion Sylvester Lamson Stockbridge, of Maryland, Past Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, died Feb. 11, 1897, aged 55 years.

R. E. Companion Andrew Martin Wolihin, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, died Feb. 22, 1897.

M. E. Companion Harvey Vinal, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, died Feb. 17, 1897, aged 80 years.

R. E. Companion George S. Jones, Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Indiana, died Aug. 26, 1897, aged 56 years.

M. E. Companion Robert Ball, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, died March 23, 1897, aged 70 years.

M. E. Companion Herman Louis Emmons, Jr., Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, died April 9, 1897, aged 65 years.

M. E. Companion James Burnham Hovey, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, died April 25, 1897, aged 71 years.

M. E. Companion James M. Hutchinson, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, died Sept. 2, 1897, aged 56 years.

I would respectfully suggest that the Grand Chapter take such action with reference to the decease of our late Companions as may be due to their exalted positions in the Tabernacle.

SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.

On December 10, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Hillabee Chapter No. 79 to elect officers for the current Masonic year, the Chapter having, for good and sufficient reasons, failed to elect at the time prescribed by law.

On December 29, 1896, I granted a special Dispensation to Clayton Chapter No. 63 to receive and ballot on the petitions of three applicants for the degrees, and, if elected, to confer the degrees at once.

On April 1, 1897, I granted a special Dispensation to Mineral City Chapter No. 101 to ballot upon the petitions of, and if elected to confer the degrees on, six candidates out of statutory time.

On May 8, 1897, I granted a special Dispensation to Montgomery Chapter No. 22 to receive and ballot upon the petition of one candidate at the same Convocation.

On July 16, 1897, I granted a special Dispensation to Myles J. Greene Chapter No. 80 to elect officers, the said Chapter, for good cause shown, having failed to elect officers at the time prescribed by law.

On August 9, 1897, I granted a special Dispensation to Thomas M. Bragg Chapter No. 99 to receive and ballot upon the petitions of, and if elected, confer the degrees on, five applicants at the same Convocation.

On October 27, 1897, I granted a special Dispensation to Central Chapter No. 64 to elect officers, the said Chapter, for good cause shown, having failed to elect officers at the time prescribed by law.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS.

On February 1, 1897, I issued a Commission appointing E. Companion Charles P. O'Connor as our Representative near the Grand Chapter of Quebec, vice Angus Grant, our former Representative, deceased.

On February 13, 1897, I issued a Commission appointing E. Companion David Small, of Charlottetown, our Representative near the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.

On October 13, 1897, I issued a Commission appointing E. Companion William McMillan, of Virginia City, our Representative near the Grand Chapter of Nevada.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ALABAMA.

I have recommended the following Companions as Representatives of other Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter:

Canada—E.: Companion William E. Oakley, Decatur.
District of Columbia—E.: Companion Oscar J. Cohen, Mobile.
Illinois—R.: E.: Companion George F. Moore, Montgomery.
Nova Scotia—E.: Companion Louis J. Adler, Uniontown.
Iowa—E.: Companion William Smaw, Greensboro.
Vermont—M.: E.: Companion James E. Cobb, Tuskegee.

DECISIONS.

There has been but one question of Masonic law submitted to me during the year.

Held: That a candidate for the Chapter degrees, whose leg has been amputated between the knee and ankle joints, who uses a cork leg and can conform to all the requirements of the degrees, can be legally made a Royal Arch Mason.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

I regret to say that it has not been possible for me to make any official visits to the Chapters of our Jurisdiction during the year on account of pressing business engagements. However, by special invitation, in company with our R.: E.: Grand Secretary, I visited Thomas M. Bragg Chapter No. 99, situated at Luverne, Ala., and assisted in conferring the Chapter degrees on thirteen candidates, all good material. This Chapter we found in a live, working condition, and it bids fair to become one of the best Chapters in the State.

And now, Companions, with renewed expressions of pleasure in again meeting you, and with the hope that we may have a pleasant and profitable session, I declare the Grand Chapter ready to proceed to the consideration of whatever business may come regularly before it.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSIAH JERNIGAN,
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 the Grand Chapter, R. A. Masons.

1896. DR.

Dec. 1. To Balance.....\$272 16

1897.

Aug. 31. Received from Grand Secretary... 467 40

Nov. 17. " " " " --- 24 75—\$764 31

1896. CR.

Dec. 1. By Committee on Correspondence...\$ 75 00

" " Work..... 10 00

4. Grand Sentinel..... 20 70

22. Grand Treasurer..... 50 00

1897.

Jan. 10. Contingent Fund..... 150 00

Nov. 16. Grand Secretary for 1897..... 400 00

June 3. Dues to Gen'l Grand Chapter... 30 59—\$736 29

* Balance..... 28 02

\$764 31

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:

EXHIBIT "B."

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG, GRAND SECRETARY,

In account with Grand Chapter of Alabama:

1897. DR.

Aug. 31. To Dues collected since last report, -\$ 467 40

Nov. 15. To Dues collected to date..... 24 75—\$492 15

1897. CR.

Aug. 31. By Amount Paid Grand Treasurer...\$ 467 40

Nov. 15. By Amount Paid Grand Treasurer... 24 75—\$492 15

On motion of Companion Chas. R. Westcott, the further Report of the Committee on Work was temporarily dispensed with, and made the Special Order for 8:30 o'clock this evening.

COMMITTEES.

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

On Chartered Chapters No. 1—William E. Oakley, W. A. Smart, J. O. Bailey, J. N. Gilmore and J. A. Walden.

On Chartered Chapters No. 2—B. M. Hill, W. T. Fuller, W. H. Robertson, Thos. J. Hoskings, C. E. Meglemry.

On Dispensations—Sol. D. Bloch, T. J. Thomason, Jno. R. Barrett.

On By-Laws, Suspensions, Expulsions, and Appeals—Chas. R. Westcott, F. H. Bates, T. F. Pitts.

On Masonic Jurisprudence—T. J. Cowart, Lew Lazarus, J. M. Mason.

On Finance—L. J. Adler, Geo. A. Beauchamp, Robert S. Teague.

On motion of Companion Westcott, the Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment until 7:30 o'clock p. m.

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

MONDAY EVENING, December 6, 1897.

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.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS.

M. . E. . Companion W. W. Screws, 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 has read with great interest the Annual Address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. We feel sure that the Grand Chapter fully endorses the feeling remarks in reference to those places in the State recently afflicted with a disease most insidious in its approach and often fearfully fatal in its ravages. That he should have paused in the course of his work to dwell upon the subject, demonstrates his devotion to the spirit of benevolence and brotherly kindness, which are such marked characteristics of true Masonry.

It is gratifying to learn from the Address that, in spite of what may be justly called a year of perils and disasters, the progress of Capitular Masonry has not been checked, but rather advanced in membership and better feeling.

It is noted with great satisfaction that such good order and fraternal feeling exists in this Jurisdiction. This is emphasized by the fact that the Grand High Priest was not called on during the past year to render an opinion on any matter of con-

flict. We recommend that so much of the Address as relates to Masonic Law be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

W. W. SCREWS,
W. S. FOSTER,
H. C. ARMSTRONG,
Committee.

BY-LAWS, SUSPENSIONS, EXPULSIONS AND APPEALS.

Companion Chas. R. Westcott, from the Committee on By-Laws, Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals, made the following Report, and it was adopted:

TO THE M. E. GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF ALABAMA:

Your Committee on By-Laws, Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals beg leave to report that nothing has been presented for our consideration.

We are pleased to note that this is substantial evidence that peace and harmony prevails among the Royal Arch Chapters throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.

Fraternally submitted,
C. R. WESTCOTT,
F. H. BATES,
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 M. E. GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF ALABAMA:

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

CORRECT.

Decatur.....	No. 38	Columbus.....	No. 93
Land Mark.....	No. 71	Graham.....	No. 106
Hillabee.....	No. 79	Pratt City.....	No. 108
Myles J. Greene.....	No. 80		

INCORRECT.

Clayton No. 63, numbers not in alphabetical order.

Gaston No. 85, written in pencil.

Notasulga No. 92, no seal.

Daniel Pratt No. 96, no date given of installation of officers.

Thomas M. Bragg No. 99, report last Convocation 19, when it should have been 21, hence is due the Grand Chapter \$1.50, otherwise correct.

Rock Mills No. 100, no recapitulation; fee for degrees left blank; no seal, and not signed by Secretary.

Blocton No. 109, no seal. Seal broke.

Fraternally submitted,

B. M. HILL,
Chairman.

ON DISPENSATIONS.

Companion Jno. R. Barrett, from the Committee on Dispensations, made the following Report, which was adopted:

TO THE M. E. GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF ALABAMA:

Your Committee on Dispensations beg leave to report that no Chapters having worked under Dispensation during the past year, nothing has been submitted for our consideration.

Fraternally submitted,

SOL. D. BLOCH,
JNO. R. BARRETT,
T. J. THOMASON,
Committee.

REPORT ON WORK.

The hour having arrived for the further Report of the Committee on Work, under Special Order, Companion H. Clay Armstrong, Chairman of the Committee, made Report on Royal Arch Degree, and the Report was adopted.

CENTENNIAL MEDALS.

Grand Secretary Armstrong presented and read the following Communication from P.: G.: H.: P.: Jno. M. Carter, Chairman of the Committee of the Grand Chapter R.: A.: Masons of Maryland on Entertainment of the General Grand Chapter of the United States at its Thirtieth Triennial, held at Baltimore, October 12, 1897:

John M. Carter, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 William H. Shyrook, G.: H.: P.:
 Thomas J. Shyrook, Grand Master.
 Henry C. Larrabee, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 C. C. Isaacs, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 William H. Clark, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 Wm. Nash Young, P.: G.: H.: P.:
 Wm. E. Arnold, P.: G.: H.: P.:

George Cook, D.: G.: H.: P.:
 Ed. T. Schultz, P.: D.: G.: H.: P.:
 David C. Avery, G.: Treas.
 William H. Martin, G.: King.
 William T. Price, G.: Scribe.
 Peter E. Tome, P.: H.: P.:
 Chas. McDonald, Jr., P.: H.: P.:

OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE

GRAND CHAPTER R.: A.: MASONS OF MARYLAND

ON ENTERTAINMENT OF THE

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED
STATES,

AT ITS 30TH TRIENNIAL, OCTOBER 12TH, 1897,

MASONIC TEMPLE,

BALTIMORE, November 8, 1897.

H. CLAY ARMSTRONG, Esq.,

GRAND SEC'Y R.: A.: MASONS, ALABAMA:

Dear Sir and Companion:

I have shipped you by express seven Centennial Medals of the General Grand Chapter, U. S. A., for distribution under its Resolution, among the P.: G.: H.: P.:s. of your State— one for yourself. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Fraternally yours,

JNO. M. CARTER.

In accordance with the above instructions, the Medals were distributed as follows.

H. Clay Armstrong		Past Grand High Priest.				
James E. Cobb		"	"	"	"	"
William S. Foster		"	"	"	"	"
William W. Screws		"	"	"	"	"
John G. Harris		"	"	"	"	"
John A. McKinnon		"	"	"	"	"
John G. Smith		"	"	"	"	"

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The M.·. E.·. Grand High Priest received and enrolled as Grand Representatives near the Grand Chapter of Alabama:

- M.·. E.·. Companion James E. Cobb, for Vermont.
- E.·. Companion Newton N. Polk, for Missouri.
- E.·. Companion Wm. Smaw, for Iowa.

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

IN GRAND CHAPTER.

TUESDAY MORNING, December 7, 1897.

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.

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 M. E. 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.

Marion.....	No. 12	Sts. John.....	No. 28
Mount Moriah.....	No. 19	Fulton.....	No. 32
Eufaula.....	No. 24	Camden.....	No. 40
Union.....	No. 26	Fort Payne.....	No. 107

INCORRECT.

Springville, No. 88, no date shown when officers were installed.

Fraternally submitted,

W. E. OAKLEY,

J. O. BAILEY,

J. N. GILMORE,

W. A. SMART,

. Committee

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

Companion F. J. Cowart, 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, to whom was referred that portion of the M.: E.: Grand High Priest's Address which relates to Rulings and Decisions made by him during the year, beg leave to report that they have carefully considered the same, and fully concur in the Decision rendered.

Fraternally submitted,

F. J. COWART,
LEW LAZARUS,
J. M. MASON,
Committee.

Companion Sol. D. Bloch called up, and the Grand Chapter proceeded to consider, his Proposition—

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

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.

The Grand Chapter refused to adopt the Amendment.

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

Companion Chas. R. Eriksen offered the following Resolution to amend Article IV., of Section 5, of the Constitution, which was, on motion, laid over until the next Grand Annual 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 thirty dollars for the Chapter Degrees, which fees shall, 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; Provided, That all regularly ordained Ministers of the Gospel who are actively engaged in the exercise of their ministerial functions and in good standing in their respective Lodges, shall be entered, upon application and election thereto, to receive said Degrees gratuitously.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

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

TO THE M. E. GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF ALABAMA:

Your Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the books, accounts and vouchers of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, have carefully examined the same and find them correct.

We find that the Grand Treasurer has on hand a balance of

Received from Grand Secretary	\$272 16
Received from Grand Secretary	492 25
Total	\$764 41

He has vouchers for the following expenditures:

Foreign Correspondence	\$ 75 00
Committee on Work	10 00
Grand Sentinel	20 70
Grand Treasurer	50 00
Grand Secretary	400 00
Contingent Fund	150 00
Dues to General Grand Chapter	30 50
Balance on hand	28 21
Total	\$764 41

We find that the Grand Secretary has expended the following amounts from the Contingent Fund :

To am't due Grand Secretary from last year.....	\$ 80
Printing	109 60
Postage.....	23 50
Miscellaneous.....	1 60
Balance on hand.....	14 50
Total.....	\$150 00

We recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing Masonic year :

For Grand Treasurer	\$ 50 00
Foreign Correspondence.....	75 00
Committee on Work.....	10 00
Grand Sentinel	20 70
Contingent Fund	150 00
Grand Secretary	400 00
Total.....	\$705 70

Upon a thorough and careful investigation of the finances of this Grand Body, we cannot refrain from stating that the financial condition is such as to render the appointment of a Finance Committee unnecessary.

Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction does not seem to prosper, viewed from a financial standpoint, inasmuch as fully twenty per cent. of the Chapters have failed to make returns and pay dues. This seems indeed a deplorable condition; and, while it is very probable that this state of affairs has prevailed for some time, it is nevertheless our duty to give this matter the consideration that the importance of the subject demands.

Your Committee deems it both important and necessary to give the names of the delinquents, as follows:

- Monroe No. 4.
- Eunomia No. 5.
- Collinsville No. 57.
- Elyton No. 76.
- Coosa No. 86.

If these Chapters had performed their duties, as their officers have obligated themselves to do, the amounts due from them

would have materially strengthened the financial condition of this Grand Chapter. Such a state of negligence, on the part of the Subordinate Chapters and their officers, is, to say the least, very culpable. We hope that this Grand Body will so legislate as to make the delinquents more careful, more accurate, and, above all, more prompt.

Fraternally submitted,

L. J. ADLER,
G. A. BEAUCHAMP,
R. S. TEAGUE,
Committee.

JEFFERSON COUNTY MASONIC HOME.

Companion Meglemry offered the following Resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, The Masonic Bodies of Jefferson county have taken in hand the establishment of the Jefferson Masonic Home, and have already secured cash subscriptions to the amount of \$2,000, and have adopted plans for the endowment of the Home by levying a yearly tax of ten per centum of their gross receipts, which amounts to about \$800 per annum; and

Whereas, The practice of charity is one of the chief Masonic virtues and incumbent upon every true Mason,

Be it resolved by this Grand Body, That the objects of this movement are heartily endorsed, and that the Masons of Jefferson county are commended for their liberality and forethought.

COOSA CHAPTER NO. 86.

The Grand Secretary offered the following Resolution as to Coosa Chapter No. 86, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Coosa Chapter No. 86 be allowed ninety days in which to make Returns and pay dues to this Grand Chapter.

ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

On motion of M. E. Companion William S. Foster, 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.: Dep. 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. of 3rd Vail.
LEW LAZARUS	E.: Grand M. of 2nd Vail.
THOMAS J. THOMASON	E.: Grand M. of 1st Vail.
CHARLES A. ALLEN	E.: Grand Sentinel.

The Grand Officers were duly installed by P.: G.: H.: P.: William S. Foster, M.: E.: Companion W. W. Screws acting as Grand Marshal.

The Grand High Priest announced the following—

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Palmer J. Pillans	Belknap.
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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.
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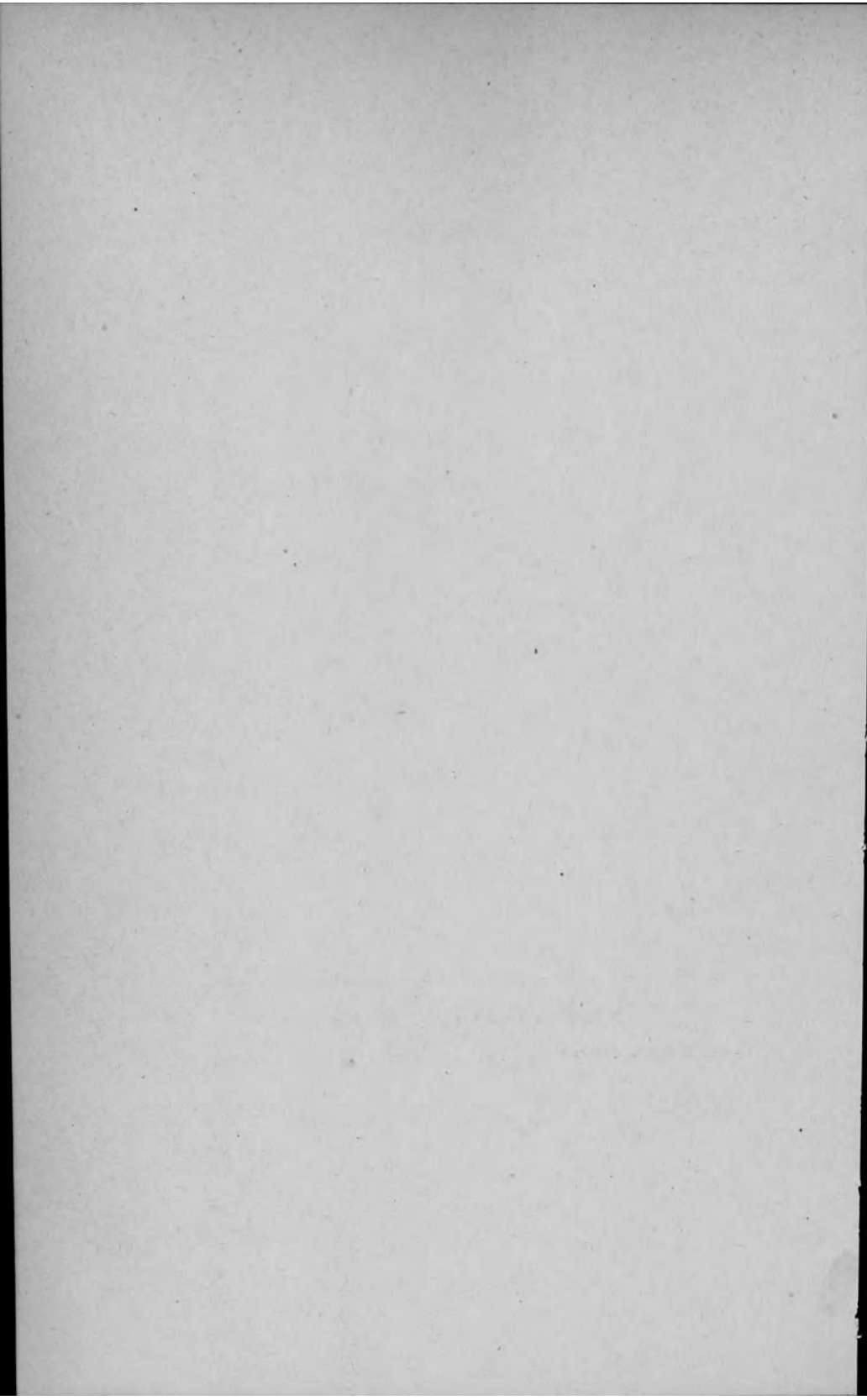
ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

Fletcher J. Cowart	Troy.
Oscar J. Cohen	Mobile.
John B. Christian	Uniontown.

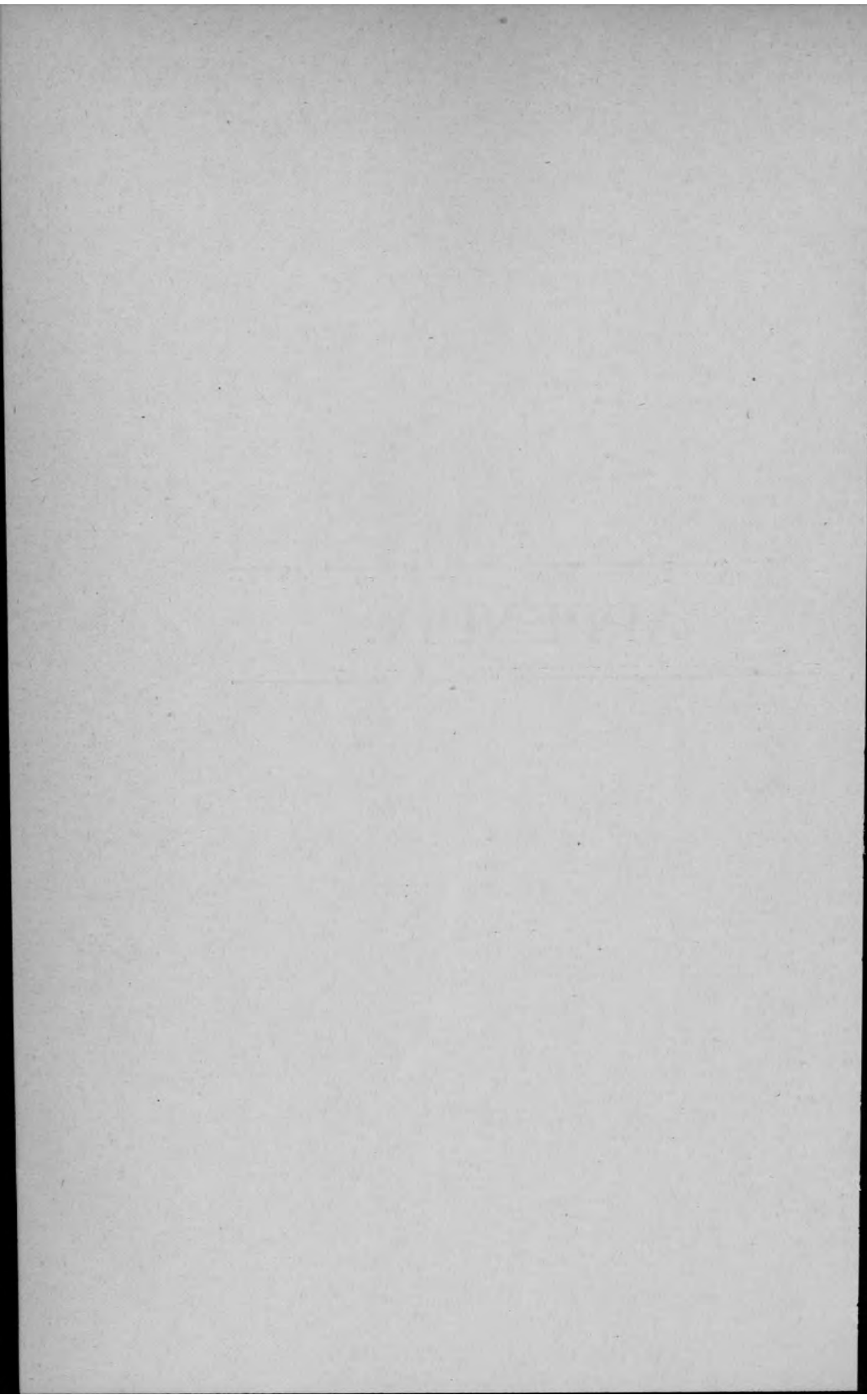
CLOSED.

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.



APPENDIX.

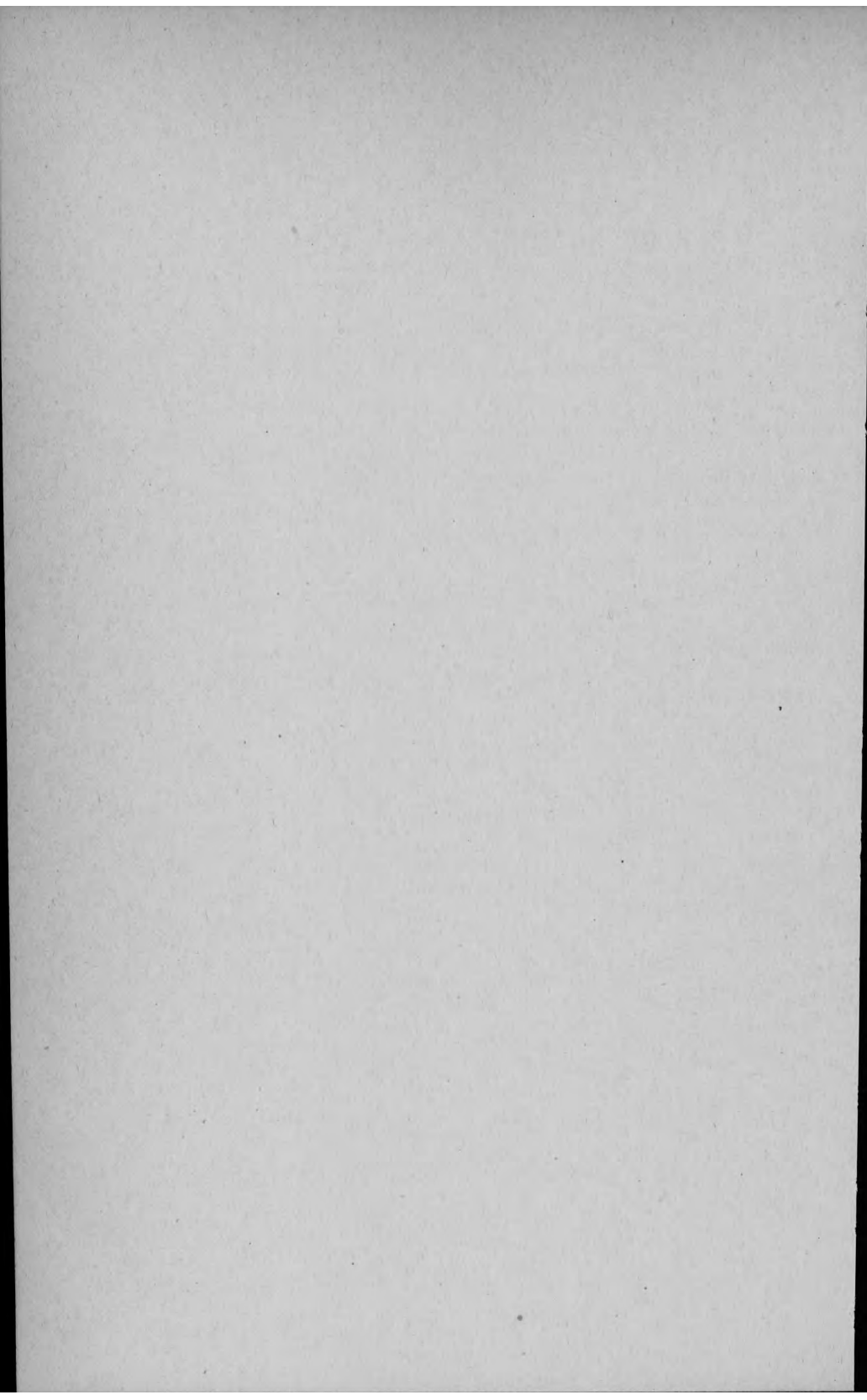


REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST, OFFICERS
AND MEMBERS OF THE M. E. GRAND CHAPTER OF
THE STATE OF ALABAMA:

Your Committee on Correspondence desires to state that it has reviewed the Proceedings of the following Grand Chapters, being all that have reached it, 45 in number, and that it hopes that its labor will prove both pleasant and profitable to the Companions:

Arizona	1896	Nebraska	1896
Arkansas	1896	Nevada	1897
California	1897	New Brunswick	1896
Canada	1897	New Hampshire	1897
Colorado	1896	New Jersey	1897
Connecticut	1897	New York	1897
Delaware	1897	North Carolina	1897
District of Columbia	1896	North Dakota	1897
England	1897	Nova Scotia	1897
Georgia	1897	New South Wales	1897
Illinois	1896	Ohio	1896
Indiana	1896	Oregon	1897
Iowa	1897	Pennsylvania	1896
Ireland	1897	Quebec	1897
Kansas	1897	South Dakota	1897
Kentucky	1896	Tennessee	1897
Louisiana	1897	Texas	1896
Maine	1896	Vermont	1897
Maryland	1896	Virginia	1896
Massachusetts	1896	West Virginia	1896
Mississippi	1897	Washington	1897-1896
Missouri	1896-97	Wisconsin	1897
Montana	1896		



REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

P. J. PILLANS, CHAIRMAN.

ARIZONA—7TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1896.

M. E. R. Nickel Fredericks, Grand High Priest, opened this Convocation of the Grand Chapter in Ample Form, the Representatives of four Chartered Chapters being present, or all Chapters represented. The statistics give Chapters, 4; members, 194; gain, 15.

The Grand High Priest argues well for the future of the Grand Chapter, as there are indications of increased interest in these beautiful and impressive Degrees.

No decisions on Masonic law were asked for and no grievances reported.

Morris Goldwater, Prescott, G. H. P.

George J. Roskrige, Tucson, G. Sec'y.

The Treasurer's balance shows \$310.25, as against \$171.25 last year.

There is no review of the Proceedings of sister Grand Chapters.

ARKANSAS—47TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1896.

This fifty-seventh Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter was opened by M. E. Grand High Priest James H. Roten, and of the Craft he says "he had visited a great many Chapters in the rural districts and found them in a healthy and growing condition."

He reported granting a few Dispensations, paid a loving tribute to the memory of the dead, ordered the Charter of a delinquent Chapter surrendered, and invoked the blessing of the Great Jehovah on his Grand Chapter.

We note that the Grand Secretary announces that Grand Chapter was then called to refreshments [in the plural], implying that something substantial awaited the members. We hope they were not disappointed.

Treasurer's balance, \$1,370.00.

The dues of a Chapter were remitted and a new Charter granted.

George P. Taylor, Forest City, G. H. P.

James A. Henry, Little Rock, G. Sec'y.

The Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, Companion R. J. Laughlin, presented the Report on Correspondence, reviewing Alabama for 1895 within it.

Noting the recommendation of Grand High Priest Smith as to the necessity of the printed General Grand Chapter Ritual, he aptly says:

"But the Committee did not agree with him. Now, we venture the prediction that every High Priest who attempts to confer the Degrees in that Jurisdiction so as to give the candidate an intelligent understanding of the legend and lessons, will use some kind of a Ritual—such as he can procure—probably several kinds in the different sections of the State—and—well, you can guess the result."

CALIFORNIA—43RD ANNUAL, APRIL, 1897.

Chapters, 67; members, 5,313; increase, 161.

When the M. E. Grand High Priest, Thomas Flint, Sr., opened this Convocation, there were present Representatives from 63 Chapters, besides the officers of Grand Chapter.

The M. E. Grand High Priest, Thomas Flint, Sr., then delivered his Address. In it he stated that by timely visitation he had been enabled to compromise and settle differences among the Companions of a Chapter, and that the prospect now was that this Chapter would be able to revive and perform its duties as heretofore.

He also stated that Cerneauism, though scotched, had not been killed, as appeared in another Chapter, but the timely interposition of good officers, and a prompt and firm determination to enforce the laws of the Grand Chapter, had prevented further trouble, and that the prospect for harmony and a con-

tinuance of usefulness of that Chapter were clearly in sight. One member of a Chapter and a High Priest was brought to trial and expelled for meddling with the unclean thing.

The Grand Chapter attended the Grand Lodge, by invitation, when laying the corner stone of the Masonic Home.

He granted a Dispensation for a new Chapter, and the same was awarded a Charter at this Convocation.

The resumption of former relations by the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island with the General Grand Chapter was mentioned.

He made several visitations, and in reference to those not visited made this recommendation—a very happy one:

“If any Chapter feels aggrieved that I have not paid it an official visit, I recommend that the cost of the traditional banquet be paid into the treasury of the Widows and Orphans’ Home.”

The Grand Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,845.00, and invested funds amounting to \$34,000.00, making in all \$36,845.00.

The Committee on Grievances, to which was referred a complaint that a Chapter had used its funds “for entertaining its members and their families,” contrary to an express prohibition as per its By-Laws, reported as below:

“Your Committee is of the opinion that, so far as the law of this Grand Chapter is concerned, it is no breach thereof to expend a proper amount of the funds of a Chapter for the purpose of entertaining its members; but in this particular case it is not necessary to decide the question, for the reason that this Chapter, as we are informed by the complaint, has a By-Law prohibiting such an expenditure of its funds. Now, as your Committee is advised, it has nothing whatever to do with a violation of the By-Laws of a Chapter by its officers or members until after there shall have been proper proceedings taken in the Chapter itself to dispose of the offense, and an appeal taken to the Grand Chapter from the action of the Subordinate Chapter. We do not deem it wise for the Grand Chapter to assume original jurisdiction in this case, and we therefore recommend that the Grand Chapter take no action in the matter.”

Which meets our decided approval.

Grand Chapter adopted the following:

"Resolved, That the Committee on Jurisprudence be instructed to formulate some plan whereby the Secretaries of the Subordinate Chapters may have knowledge of the standing of their respective Chapters in the Blue Lodge, and report such plan at the next meeting of the Grand Chapter."

OFFICERS ELECTED:

William Frank Pierce, Oakland, G. H. P.

Thomas Hubbard Caswell, San Francisco, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is again from that vigorous and lucid writer, Companion William A. Davies, who congratulates "the Companions of the Royal Craft" "on the harmony, peace and good will pervading Capitular Masonry." He states in the list reviewed Alabama for 1896, which we did not find, but upon reaching his conclusion we find the Proceedings had not been received. His Report is largely occupied with details of the Order of High Priesthood.

Under Arkansas he copies what Companion Laughlin says in answer to the effort to eliminate the Past Master's Degree. We overlooked it, but give it here, for it is too good to be lost. It is spicy, but true as to all Masonic Degrees:

"We rather like the Degrees, when intelligently conferred. Any other Degree is as senseless as Past Master's is, conferred by officers without sense. It is not the fault of the Degree."

CANADA—39TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1897.

Ninety-three Chapters on roll; 70 represented; members, 5,142; increase, 362.

The Grand Z. C., J. Ross Robinson, presided and delivered a very excellent but very scathing lecture to his Companions, on the inattention to their duties, as he observed in his visitations to almost all of the Chapters. Much of it is doubtless very true, and applicable to Companions in other Jurisdictions beside that of Canada. In some instances he says, "The work might have been better. It would not have been as good but for the assistance of a Past Principal."

He accounts in part for the immense number of non-affiliates that "the Craft door has not been watched with care." He

thinks that Chapters are being multiplied too much, for "a Chapter cannot thrive on the support of even one or two Lodges."

He had received the question from several points as to suspension in the Lodges affecting membership in Chapters:

"It seems to me that there cannot be two opinions on this subject. The Craft Degrees are the foundation of the structure. We, as Royal Arch Masons, are occupants of that structure. We obtained entrance into the Capitular apartments by reason of our connection with the Craft. Without that connection our claims would not have been valid. In my opinion, good standing in the Blue is essential to life in the Chapter. It is a trivial question to raise, and one can hardly understand a Companion so narrow-minded as to be willing to resign his connection with that branch of the Craft to which he owes his Masonic birth."

The Report of the Committee on the condition of Capitular Masonry, always of deep interest, betokens that the Reports of the Grand Superintendents are by no means as satisfactory as desired; that many of them, like the High Priests of some of the Chapters visited, were indifferent as to how the duty was performed. Yet much information is obtained, and, although these Superintendents have annually received their scoldings, yet they still continue as before. We have in years gone by admired the faithfulness of this Committee, but we find but little good results from their Reports.

Treasurer reported balance of \$2,325.00, and an invested fund of \$22,325.00.

Warrants were granted for three new Chapters.

It was determined to celebrate the Centennial of R.: A.: Masonry in Canada, which took place in June, 1897.

M. Walch, Ingerson, G. Z.

Thomas Sargant, Toronto, G. Sec'y.

Companion George J. Bennett, the worthy successor of Companion Robertson, as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, again presented a sprightly and sound review of the Proceedings of sixty-three Grand Chapters, in a style captivating and attractive, and with comments full of Masonic lore and entirely in accord with established Masonic usages. He had Alabama for 1895 under review.

This Grand Chapter eliminated the Past Master's Degree and widely spread over their Report all his defenses for this action. The utter uselessness of this Degree and our opinion of it have long since been expressed by us, but so long as the Grand Chapter retains it, we bow to the claim. That it teaches valuable lessons, none will deny who have taken it and been called upon in fact to preside over a Lodge will deny, or that it has rested as a restraining influence in his breast. But why connect it with Degrees having other and far more fervid teachings?

Of the fact that our Grand Chapter refused to coincide with Grand High Priest Smith in his recommendation of the use of a printed Ritual, and our statement that, in early days, by tradition, was the work transmitted, he infers:

"Which leads to the suspicion that the Grand High Priest was not in a minority of one. We note, however, that Companion Pillans takes frequent opportunity of echoing the anti-cipher sentiment."

But his inference is erroneous, for we are unalterably opposed to this method of producing "uniformity of work," even though "uniformity of work" be attainable in this way. We are satisfied that from it confusion and dismay will come upon the Craft.

We are tempted, Companions, to let you see what he says of the Past Master's Degree under Colorado:

"Why should the creation of a modern Ritual make debar a Royal Arch Mason from a Royal Arch Chapter? The reply will probably be, that the obligation was refashioned to accommodate the innovation. This, then, is a case in which injury is added to insult. It is difficult to believe that any enlightened Royal Arch Mason, knowing the origin of, and history of, the Past Master's Degree, would for a moment justify it as a legitimate pre-requisite to a Degree that existed ages before the busy brain of an ingenious Bostonian conceived it. If our good Companion, realizing as he must, the true aspect of the situation, can close the portals of his Chapter against a regularly exalted Canadian Royal Arch Mason who does not happen to have ever been 'seated in the Oriental chair,' then all we have to say is, that in this respect we also must entertain an opinion,

which, for obvious reasons, however, we will fight shy of expressing until we hear more of the possible 'obstacle.' "

This Report has indeed beguiled us into reading it entire, but our limits are already passed and we must stop.

COLORADO—22ND ANNUAL, SEPTEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 33; members, 2,490; increase, 34.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by M. E. Grand High Priest George T. Cooper, with Representatives present from all but two Chapters.

The Grand High Priest issued a Dispensation for a new Chapter, and to this a Charter was granted.

His decisions were but three, viz: A High Priest elected to succeed himself must be installed; dismissal from the Lodge does not affect the status of the Royal Arch Mason; and a Chapter U. D. has the same territorial limits as if Chartered;—all of which were approved.

The Treasurer's balance shows \$2,530.00.

There was no work for the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

James H. Peabody, Carson City, G. H. P.

Thomas Lenton, Denver, G. Sec'y.

Past Grand High Priest Companion E. LeNeve Foster made the Report on Correspondence, it being his ninth, reviewing in it Alabama for 1895. He says the Address of Grand High Priest Smith "is full of good advice, fine moral instruction and admonition, worthy of adoption in any Jurisdiction," and quotes from it.

We infer from the following which we copy that he coincides with us as to the necessity of the presence of the Charter. Alluding to our Report, he says:

"He belongs to the list of conservatives that believe in the actual presence of the Charter being necessary. It is such conservatism that has been the bulwark of Masonry, and prevented the numerous innovations which are being constantly attempted."

We entirely coincide with him in the following. The decision was made in Kansas:

"He made one decision, which was approved by the Jurisprudence Committee, that a Chapter rejecting material cannot waive jurisdiction in favor of some other Chapter, so long as the rejected material resides in the jurisdiction where rejected.

"To our mind, the object of this decision is not clear, and we can see no good reason for it. If the Chapter can accept that which it once rejected, and we never heard of any law which prevents such being done, why should it not also have the right to waive its jurisdiction and let some other Chapter take the material? In our opinion, a waiver ought never to be given except by a unanimous ballot, and after investigation, as with a petition for the Degrees; and, with such precaution, there could be no danger in granting a waiver."

He sees no necessity for a Capitular funeral service, but that the Lodge service is amply sufficient. This we expressed a little time since.

The whole Report, by its easy flowing style and its purity of diction, leaves one dwelling with it, while the views expressed are so sound that one sees but little to object to or to controvert. Our space is limited, so adieu, Companion.

CONNECTICUT—99TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1897.

Chapters, 38; members, 5,521; increase, 88.

With Representatives from 37 of the 38 Chapters present, M. E. Grand High Priest Samuel S. Lamb proceeded to open the Grand Chapter in Ample Form. In his Address he congratulates Grand Chapter "on the success and prosperity that has attended the labors of the Royal Craft during the year."

He deplors the fact that it has grown into a custom with the Grand Officers to visit only such Chapters as may extend to them invitations to do so, and recommends that they be required themselves to make the appointments. This view seems also to have been entertained by the Grand Scribe, who, in his Report, makes a similar suggestion, and says, "It is only in this way that the Grand Chapter can know the exact condition of things in Chapters under its jurisdiction."

The Committee on Charters recommended the formation of a new Chapter.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$2,023.11.

The following was adopted:

"Resolved, That no Royal Arch Mason in this Jurisdiction of thirty years' good and regular standing, shall be subject to discipline for non-payment of dues; and no Chapter in this Jurisdiction shall be required to pay a per capita tax to the Grand Chapter upon any of its members who have been thirty years in good and regular standing, or who have left the Jurisdiction and not been heard from for five preceding years.

"All Resolutions inconsistent with the above are repealed."

I. F. Stidham, New Britain, G. H. P.

James McCormick, Hartford, Ct. Sec'y.

Companion James H. Barlow once more brought forward the Report on Correspondence, as he now has for a period of twenty years, and, like its predecessors, ranks him among the very first of the Guild. In our memory of the long ago he and Drummond, of Maine, both arise with the brilliant and lamented Carson, of New Jersey, and Greeley, of Missouri. May their memory be ever green as now.

Alabama for 1896 is in the ring, and receives proper attention.

We are much gratified at his agreement with us, that at least so far as Capitular Masonry is concerned, the actual presence of the Charter is necessary to make a Lodge legal, and we can't see how any Royal Arch Mason can think otherwise, unless he is of the Latter-Day Saints who progressed by new methods.

To show our Companions the labor involved in preparing one of these Reports, we clip from his conclusion:

"We have once more finished the work assigned us by our Grand Chapter, and present the result of our labors. There comes to us a sense of relief as we write the welcome heading, 'Conclusion,' notwithstanding its many compensating pleasures, especially to those who, like ourselves, have many times made the annual journey, greeting many familiar Companions by the way. To write the present Report, imperfect as it is, has caused us to read from 6,000 to 8,000 pages of the several Proceedings, and cull as many choice gems as space would allow; this we have endeavored to do without any extended comment of our own, though we have not hesitated to express our opinions on the subjects presented.

"Peace and harmony prevail throughout the Capitular world,

and there has been a fair increase in members; and from our statistical tables it will be seen that thirty-eight Jurisdictions report a gain of 5,779 members, while, in only eight Jurisdictions, there is a loss amounting to 89 members, and the aggregate making a net gain of 5,690 as compared with last year.

DELAWARE—29TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1897.

There are 4 Chapters, 624 members; gain, 29.

M. E. V. V. Harrison, Grand High Priest, presided at this Convocation, and reports: Though could not report as satisfactory an increase as he would desire, yet harmony among the Royal Craft is apparent. He had been called on for no decisions; thinks the apparent stagnation is attributable in great measure to the deplorable depression in business, but perhaps in a larger degree to the incompetency of officers; he obtained a sufficient number of copies of the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter to furnish each High Priest with a copy, and hopes for better results in the future; and recommends the consideration of the advisability of requiring a candidate to have a fair knowledge of one Degree before another is conferred upon him. Action to this was had by Grand Chapter.

Treasury balance, \$22.89.

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

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

M. E. Companion V. V. Harrison made the Report on Correspondence, and at the request of Grand Chapter, expressed by Resolution, will do so again, D. V. In it we have the review of our Proceedings for 1895.

He approves the decision of our Grand Chapter adverse to allowing any charge by a Chapter for a dimit, and says:

"Aside from the fact that the regulation above referred to exists. We think that it is unjust to charge a fee, either for affiliation or dimit; a member having paid all of his indebtedness to his Chapter, and desiring to withdraw, should be permitted to do so without fee; and on the other hand a Royal Arch Mason (non-affiliated), desiring to connect himself with a Chapter, should, if found worthy, be permitted to do so without fee."

In which we think he is entirely correct.

He stands firmly on the platform of "dependent membership" (passim).

We like what he says on public installations, and therefore copy:

"That may be, Companion, but we are of the same opinion still. We cannot understand why our ceremonies should be paraded in public; it savors too much of institutions of small calibre who are bidding for public favor. This is unnecessary with our institution."

He tells us that "No new questions have arisen during the year just closed, to startle the Capitular world, but the same 'old ones,' viz: The Past Master Degree, dependent membership, perpetual jurisdiction, and the Grand Representative system, still afford an opportunity for the expression of opinion. On these questions we are very much divided, and there is no hope of reaching a universal conclusion upon either of them."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—35TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 10; members, —; loss, 1.

M. E. Grand High Priest DeMoll speaks of the Craft as being exceedingly harmonious, and adds, "This has not been an over prosperous year."

The decisions of the Grand High Priest were few in number and sound in doctrine; he also issued a few Dispensations for conferring Degrees without awaiting the usual time.

Proper respect is paid by him to the memory of deceased Companions, and their virtues made of record by the several Committees.

No grievances were reported.

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$1,047.00.

A Resolution providing for a fee of five dollars for each exaltation, laid over from last Convocation, was laid on the table at this.

Charles H. Smith, G. H. P.

Arvine W. Johnston, G. Sec'y.

The Committee on Correspondence, by Companion William R. Singleton, Chairman, submitted its annual review, including therein Alabama for 1895. He quoted what was said by

M.: E.: Grand High Priest Smith in regard to recommending the use of the Ritual published by authority of the General Grand Chapter, but without comment, and gives the action of our Grand Chapter rejecting the recommendation.

We find him saying, under Illinois, and with much reason:

"No. 3 says: 'The ceremonies of the installation must begin with the High Priest.' This is now the rule in the District of Columbia, a decision having been first made by Companion Matthew Trimble when Grand High Priest in 1879. We have sometimes thought that such a rule might create much inconvenience, as, for instance, if the High Priest elect should be absent from the Jurisdiction or be too ill to attend at the proper time for installation. Now, as the former High Priest is to retain his office and function until his successor shall have been installed, why may he not install all the other officers and hold his position until the officer elect can be installed?"

Companion Duncan, of Louisiana, having commented adversely on the conferring, by the Grand Chapter of this District, of the Degrees on those who temporarily reside in the District and vote elsewhere, he says that "the Masons of the District of Columbia have never surrendered, nor will they ever surrender, the immemorial proscription and Masonic right in regard to the selection of material."

He differs with Companion Drummond, of Maine, as to the necessity of re-installation of an officer elected to succeed himself in same office.

ENGLAND.

We have only the Minutes of the Quarterly Convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on February 3d, 1897, on which occasion M.: E.: Companion Earl Amherst, as G.: Z.:, presided, E.: Companion Edward Letchworth being G.: Scribe E.:.

Charters were granted for the formation of four new Chapters, while one Chapter was erased from the roll of Chapters, and summons ordered for two others to show cause why they should not be erased from the roll of Chapters.

IRELAND.

The officers important to be known of this Grand Chapter are as follows:

His Grace, the Duke of Abercorn, M.: E.: King.

Archibald St. George, M.: E.: Registrar.

The address of the latter is Freemason's Hall, Dublin.

MARK MASTER MASONS—ENGLAND, 1897.

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons met in quarterly Communication in September, 1896, with Right Hon. Earl of Euston, Pro. G. Master, and C. F. Matier, G. Secretary.

Five new Mark Lodges were established, three in England, one in India, and one in South Africa.

Again there was a communication held on December 1, 1896, the Right Hon. Viscount Dungaroon, D. G. Master, as G. Master.

The Board of General Purposes reported the number of M. Masons registered as 33,013. Here we learn that "the Scotch acknowledge the English Mark, and vice versa."

Warrants for three new Lodges were granted at the Communication in March, 1897.

GEORGIA—75TH ANNUAL, APRIL, 1897.

M.: E.: Grand High Priest Charles Wessolowsky presided over this Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and thus speaks of the condition of the Craft:

"Peace and good will prevail throughout the jurisdiction, and were it not that the past year was one of troublesome presidential election, and with it to meet perplexed questions, which craved the attention of nearly every one of our citizens within this commonwealth, I think we would have had a very flattering and prosperous year. As it is, we have made considerable gain, and the returns show a very healthy condition.

"The gross gain of Royal Arch Masons in the Jurisdiction has been for the year 313.

"Marked, and on the way to exaltation, 296; and the total

number of membership now on our rolls, as far as returns have come in and been tabulated, show a net gain of about 600."

He also congratulates the Grand Chapter on its improved financial condition, for from having to borrow a large amount last year he trusts "that from now on our finances will not give us any trouble."

He issued Dispensations for three new Chapters.

His decisions were few, but strictly in accordance with the laws and usages of Masonry.

At the last annual Convocation an edict for enforced dependent membership was passed.

At this an effort was made to repeal it, but without success.

"Resolved, That the Edict adopted at the last Convocation of this Grand Chapter providing that 'no Companion who shall remain unaffiliated with the Lodge for as much as twelve months hereafter without an effort to become affiliated, shall be entitled to membership, or any office in any Chapter, or in the Grand Chapter' be, and the same is hereby rescinded."

In his Address the Grand High Priest announced the death of the venerable Grand Secretary, Companion A. M. Wolihin, and in paying tribute to his memory says:

"Companion Andrew M. Wolihin's private life was without a stain. From boyhood his was a career of religious fervor; his faith was implicit and sublime. He knew his God, and no lingering doubt disturbed his belief in the lofty teaching of our institution, 'a future state of eternal bliss.'"

Would that the same could be said of us when we are gone!

He pays a very handsome and deserved compliment to the ability and faithfulness of Companion W. S. Ramsey, Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence.

On an application for remission of dues by a Chapter, the Committee says:

"We recommend that the application of Pierce Chapter, No. 53, Butler, Ga., for remission of dues to the Grand Chapter for 1896, be not granted. We recommend to Pierce Chapter to raise their dues to the Chapter from \$1.00 per annum to an amount sufficient to pay their annual dues to the Grand Chapter and to meet current expenses."

And add a recommendation to all Chapters "to keep their rooms and property generally properly insured."

Charles Wessolowsky, Albany, G. H. P.

Wm. A. Wolihin, Macon, G. Sec'y.

Companion W. S. Ramsey again brought forward his review of the proceedings of sister Jurisdictions, ours, however, not being among them. We only on this occasion copy the following from his introduction, as we have lingered long with these proceedings, and no new questions have arisen to call forth extended remark and our Companions are full already of the old ones. We hope Grand Secretaries will give over to him. We find no index to the copy sent us from Georgia:

"We have reviewed some of the above proceedings for ten years, but have brought them all up to 1896, so that our reviews in future will be of uniform date. Many of these proceedings are deficient in vital statistics. Some have that which is essential to an acceptable volume, i. e., good type and good paper. A few of them have no index, but most of them are attractive in binding and general mechanism, and have adopted the plan of inserting engravings of eminent Companions."

ILLINOIS—47TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1896.

Chapters, 186; members, 16,679; increase, 285.

Well may the Grand High Priest, George M. Moulton, say that the Craft "has made substantial progress in this State," and he adds, "What is more to be desired, peace and harmony abide within the veils." And the Committee on Grievances thus substantiate this assertion:

"The greetings of old Companions with whom we have associated in fraternal duties for nearly a third of a century, as well as those who have but recently taken upon themselves the duties and responsibilities of official life, has been our only and very pleasant duty."

As all the work before them.

He had granted no Dispensation for a new Chapter, but had received a petition for one so late as to induce him to refer the application to the Grand Chapter, which authorized its issue at this Convocation.

Among the decisions of the Grand High Priest we find this:

"3. It is lawful to open and transact the business of a Chapter in the absence of the written Charter. The legality of a Chapter and its acts depends on the granting and continuance of its Charter by Grand Chapter, and not upon the existence or presence of the written evidence thereof."

We are unable to reconcile this with what was certainly and impressively taught us in one of the Degrees constituting Royal Arch Masonry—that without the actual bodily presence of the Charter, the gavel was no longer an emblem of authority, and indeed that in its absence there was no Lodge. Were we improperly instructed, or has this portion of its teachings been altered or excluded? Is it possible that the Degree has been changed? If it has, as this was the most important lesson taught, it might readily be dropped, as has been done by Canada.

He called attention to the needy condition of the venerable widow of the late Grand High Priest, and stated that he had authorized sent to her one hundred dollars, which was approved by Grand Chapter and authority given for another hundred.

He appealed to Grand Chapter to give substantial aid to the Masonic Home, and an appropriation of one thousand dollars was made.

The Grand Chapter of Victoria, having overcome all difficulties, was warmly recognized "as the sole governing body in Royal Arch Masonry in the said Province of Victoria."

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of over \$13,000.00, and invested funds amounting to \$7,000.00.

We are pleased with the following Resolution, not only as showing a deep interest on the part of the Grand Chapter in the welfare of her Subordinates, but also as keeping the Grand Chapter in touch with the manner in which her Subordinates are prepared to discharge their obligations to each other, and to the great body of the Craft individually:

"Resolved, That all Subordinate Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction be required to make, with the Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 1897, a detailed statement of their financial condition at the date of the last Annual Convocation of said Chapter. Said statement to be made on blanks to be furnished

by the Grand Secretary, and shall show in detail the amounts received, and from what sources; the amount expended, and for what purpose expended. Such statement to be solely for the information of the Grand Chapter, but not necessarily for publication."

A Resolution was adopted providing for a meeting of the Grand Lecturers, that they "may become uniform in the reading of the Black Hawk; also to adopt a uniform system of the floor work in the several Degrees of Capitular Masonry." So, even with the Ritual printed and in the hands of the officers, uniformity cannot be obtained.

Frederick C. Winslow, Jacksonville, G. H. P.

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

The Report on Correspondence is the product of Past Grand High Priest John M. Pearson, including in his review Alabama for 1895.

How true is what we copy as his comment of Ohio, where a Chapter having failed to pay a tax levied for building the Home, and upon demand having expressed its poverty, its inability to levy under its By-Laws such a tax, and the absence of Constitutional authority to warrant such a levy by Grand Chapter, and the Report of the Committee to which it was referred authorizing the Grand High Priest to treat the Chapter as in contempt unless the same be paid within sixty days:

"We have not much doubt of the final issue. Might seems to make right, in this case, and the poor Subordinate will submit, to save its life; but no one will ever believe that its opinions have changed."

INDIANA—51ST ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1896.

Chapters, 85; members, 5,459; loss, 20.

The Grand Chapter was duly opened by the Grand High Priest, Henry W. Mordhurst, and introduces his Address thus:

"The summer is ended. The flower has faded and the foliage withered. Nature is clothed in autumn garb, preparing for the winter's slumber, when, after an allotted time, the earth will wake again. How like unto man. The spring, the summer, the autumn and the sleep of winter, and then the springtide of immortality."

He called the roll of departed Companions with due respect; issued several Dispensations for election of officers; approved many By-Laws, and answered more than the usual number of enquiries, but none of general interest.

He granted Dispensations to three new Chapters, to which Charters were awarded, and arrested the Charters of two Chapters.

He seems to have been somewhat annoyed at the levity displayed in the conferring of some of the Degrees, and denounces this practice.

We are no little surprised at the occurrence of acts which should call for a circular letter from him containing the following:

"It has come to the knowledge of the Grand High Priest that some Chapters when so appearing have not, however, observed the proprieties suitable to such events. The robes and paraphernalia which add dignity and solemnity to the practice of our esoteric rites become inappropriate and ofttimes farcical when worn and displayed in public processions. To guard against anything likely to detract from the decorum and the high standing of the Chapter, it is hereby directed that its paraphernalia be not exhibited in public, and that the only Masonic clothing to be worn when so appearing is—aside from the jewels of the officers—the lamb-skin apron, agreeable to Section 145 of the General Regulations, which reads as follows—."

In Indiana the printed Ritual seems to be a source of trouble, a spurious copy being hawked around introducing an unauthorized work. He found it impossible to ferret out the prime author of the offense.

Balance in Treasury, \$2,422.00.

The following Edict was passed by Grand Chapter:

"It is the imperative duty of the Grand High Priest to at once suspend the functions of any Chapter failing to make its annual report within thirty days after the time prescribed by law. Such suspension to continue until such report is filed with the Grand Secretary."

John F. Redmond, Logansport, G. H. P.

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

The Report on Correspondence is made by one of the princes of the Guild, Thomas B. Long, Past Grand High Priest, and in it we find Alabama for 1895.

Noticing the Report of the Committee adverse to charging a fee for a Dimit, he says:

"Well, this conclusion is correct, and the principle embodied in the Report is eminently just; but as the Edict of the General Grand Body is only of binding force upon the Chapters directly subordinate to it, no actual law seems to have been established in Alabama by the adoption of this Report."

He thinks the "hue and cry" somewhat noisy against the Past Master's Degree.

If taught in the Chapter as formerly, why do we see a Grand High Priest declaring that it is not necessary to have the Charter in the Chapter Hall or Lodge Room, if the High Priest is only sure it is in safe keeping? Then why duplicate a Charter when destroyed? It is only an evidence, say some, that it had been granted by Grand Chapter, while surely the records of that Grand Body are sufficient evidence.

We are in full accord with him as to the power of a summons. Hear him:

"In fact, a summons is effective wherever the person receiving it may be, if it be fairly possible for him to obey it. Whether he has pledged himself to obey it, if within the length of his cable-tow, the square of his work, or the circle of his conduct, he must observe his pledge if it is in his power reasonably to do so. The theory of some of the old writers that the phrase first above employed means a certain measured distance, and that the length of a cable-tow for an Entered Apprentice is three miles, was never based upon any proper construction of the meaning of the obligation. The Baltimore Convention of 1842 regarded the promise as symbolic in character, and as justly meaning 'within the scope of a man's reasonable ability.' It is certainly misleading to leave the Companions of Delaware under the impression and belief that if one receives a summons when without the territorial limits of his Chapter's jurisdiction, he is not bound to obey it."

Interesting as is this review, sprinkled as it is all over with glittering thoughts, our space forbids further tarrying.

IOWA—44TH ANNUAL, JULY, 1897.

Chapters, 119; members, 7,858; increase, 106.

Every one of these 119 Chapters had made their reports and paid their dues, as reported by the Grand Secretary, and Representatives from 95 were present when the M.: E.: Grand High Priest, in Ample Form, opened the Grand Chapter and delivered his Address. In it he pays a high tribute to the memory of their deceased Grand Guard, and a very touching eulogy on the deceased wife of Companion T. S. Parvin, the father, almost, of Masonry in Iowa.

He issued his Dispensation for one new Chapter, there being another under an extended Dispensation, and to both of these were Charters awarded. Of such Dispensations he says, and his remarks may be heeded in other sections than in Iowa:

"While I had semi-official notice only asking for Dispensation to establish Chapters in certain localities, I have not encouraged it, and told them their request could not consistently be complied with. We have now more than a sufficient number of Chapters to supply the demand, and if we had a less number, with more vigor and enthusiasm on the part of the members, Capitular Masonry would not suffer in the State. While not wishing to be fault-finding or criticising, but from personal inspection and observation, I am convinced that the granting of additional Dispensations, for a time, at least, would be injurious to Capitular Masonry. We already have too many weak Chapters in our midst, some who have hardly enough vitality to exist, and to increase the present number would be sapping the life of those that do well to hold their own."

He also states that "in some cases I refused Dispensations to ballot out of time, being satisfied that the Chapter Degrees were to be rushed through in double quick time, which would do the candidate injury only." This is indeed too true, and they were perhaps only wanted to furnish a stepping-place to something deemed higher.

Preparatory steps were being taken for returning the Council Degrees to the keeping of the Grand Council.

It was proposed to have inserted in or endorsed upon the petition for the Degrees a pretty full history of the applicant, his place of birth, his religion, as well as that of his parents, and

other important facts relating to his Masonic and political history, etc., etc., but the Grand Chapter saw fit to differ from the introducer and to make no such addition to what is already required.

Cash on hand, \$3,146.00.

Four hundred copies of the Ritual were printed because the first edition was exhausted. Where are they all? And echo answers, Where?

William D. Irvine, Sioux City, G. H. P.

Alfred Wingate, Des Moines, G. Sec'y.

Companion T. R. Ercanbrack again produced one of his delightful reviews of the Proceedings of sister Grand Chapters, wherein Alabama occupies her usual place.

We regret to find that we are supposed to be a liberal dealer in sweetmeats, for we had heretofore had the reputation of being very honest.

KANSAS—32ND ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 81; members, 5,037; increase, 31.

Grand High Priest Samuel E. Busser, after opening the Grand Chapter in Ample Form, delivered a very eloquent Address, amplifying on the beauties of Masonry and its mission and the value of the Capitular Degrees, and proceeded to inform Grand Chapter of his official acts during the year. His first was the mournful one of officiating at the funeral obsequies of Past Grand High Priest Owen A. Bassett, of whom he says: "He lives in every stone of our Masonic edifice. His work will be his monument." He made a number of visitations, and of them says:

"It was my privilege to make thirty-four visitations during the year. I delivered thirty-six addresses on Capitular Masonry. I conferred the Most Excellent Master's Degree on sixty-one candidates, the Mark Master on ten, the Past Master on ten, and the Royal Arch on thirty-three, thus exalting eleven teams. I installed the officers of six Chapters. In the performance of these labors, I spent seventy-four days and many nights, and traveled in actual mileage in this service nine thousand and twenty miles. I had definite word that three Chapters intended to surrender their Charters when I visited them, every

one of which has taken on new life, and I believe will become an honor to our roster. Thus I have presented to you this phase of my work for inspection, and though it has required the expenditure of considerable money, I feel confident it has accomplished such good as cannot be estimated in dollars and cents."

The value of these visitations cannot be calculated.

He issued many Dispensations to elect and install officers, and a few for conferring the Degrees out of time, or without awaiting the usual time required, and three for conferring all of the Degrees on the same day. This last we deem a bad practice, for we never knew one so made ever to prove a valuable member of the Chapter. One so hurried through on railroad time is of the opinion that he knows it all and will make no further effort. For such Dispensations Grand Chapter levies a fee of five dollars, and the Grand High Priest says:

"I am of the opinion that the fee of \$5.00 charged for Degrees so conferred under Dispensation, has very nearly obliterated this evil, and is withal a very proper regulation."

Yet we find him also making this recommendation:

"Following the adoption of the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter, if you think as I do on this subject, I would recommend that it be required of all candidates to commit to memory the lectures of the several Degrees, before being inducted, received and acknowledged, and exalted, and that the High Priest, King and Scribe, in open Chapter, examine the candidates, and pronounce judgment on their proficiency. Companions, I make this recommendation in order to give individuality to Chapter work, and in order to exalt the Chapter as well as candidates. I have carefully investigated the subject, and cannot offer a single reason why we should not take such action. It is contrary to the truth for the Senior Deacon, when asked regarding the candidate's proficiency, to respond, 'He has.' I have been called on to examine Royal Arch Masons, who did not know a single principle of the Capitular system, and I am convinced that such examination would be as useful and helpful to the Companions of the Chapter as to the candidate himself. I hope the question may receive due consideration."

The Ritual of the General Grand Chapter was subsequently adopted, except as to the opening and closing ceremonies, but

we find nothing looking to a compulsory knowledge of the lectures before advancement.

Grand Treasurer reports balance of General Fund to be over \$3,000.00, and of the Charity Fund \$514.00. Appropriations were made on behalf of needy Companions and widows.

There were no grievances to redress.

The salary of Grand High Priest was raised to \$200.00; there is also the usual provision made for his expenses.

One Dispensation was granted for a new Chapter, which received a Charter at this Convocation.

Charles E. Morrell, Kirwin, G. H. P.

Jacob DeWitt, Salina, G. Sec'y.

This last, a Past Grand High Priest, made the Report on Correspondence, in it reviewing Alabama for 1895.

He expresses a deal of modesty about his effort, which is becoming in all, both man and maiden, but we don't exactly see the reason for it, and we have carefully been through the Report. Indeed, at the very outset we find him writing as an old hand, and displaying to our mind sound judgment and good sense; for, speaking of the necessity for the "perfect man," we find him thus expressing himself:

"We hold that we would not greatly err in judging each piece of material by itself, and accepting or rejecting according as its merits might demand. Sufficient we think it if the candidate can conform to the forms and ceremonies of the Degrees, provided he meets the mental and moral tests."

KENTUCKY—97TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1896.

Chapters, 82; members, 2,923; increase, 271.

M. E. John G. Orndorff presided, and in his Address alludes in feeling terms to the death of members of this and other Jurisdictions. He issued eighteen Dispensations to "ballot on petitions and confer the Degrees out of time;" a goodly number of railroading cases—one authorizing a dormant Chapter to resume work, one to authorize a Chapter to elect and install officers, and one to elect and install a Scribe.

After the Committee had reported on the books of Grand Secretary as correct, he authorized the Grand King to install this

officer, he having been previously elected and his bond duly filed.

He made no decisions, and expresses a doubt as to "whether this betokens good or ill to our Rite." He notes the necessity for a book of Constitution and Digest of the Laws of Grand Chapter, and recommends that such be prepared and a sufficient number of copies be printed to supply every Chapter with it. This recommendation was adopted and the necessary appropriation made for it.

Speaking in deservedly high terms of the labors of the Chairman of Committee on Correspondence, and the diminished appropriation therefor, he adds:

"It is inadequate. I am in receipt of so much of the Committee's Report as warrants the belief that the Report will cover more than seventy-two pages. 'The laborer is worthy of his hire,' and I earnestly recommend that the usual, or other adequate, appropriation be made for the benefit of the present Chairman of said Committee, who has distinguished himself in this line, and enjoys to-day the reputation of a Masonic student and writer of ability."

On the strength of which the appropriation was raised from twenty-five to one hundred dollars.

A most excellent Code of Rules for the government and guidance of Chapters and their members was presented by him. In it levity in conferring the Degrees is denounced, and the recording the mark a pre-requisite to conferring the Royal Arch Degree.

When speaking of the "Home," this is asserted by him:

"Think of it, Companions! Nearly 1,000 helpless ones 'of the household of faith' among us, have found shelter, and food, and raiment, and training, and tender loving care, and a HOME, because they were homeless. During the past year 263 have been cared for, at a cost of only \$92.67 per capita. May the scenes you witnessed this afternoon, at the exhibition of our adopted children, awaken an increasing inspiration in your breasts that shall stimulate you to yet greater deeds of charity and prove a solace to each of you in your declining years."

What a glorious work achieved! What a monument to the goodness of our Companions and brethren of Kentucky!

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$2,849.00.

A Chapter working U. D. was Chartered at this Convocation, and a duplicate ordered for one which had lost the original by fire.

Committee on Finance recommended the arrest of the Charters of seven Chapters.

There were no grievances before the Committee.

The Committee on By-Laws reported. Here we find that in Kentucky "fees for affiliation, though not prohibited, are not deemed advisable." Right, we think. But "it is obligatory on Chapters to keep a book of marks, and not to exalt a Brother before his mark is recorded." A provision of greatly less utility than the much-abused Past Master's Degree.

"Ministers cannot be exempted from the payment of Degree fees."

This Code will lie over for a year.

Henry Ranshaw, Covington, G. H. P.

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

We have before us the ninth review of Past Grand High Priest James W. Slaton of the Proceedings of sister Grand Chapters, and are pleased to find those of our own Jurisdiction among them. He offers our apology for brevity—waiting for "our exchequer to recover from its late panic." It is nevertheless very full and complete.

Having so fully given what our Companions in Kentucky are doing, we must forego the pleasure of giving you what this reviewer thinks, lest the printer be vexed at want of cash.

LOUISIANA—50TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1897.

The Jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter embraces 19 Chapters, in which there was a net gain during the year of 9, and its membership numbers 1,014.

Grand High Priest R. H. Cage is hopeful for the future, and eloquently urges on Companions the practice of all Masonic virtues for the betterment of our race and mankind; made many appointments of Grand Representatives; expresses his admiration of the manner in which the Grand Lecturer performed his duties, and paid proper respect to the memory of the dead.

He was called on for no decisions, and issued but two Dispen-sations for elections where Chapters had been remiss.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$2,062.00.

Three hundred dollars were appropriated for the relief of Ma-sons and their families in the "drought-stricken" portion of the State.

R. H. Cage, New Iberia, G. H. P.

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

Rev. H. Cope Duncan, Past Grand High Priest, presented the Report on Correspondence, in which is his review of Alabama for 1895. We give what he says of the Report of our Com-mittee:

"The question of charging a fee for a dimit was reported by Committee on Jurisprudence as 'not in accordance with regula-tions of the General Grand Chapter of the United States.' The reporting against such a fee was a good thing; the basing it upon the regulations of the General Grand Chapter a very bad thing. There is an evil tendency abroad to enlarge the powers of that body. The existence of the General Grand Chapter and its prosperity demand that its powers be kept within the scope of its Constitution. They are enemies of that body who neglect those provisions of that instrument that strictly forbid such stretching of the law. As friends of the General Grand Chap-ter, we raise a warning voice. There is danger in the air. It is within a twelve-month that we witnessed an attempt in a Grand Chapter to enforce a doubtful authority of the General Grand Chapter. Those who attempted it were informed that if insistence was had a Resolution would be passed severing the connection between that Grand Chapter and the General Grand Chapter. We have every reason to believe that a 'decided ma-jority could have been had in the affirmative. The proposition was fortunately withdrawn and the danger averted. The Gen-eral Grand Chapter will live and it will continue its career of great usefulness so long as it stands within its powers. But it transcends those powers at its peril."

MAINE—71ST ANNUAL, MAY, 1896.

Chapters, 54; members, 5,897; increase, 183.

M^r. E. Grand High Priest Henry S. Webster presided over this Convocation, at which there were present Representatives from forty-five Chapters and many of the permanent members.

The Grand High Priest delivered his Address, in which tribute is paid to the dead of this and sister Jurisdictions.

He issued a Dispensation for the formation of a new Chapter, but the Committee to which it was referred recommended that the petitioners have leave to withdraw. The same was made as to another petition and a Dispensation authorized in another instance.

He noticed the action of the General Grand Chapter in making some changes in the Ritual, and recommended their adoption, and it was voted to leave the promulgation thereof to the Grand Lecturer.

The Grand Treasurer's balance shows \$3,707.00.

Several amendments to the Constitution were reported on, and the Report accepted.

Albro E. Chase, Portland, G. H. P.

Stephen Berry, Portland, G. Sec'y.

Companion J. H. Drummond, who has been writing these Reports for his Grand Chapter as long, we believe, as we have for ours, once more presented his most valuable contribution to Masonic literature and law, and in his usual graceful style. He is a close student of Masonic history, and in consequence his Reports are of great interest, and are read by us with great pleasure and much profit, for its like sitting at the feet of Gamaliel. Our limits forbid too liberal copying, but his opinions are of more worth than our own, and are always most happily expressed.

Alabama for 1895 appears herein. He thinks our plan for the dissemination of the work a good one, and if properly carried out "there will be a visible improvement in the condition of the Craft in this Jurisdiction."

On public installations, under Delaware, he says:

"Our answer is, that everything that occurs is published in the text-books, and has been since text-books were first known,

and the usage of public installations has already been traced back to as early a time as the origin of the Royal Arch Degree.

"Companion Davies, of California, says: 'We think it beyond dispute that the right to install in public was admitted by the oldest Grand Lodges, and never denied by an American Grand Lodge, except, perhaps, in the case of Pennsylvania.'

"And Companion Seranus Bowen, of Massachusetts, says: Referring to public installations, he says that in Massachusetts 'they have been comparatively frequent from the very earliest days of the institution here,' and when that is said, this establishes our statement that the practice has existed in this country as long as Masonry has existed here."

Under Canada, he denies the assertion that "the Past Master's Degree never had a right to a place in the Capitular system," as follows:

"When the Capitular system was organized, the Past Master's Degree was as much a part of it as any other Degree. Indeed, the Past Master's Degree has been a pre-requisite to the Royal Arch Degree ever since the earliest time at which it is now known the Royal Arch Degree existed. In the Chapter it is symbolic wholly, and is no more the Craft Degree of that name than any other Degree that might be mentioned, and we very greatly regret that the Grand Chapter of Canada should not either have continued to practice the English system, or, having adopted the American system, should not have adopted it in its entirety. We regret it all the more because Companions coming from that Jurisdiction to the United States cannot visit without first receiving that Degree. It places the visiting Companion and the Chapter visited both in a very awkward position, and we believe that for false reasons the Grand Chapter of Canada has made a false step in striking it from its curriculum."

He gives most excellent reasons why the petitioners for a new Chapter should not be compelled to file dimitts with the petition, for, should the petition be refused, or a Charter denied, the petitioners become forced unaffiliates.

He availed himself of a stenographer in the preparation of this Report, which he thinks may account for its length, but hopes to correct next time. Oh, for the stenographer! We are getting so shaky now that writing is laborious.

MARYLAND—99TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1896.

A special Convocation of this Grand Chapter was held April 23rd, 1896, at which the several Degrees were conferred upon a class furnished by one of the Subordinate Chapters, and the Grand Chapter remained in session three days in order, in this manner, to exemplify the work. This was done by the M. E. Grand High Priest William H. Shryock himself, assisted by High Priests of the Jurisdiction selected by him. A most impressive manner of exemplifying the work. The Convocation was largely attended by officers and delegates from the Subordinates.

The Annual Convocation was held in November, under the supervision of the same M. E. Grand High Priest, who, in his Address makes some most pertinent remarks on the spirit which prompts too many only to take these Degrees as the means of attaining the higher and more showy one of Knight Templar, and desire to do so in great haste. We copy them for the consideration of our Companions:

"It must be acknowledged that, among the younger Companions especially, there seems to be less interest manifested in the Chapter than in other branches of Masonry. This was not so in the early days. Then Lodges and Chapters were much more intimately connected than now, and it was not unusual to find a prosperous Lodge with a Chapter 'under its wing.' Companion Schultz's history tells how the prominent and zealous Masons of those days were banded together in Lodge and Chapter alike. The same men were conspicuously identified in both bodies and their attachment seemed equally strong in each.

"There is a tradition that originally the Royal Arch constituted the Master's Degree and was the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry. Be this as it may, the beautiful lessons taught in its acquisition, and the grandeur and completeness of the scheme as illustrated in the work of the Chapter, strongly recommend it to the affection and admiration of the Masonic student.

"There is also a tradition that in the early days—perhaps we should say among our ancient brethren—progress in Masonry was very slow. The Entered Apprentice literally wrought seven years before he was deemed worthy to be advanced; and

so from one Degree to another promotion was dependent upon faithful service and thorough knowledge of the art. Lodge meetings were then not solely for the purpose of conferring the Degrees, for under the system then in vogue there were but few Degrees conferred, and the social features of the Fraternity more largely occupied the attention of the Craft.

"The custom is quite different now. It is not unusual to hear a candidate for Masonry announce his purpose of going to the top immediately, and enquiring the length of time required to reach the Commandery—to say nothing of the Shrine. We are prone to yield to this impatience, in fact to encourage it and help the candidate along in his eagerness; to lighten the burden of the examinations and with special meetings, perhaps, to expedite the journey in 'limited express' fashion.

"In this haste the passage through the Chapter is especially rapid, and when the candidate does get to the top he is very apt to imagine that he knows it all. This is a very great mistake. He knows about as much as the new recruit does, when first mustered in, as compared with the old soldier who has grown gray in the service and rheumatic with the wounds and exposure of a dozen campaigns; or, as the youth who first enters college, as compared with the old professor who taught his father and has gone on accumulating knowledge ever since.

"It is not surprising under the circumstances, that the Commandery is the choice of the young recruit. In the rapid acquisition of knowledge the last lessons learned are the best if not the only ones, remembered; and there, too, he finds attractions not offered in the Lodge and Chapter. The nodding plume, the martial step, and the exclusiveness of the situation surrounding him are very apt to make the top, as he terms it, his favorite of the Masonic bodies.

"Veterans need not be told of the incompleteness of a Masonic education which omits a thorough knowledge of the Royal Arch. If the foundation is laid in the Lodge it is also necessary to learn that 'the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner.'

"If the young candidate has not attained the dignity of presiding over his Lodge, he should, at least, fully comprehend why he has been permitted to advance to the exalted stations of higher Degrees without this important qualification. If seven years were involved in the construction of the Temple, should

not the grand pageant of the celebration of its completion and dedication be impressed upon our minds in lasting remembrance? And, if the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry is to be found in the Royal Arch, how important it is that the beautiful lessons inculcated in this Degree, and those leading up to it, should be thoroughly well learned by every Mason who would appropriate 'the proud and lasting title of a workman that needeth not be ashamed.' "

He submitted a resolution, which he recommended be passed, prohibiting the use of substitutes in conferring the Degrees, and urged its passage, but the Grand Chapter differed with him as to either its necessity or advisability, and declined to pass it.

He visited many of the Chapters and was generally pleased with their condition, and so are the G. L. D. Inspectors.

As this was the 99th Annual, a Committee was appointed to report a proper plan for the Centennial Celebration, which takes place the same year that the General Grand Chapter will also hold its Thirty-third Triennial and Centennial in Baltimore. A program was reported by this Committee and adopted.

The Grand Treasurer reported a balance of \$941.00.

An effort was made to change the fees for the Degrees, but it failed.

Chapters 18; members 1,764; increase 102.

William H. Shryock, Baltimore, G. H. P.

George L. McCahan, G. Sec'y.

Companion Edward T. Schultz, who has for twenty-one years performed this duty in his own learned and courteous manner, tendered the Report on Correspondence, in which is Alabama, for 1895. He thus reflects, after these twenty-one years, on those with whom he had so often conversed, and his thoughts bring a feeling of melancholy and sadness. Of those mentioned there were two whom we loved for their brilliancy and wit, perhaps beyond all the others, and their loss we still greatly deplore, poor Corson, of New Jersey, who was so afflicted ere he died, and Gouley, of Missouri, whose death was so sudden and distressing. Yet we hope that their reward is with the just:

"Of the writers whose reports we reviewed that year, 1876, Companions Pillans, of Alabama, Robertson, of Canada, and

Southgate, of North Carolina, and Drummond, of Maine, are still in the harness, while Companions Wm. J. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, Thomas H. Caswell, of California, Edward C. Parmelee, of Colorado, George A. Burnham, of Rhode Island, and E. B. McGrotty, of the District of Columbia, who prepared the Reports for their respective Grand Chapters that year, are still with us, though retired from this field of labor. The rest, together with many others who succeeded them and for a time wrote the reports, have ceased altogether from their labors here below, and are now, we trust, receiving the rewards that await the faithful laborer.

"Among them are the well remembered Companions Corson, of New Jersey, Gouley, of Missouri, Simons and Ogden, of New York, Guernsey, of Illinois, Hacker, of Indiana, Dana, of Vermont, Langrage of Iowa, Horner, of Louisiana, Bassett, of Kentucky, Lawrence, of Georgia, Blackie and Connor, of Tennessee, Chapman and Dadmun, of Massachusetts, Harper of Pennsylvania, Innes, of Michigan, Pierson, of Minnesota, Patton and Chadwick, of Oregon, Cottrill, of Wisconsin, Wheeler, of Connecticut."

We have so far exceeded our limit that, lest we bankrupt the treasury we are forced to leave our most highly esteemed Companion, hoping, however, that we shall again have the pleasure of meeting with him.

MASSACHUSETTS—98TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 74; members, 14,577; increase, 1,840.

At the Quarterly Convocation, held March 10th, 1896, Grand High Priest J. Gilman Waite presiding, Reports from a few Committees were made, and Grand High Priest called attention to the fact that in two years the centenary of the Grand Chapter will have arrived, and suggested that proper steps be not taken for the suitable celebration of the occasion. Such was done, and a Committee appointed to make the proper arrangements.

At that of June 9th ordinary business was transacted, and Committee appointed to suggest an alteration on one of the emblems on Grand Chapter Seal, to report at next Quarterly Convocation.

At that of September 8th this Committee reported, recom-

mending "that the form of the mitre be changed, and that the date of the organization of the Grand Chapter be placed upon the Seal." This was so ordered.

Some memorial papers were read, one on Companion John Haigh, late R. E. Grand Treasurer, who had faithfully filled many offices of the Grand Chapter.

At the Annual Convocation, on December 8th, the Grand Lecturer, with his appointed assistants, proceeded to exemplify the various Degrees of Capitular Masonry. "The work was done in a very satisfactory manner."

Fifty-eight of the seventy-four Chapters were represented.

An amendment to the Constitution—to allow a Master Mason to make application to any Chapter of his choosing—on which the Committee to which it was referred reported adversely, and recommended that the subject be indefinitely postponed.

There is a cash balance of \$3,467.00, being but \$1.58 less than at the last Annual.

Grand High Priest issued many Dispensations, doubtless exercising due discretion.

At the election of officers we find that the esteemed and faithful Grand Secretary, R. E. Companion Seranus Bowen, was unanimously elected to be Grand High Priest, and J. Albert Blake was made Grand Secretary.

We are gratified by finding that by a vote of the Grand Chapter the Grand High Priest elect was requested to continue to prepare the Report on Correspondence, which he has so well and acceptably done for the past six years. Massachusetts knows a good officer when she gets one and won't give him up. We now turn to the Report on Correspondence, by our faithful Companion and late R. E. Grand Secretary, where we find the Proceedings of Alabama for 1895. Here we find that he continues his adverse view as to the "admission of persons not Royal Arch Masons to sing in the course of working Chapter Degrees."

He is no friend of the Cipher Ritual.

We quote from his conclusion:

"It will be seen that, generally, Chapter Masonry is in a flourishing condition; and no doubt this is largely due to the greater care that has been given to the proper and dignified rendition of the work."

MICHIGAN—48TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 127; members, 13,064; gain, 327.

M. E. Companion Lou B. Winsor presided over this Convocation, and in his Address says, "We can report a good, healthy, steady, prosperous growth all along the line." When speaking of the Masonic Home at Grand Rapids, he gives a letter received from the Committee in charge urging him to meet them to aid them by his suggestions to provide a "practical plan for the endowment or anything else which will provide a permanent future support of the Home." The letter opened thus:

"A crisis has been reached in the affairs of the Michigan Masonic Home. Shall its doors be closed and this most laudable Masonic charity become a thing of the past, and the Masonic Fraternity disgraced because of its failure? The Masons in this city are thoroughly aroused in behalf of renewed efforts to save the Michigan Masonic Home and prevent this disgrace."

The Home was built by the Masons of Grand Rapids, impelled by their benevolent feelings and uncontrolled by those of discretion. It requires at present \$10,000.00 per annum for its maintenance, and whence to obtain this large sum with certainty is now the alarming question, though in a Jurisdiction containing more than 13,000 Royal Arch Masons it should not be difficult.

A proposition to convey the Home to the several Grand Bodies, or Trustees appointed by them, was made, and Grand Chapter accepted by the following Resolution, and a Board selected:

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Michigan, do, subject to concurrent action of the other Grand Bodies concerned, accept the proposition so made, and proceed to elect, at the approaching election of officers, one Trustee, to receive the title as proposed, and three members of the Board of Control, to serve one, two and three years respectively, but it is distinctly understood that this Grand Chapter explicitly declines to PLEDGE itself to contribute any of its funds for the support of said Masonic Home."

He issued a Dispensation for a new Chapter, and one was working under Dispensation from his predecessor, which had

been continued. These received charters, and a Dispensation was recommended for a third.

Here is another instance of a lost Ritual; Arkansas is not alone. Grand High Priest reports that a High Priest had informed him of its loss. The Grand Chapter made provision for the Grand Secretary to replace any Ritual that may be lost, under certain restrictions and the payment of a fee of ten dollars. But what becomes of the lost Rituals? Who possibly have them? And why have Rituals that can be lost?

He pays a handsome compliment to the Grand Secretary, and we know that every such declaration is well earned and deserved. He is the right hand of the M. E. Grand High Priest or the M. W. Grand Master, as the case may be.

The Treasurer's statement shows a balance of \$38.00 against the Grand Chapter.

Charlie Gay, Big Rapids, G. H. P.

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

Our R. E. Companion, the Grand Secretary, as usual, made his excellent Report on Correspondence. He does it because, as he informs us, his Grand Chapter requires the Proceedings of other Grand Chapters to 'be hashed over for the delectation of the Royal Craft.' Alabama for 1895 comes in for her full share of this mincing process. His review is both complete and highly interesting. If we had the wit and humor of our Companion, we might be able to hear some such remark made of ours. But in all truth, if Companions in Michigan don't read his Reports, they lose a great deal of information and pleasure.

MINNESOTA—35TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1896.

Chapters, 58; members, 4,761; increase, 105.

Representatives from fifty Chapters being present, M. E. Companion Charles D. Boyce, Grand High Priest, proceeded to open the Grand Chapter in Ample Form, and, after the appointment of Committees, to read his Address, in which he called for proper respect to the memory of the dead. He constituted a new Chapter. He visited a few of the Chapters, and installed the officers of three. The decisions made by him consisted in pointing out the requirement suited to the case provided by the Constitutions or former decisions. He issued but six Dispensa-

tions, and two of these were for allowing Chapters to receive petitions and confer the Degrees at the same Convocation.

He announced that the roll would be called promptly at 10 a. m. and 3 p. m., and that "the rule laid down as to per diem will be strictly enforced, and no member who does not answer at roll call at each session will be allowed his per diem for said second days's session." That's the way to hold them to their work.

Grand Treasurer's balance, \$7,931.76.

No grievances were reported.

W. G. TenBrook, Duluth, G. H. P.

Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul, G. Sec'y.

Once more does the Grand Secretary present the Report on Correspondence, containing Alabama for 1895. He says of us: "It was properly decided to exact no fee for a dimit when duly issued."

We appreciate the kind feeling of our Companion when he utters the hope that we "may live long to make many more Reports," but can hardly thank him for wishing us so much evil, for, with the Scotch poetess, at near eighty-two years, we may truly say:

We are wearing awa',
Like the snow when it's thaw;
We are wearing awa'
To the land o' the leal.

He sees "no impropriety in public installations," nor indeed do we; nor have we ever been able to imagine why this hub-bub, save that it has a little too much the appearance of an advertising dodger, at least in cities; but whence the harm of them when a Lodge or two, perhaps three, unite in a good old-fashioned barbecue in the country, at which the wives, sisters, mothers and sweethearts of the members may be brought socially together, and that I'm-better-than-you feeling worn off?

MISSISSIPPI—49TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 43; membership, 1,415; gain, probably, 44.

M. E. James T. Harrison presided over this Convocation, and in his Address announces that "Capitular Masonry has progressed within our borders."

An appropriation of \$50.00 was made to the Natchez Orphan Asylum to aid in the extension of its buildings.

The Committee on Capitular Law, in relation to a Dispensation to a Chapter, on the subject makes this Report:

"The Committee on Capitular Law, to whom was referred so much of the Most Excellent, the Grand High Priest's Address, beg leave to report that they approve of the Dispensations granted by him, with the exception of that to Walnut Grove Royal Arch Chapter No. 75, to ballot out of time on a petition and to confer the Degrees. The Grand High Priest's powers to grant authority to confer Degrees out of time, is restricted by Paragraph F., Section 29, of the Statutes, to occasions when he himself, the Deputy Grand High Priest or Grand Lecturer is present. This may have been the case in the instance under consideration, regarding which the Address furnishes no information."

Greater compensation was provided for Grand Lecturer, that his services might prove more efficient.

A provision for encouraging the revival of dormant Chapters was made, and if not really dead we think this will revive them.

Frank P. Jenkins, Aberdeen, G. H. P.

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

M.: E.: Companion Savery again presented, as usual, a very thorough review on Correspondence. In this Alabama for 1895 finds a place.

We thank him for his approval of the course of our Grand Chapter in regard to the use of a printed Ritual. The Craft in general agree with him.

We regret the loss of the usually highly-prized and judicious comments of our Companion, but brevity becomes a small purse.

MISSOURI—49TH ANNUAL, APRIL, 1896.

Chapters, 95; members, 6,681; increase, 275.

This semi-centennial Convocation was held in Springfield, with M.: E.: Alvin Hayne, Grand High Priest, presiding. Alabama seems not to have been represented.

The Grand High Priest made some very beautiful remarks on

the necessity of cultivating love and friendship among the several Companions; he alluded to the earlier days of Masonry in Missouri, and to the sterling characters who gave it an impulse and were selected for its important positions, in terms of laudation, to the influence they had in moulding the character of the several communities, and to the general good influence of this branch of it.

His Dispensations were few, and so were his decisions. He submitted to the Grand Chapter the question, "To what extent and for what purposes are we bound" by the laws and edicts of the General Grand Chapter?

Many Chapters of instruction were held, at some of which the Grand High Priest presided, and he thinks "much good was accomplished, not only in promulgating the work, but also in increasing the interest in Capitular Masonry."

We fancy he favors a printed Ritual, that all the Chapters may be fully informed and absolute uniformity of work be attained, but prefers their own work to that of the General Grand Chapter.

He, of the Home, says: "I am proud of this monument of Masonic charity."

Having in his visitations observed a large number of aged Companions, he says:

"It is a sad commentary on human wisdom to remark that many of these old Companions have but little of this world's goods. They should be exempt from the payment of dues, not as charity, but as a matter of right. As it is, the Chapters may remit such dues but that is very likely an act of charity, which they should not be compelled to ask from an institution for which they have so long and so faithfully wrought. Rough and rugged has been their road, long and toilsome their march; but, sustained and favored by the Great I Am, they are at last near their journey's end. We should make their path smoother and their day brighter by this act of courtesy and justice. I earnestly recommend that such an amendment to our law be adopted as will meet this end."

The Grand High Priest stated that certain charges of embezzlement of the funds of Grand Chapter by the Grand Secretary having reached him, and certain anonymous letters to the same effect having been received by him, he promptly, with the

assistance of expert accountants, proceeded to a rigid examination of the books and accounts of that officer. The result of this investigation is given in the Report of one of these experts, in the following words:

"My investigation satisfies me absolutely that every dollar received by our Grand Secretary has been properly accounted for and paid over to the Grand Treasurer."

And that the Grand Chapter entertains the same opinion, is evinced by the Report of Committee on Address and his re-election to the office. What character is more despicable than the anonymous maligner of another?

The Report of the Trustees of the Home contains the following:

"There are now at the Home 49 girls, 33 boys, 11 old Brothers, 9 widows, 2 old married ladies with their husbands, and 1 maiden lady; total, 105.

"A neat chapel has been built, which will answer the purpose very nicely until the members of the Order of the Eastern Star raise funds enough to build a larger and finer one.

"Services are held every Sunday under the auspices of some of the Masonic Bodies, and Masous and their families attend in large numbers."

The Endowment Fund of the Home now reaches \$50,000.00.

An hour and day were fixed for a visit of two Chapters of the Eastern Star. At the time specified, it having been announced that the visitors were at the door, the Grand Chapter was called to refreshment and they were admitted.

The following amendment to Grand Chapter By-Laws was recommended by the Committee on the recommendation of the M. E. Grand High Priest, and after some discussion, further consideration postponed to next Convocation:

"Section 100 of the By-Laws be amended by adding: That all Royal Arch Masons who have arrived at the age of sixty years, and shall have been Royal Arch Masons in good standing continuously for at least twenty years, upon their own application, or that of a Companion, shall be exempt from the payment of dues; (2) and every Subordinate Chapter shall be exempt from the payment of Grand Chapter dues on all Companions so

exempt under the provisions of this By-Law; (3) that all provisions of these By-Laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed."

It was found necessary to provide "that no Representative from a Subordinate Chapter shall be entitled to mileage and per diem unless all dues of his Chapter to the Grand Chapter shall have been fully paid on or before March 1st of the year in which the session of the Grand Chapter is held."

It was proposed that the By-Laws of the Grand Chapter be amended by substituting "Physical perfection is not required in this Grand Jurisdiction" in lieu of the present requirement, but it was postponed to the next Annual.

The portraits and biographies of all the Past Grand High Priests—forty-nine in number—are found in this number of the Proceedings, and also the proceedings of the celebration of the semi-centennial of this Grand Chapter, which swell the pamphlet into a volume, and not a small one, either.

Isaac M. Abraham, Harrisonville, G. H. P.
William H. Mayo, St. Louis, G. Sec'y.

Companion William H. Mayo, Past Grand High Priest, and now Grand Secretary, presented his Report on Correspondence as usual. It is, as are indeed all from his pen, full of instruction and interest. He had received the Proceedings from Alabama for 1895, and speaks of the Address of Grand High Priest Smith as "a beautifully written composition, and contains much good advice," etc.

This is his seventeenth Report, and from his first have we been familiar with him, as we were with his predecessor, the ever lamented George Frank Gouley.

The pamphlets reviewed covered 8,563 pages, and the Reports on Correspondence occupied 3,937 of them. He gives a table showing these facts, and thus comments:

"It is quite an interesting subject to study for a few moments, then reflect on the fact that the reviewer who has to carefully peruse these 8,563 pages, make selections or extracts from, and comment some, has no easy task before him, if he does justice to those reviewed and has a due regard for the treasury of his own Grand Body."

"A due regard for the treasury" of our Grand Chapter admonishes us to beware, lest we encroach too much upon it, and although there is much which we might quote for the benefit of our readers, we must desist.

MISSOURI—51ST ANNUAL, APRIL, 1897.

This Convocation was opened in Ample Form by M. E. Companion Isaac M. Abraham, Grand High Priest, to legislate for 97 Chapters, with a membership of 6,655, with a decrease during the year of 38.

The Grand High Priest announced that although at the last Convocation a High Priest's jewel was voted to a Past Grand High Priest, it had not been presented because he thought the Resolution in many respects defective, and for other reasons, and when the matter came up in Grand Chapter it was revoked for lack of necessary funds. He is evidently not in favor of a Sanitorium as connected with the Home.

He notified Grand Chapter of the return of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island to the general fold, and says:

"Thus, one by one, the ties of a more universal brotherhood are being wrought, which is cause for joyous congratulations."

But one day has heretofore been allowed this Grand Chapter in which to perform all its duties, but, at the suggestion of the Grand High Priest, hereafter this Grand Chapter will sit, if necessary, during two days, thus avoiding the necessity for hasty and ill-digested legislation. This is a good move, and will doubtless prove beneficial.

Grand Treasurer reported a balance of \$9,245.00.

William F. Kuhn, Kansas City, G. H. P.

William H. Mayo, St. Louis, G. Sec'y.

This latter, as usual, presented the Report on Correspondence, reviewing Alabama for 1896.

He quotes liberally from the Address of Grand High Priest Smith, but without comment.

We had not the Proceedings of Missouri last year, but are in better luck this.

On physical infirmities, we find these remarks most aptly put:

"If the physical infirmities of this Brother were such as to preclude the possibility of his conforming to the ceremonies of the Chapter, they must have been known to his Brethren when his petition was presented, and it should have been returned to him with his fee, and they should not have allowed him to be placed under the ban of a rejected candidate. It may be the practice in Pennsylvania, but it would not be tolerated in any other Jurisdiction."

We heartily endorse his position as expressed in the following:

"In deference to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who submitted the above, we must say that we are of the opinion that a charter can be restored to those only who were members at the time of the forfeiture; other Companions who desire to assist in resuscitating Chapter must petition for affiliation."

MONTANA—7TH ANNUAL, SEPTEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 14; members, 723; increase, 60.

With Representatives from twelve Chartered Chapters, being the whole number at the opening of this Grand Chapter, the other two being then U. D., M. E., Grand High Priest Joseph J. Hindon proceeded to open it in Ample Form.

How large the list of those in whose memory he drops the fraternal tear!

He authorized by Dispensation a Chapter U. D. to continue another year, and one for the organization of a new Chapter, both of which were chartered at this Convocation.

He recommended that the Chapters be empowered to confer honorary membership upon those who have been Royal Arch Masons and paid dues to a Subordinate Chapter for a period of twenty-five years, and that the Chapter be relieved from dues on his account. The Committee on Jurisprudence accordingly formulated an amendment to that effect.

He also recommended that the Constitution be so amended as to make it obligatory that a candidate should not only be in good standing, but a member of a Blue Lodge. The same Com-

mittee submitted such an amendment. He also recommended that for advancement the candidate be required, by examination in open Lodge, to show his proficiency in the preceding Degree.

The Treasurer's balance is \$336.00.

Richard H. Wearing, Butte City, G. H. P.

Cornelius Hedges, Helena, G. Sec'y.

The Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, Companion C. Henges, was fortunate in getting another member of the Committee to share the labor, and we find that Alabama for 1895 was reviewed by Companion E. C. Day in a forcible manner. We copy a part of his remarks under our heading. We have nothing more to say on the subject than that if he and others that think with him are correct, then one of the earliest obligations of Masonry should be so amended as not to interfere with this restless spirit of progress, or rather, innovation:

"The veteran Companion Pillans resumes his duties as Correspondent with expressions of appreciation for the kind treatment accorded him by the Guild. His present Report is very interesting. He has decided views on printed Rituals and certain other evidences of so-called progress, which he does not hesitate to express over and over again. Still the inexorable fact remains that the Chapters and Jurisdictions which show the greatest signs of life, report increased membership, increased attendance, substantial bank accounts with which to relieve the wants of the unfortunate Brother, are those which have adopted these innovations. It may be wrong in thus catering to the depraved cravings of these modern times, but some of us are inclined to the belief that Masonry is a progressive science, and that she more adequately meets the demands of an increased intellectual and social development by appealing to some of the other intellectual faculties, as well as by training and memory. The dangers arising from a printed Ritual are not nearly so great as those to be feared from an increasing indifference growing out of poor work."

We desist from further consideration of the Report, because ours is increasing to too great volume. We wish, however, that our good Companion, Grand Secretary, would require the printer, by type, to indicate the quotations from the comments.

NEBRASKA—30TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 52, including one chartered at this Convocation; members, 3,051; gain, 9.

Representatives from 29 of the 51 chartered Chapters being present, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened by M. E. Charles J. Phelps, Grand High Priest, who proceeded to deliver his Address. "Peace and harmony generally prevail."

One Dispensation for a new Chapter was issued, and this having presented to this Convocation work for inspection, which was found to be good, true and square, it was awarded a charter. He, in his decisions, pronounced less than nine members of the Chapter being present, incapable of transacting the business of a regular Convocation; that an objection made to one High Priest, if by a member of the Chapter, good until removed, even though this High Priest be succeeded by another; that a Chapter failing to elect officers at the proper time, may choose to let the old officers hold over, and still be a regular Chapter; that a High Priest has no right to withhold a dimit ordered by a Chapter, and another decision of local character only.

It appears that in this Jurisdiction "The law of the Grand Chapter prohibits the installation of a High Priest elect until he shall have received the Order of High Priesthood," and in consequence a Chapter was deprived of a High Priest for two years, the one elected not being able to become a member of that Order. Is not this subjecting the members of a Chapter to a supervisory control of this Order? If elected, should he not be installed? If unworthy, should he not be brought to trial and so declared by his Chapter? This rule, as quoted above, gives too much control to the Order, in our opinion. In fact, the wishes of the members of a Chapter need not be considered so much as those of an alien body.

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$2,639.00.

Charles C. Rittenhouse, Hastings, G. H. P.

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

We are pleased at finding this last mentioned officer again taking hold of the reviewer's pen, which for many years he had relinquished, for we have long known him as a clever fellow.

Did he not invite us once to his eyrie on Pike's Peak? This is in vivid recollection now when we are hemmed in, surrounded by unauthorized shot-gun quarantine on all sides for fear of yellow fever. Not long since we received from him a letter containing a request, not yet answered. This came to us only a few days before all mails were forbidden us—train stopped running, no one is allowed to go anywhere for fear of being unable to get back, all roads guarded, and the people shivering with nervous fear of a disease ordinarily more readily controlled than many others that are constantly being treated by the doctors. Temporary insanity rages.

He applies, he says, a patent candenser, but treats us fairly, and gives an excellent synopsis of our Proceedings for 1895.

We are led to infer that he is not more favorable to "visible Rituals" (thank you for the term) than we were.

It is near the witching hour, and in such a season, it is said, the night air is injurious. So we bid our dear Companions good night.

NEVADA—24TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

This M.: E.: Grand Royal Arch Chapter was opened at Reno by the M.: E.: Grand High Priest, J. S. Burlingame, with Representatives from a majority of its Subordinates present. There are 8 Chapters, 287 R. A. Masons, and it is shown that there has been neither loss nor gain. Nevertheless, the Grand High Priest is hopeful for the future, as we see by what follows:

"NEW SOUTH WALES.

"The Grand Chapter of New South Wales, organized in 1889, has never been recognized by this Grand Chapter. It was organized with eight Subordinate Chapters, recognized in 1890 by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, and later by many, if not most of the American Grand Chapters. I trust that formal recognition will be given it at this Convocation, to be followed by an interchange of Representatives."

The Grand High Priest recommended the recognition of the Grand Chapter of New South Wales, and this was done, and exchange of Representatives invited.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$354.00 on hand.

Mathew Kyle, Virginia City, G. H. P.

A. D. Bird, Reno, G. Sec'y.

The Grand Secretary presented the Report on Correspondence, prepared after the adjournment of the Grand Chapter, in obedience to a resolution requiring one this year, passed at this Convocation.

From it we extract what he says under Alabama for 1896, altering, however, the letter "e" to "i" in our name:

"F. J. Pillans' Report on Correspondence was his thirteenth consecutive review. That it was well done is to be expected. In a review of Nevada for 1896, he starts out:

"'From the mountains comes the gratifying intelligence that,' quoting Grand High Priest Coffin's Address as to peace and harmony and more Degrees conferred.

"'Thanks, Companion P., for 'mountains.' Most every one thinks of us only as a 'Desert Country,' not knowing our mountains are rich in gold and silver, and our deserts are only admonitions given us, to limit and qualify our pride, otherwise we would become too proud as a State, and claim the earth and the fullness thereof."

NEW BRUNSWICK—9TH ANNUAL, AUGUST, 1896.

The Grand High Priest, John V. Ellis, states that the receipts of Grand Chapter exceed the expenditures, though it will be necessary to husband their resources, and that there has been a slight gain in membership.

The only difference with any of its sister Grand Jurisdictions is with Scotland, which claims authority over one Chapter that was warranted by her, but it is believed that ere the lapse of another year this will have entirely disappeared.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$151.00.

All necessary business was quickly disposed of and there were elected—

John V. Ellis, St. John, G. H. P.

Freeman W. Wilson, St. John, G. Sec'y.

After installation, Grand Chapter was closed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—78TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1897.

Chapters, 25; members, 3,469; increase, 134.

The Proceedings of this Grand Chapter for the Convocation held as above, now before us, show that M.: E.: Companion William F. Knight presided, with Representatives from all the Chapters present.

After noting the distinguished Companions who have been taken away, and paying a "brief tribute," he proceeded to speak of the manner of conducting the work of the Chapters, saying that as displayed by those visited by him it was generally very good, but that "it is well to continue to guard carefully and be sure that undue levity is never on any occasion permitted." He strongly recommends what by another Grand High Priest is condemned—the introduction of the "Signet of Royal Arch Masonry"—being "confident it will be found instructive to the Companions, and of especial benefit to the officers of Chapters."

His peroration is a beautiful encomium on Masonry, its teachings, its effects and its permanency. But for its length we would copy it here.

Grand Treasurer's balance shows \$1,164.00.

John H. Steele, Petersborough, G. H. P.

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

A delightfully-written Report on Correspondence is again written by M.: E.: Companion A. S. Waite, giving a very clear knowledge of what sister Grand Chapters are doing, and very forcibly pressing his own views on all disputed matters. It contains Alabama for 1896. Having the greatest respect for this profound Masonic scholar's opinions, we are always distressed when we find him at odds with us on any subject, as appears in the necessity for the actual presence of the Charter in the Chapter Hall. If it be only an evidence of the legality of the Chapter, and not necessary to be present, then stop teaching the candidate for the mysteries that it is.

He, with ourself, hold that in the matter of recognition of a new Grand Chapter, it is our province to await the action of the General Grand Chapter and to accept her action, but says "he has no reason to think that we are in the minority on that subject." Well what of it? Is it not better to be right than con-

trolled by numbers and perhaps be wrong? The majority of the mob are those who lynch.

He thinks the Chapters of the Eastern Star should be allowed to occupy halls of Lodges as a courtesy due to the families of Brethren, but he thinks, as he states in what follows:

"Our Companions of North Dakota and Missouri have gone a vast way beyond this, and set an example questionable in its rectitude and dangerous in its tendency. We think it a precedent which our ladies themselves will sometime see reason to regret."

NEW JERSEY—41ST ANNUAL, MAY, 1897.

Chapters, 38; members, 3,304; increase, 71.

Grand High Priest Henry G. Wagoner, after opening the Grand Chapter, proceeded to lay before Grand Chapter an account of his official acts.

He made a few appointments of Representatives to other Grand Chapters, and also some were received to this Grand Chapter.

His Dispensations were few and reasonable. Many waivers of jurisdiction over candidates to other Jurisdictions, thus illustrating the entire harmony and brotherly feeling prevailing. He had occasion to discipline one Chapter for gross misconduct, and this had the desired effect usually produced. He recommended that no Chapter be allowed to occupy a hall not previously inspected and officially reported to be safe for its Convocations. This Grand Chapter accepted and provided for. He also recommended that the High Priests be required to have the Annual Proceedings read in open Chapter twice in each year, and the fact entered on the Minutes; but we see no further action taken than the approval of the suggestion. He urges the Committee on Investigation to be more careful and thorough, and attributes a large part of the ever-increasing army of non-affiliates to the too great ease with which those unfitted for Capitular Masonry obtain an entrance.

The reports of the visiting officers show the Craft in a healthy state.

Balance in treasury, \$1,840.00.

There were no applications for aid before the Committee on

Charity, nor was there anything before that on Warrants and Dispensations.

The retiring Grand High Priest was ordered to be jeweled.

Anthony Schoder, Woodbridge, G. H. P.

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

This last Companion, Past Grand High Priest, made the review of Proceedings, having Alabama for 1896 with others. He makes a fair synopsis of our acts, but does not express his opinion. Indeed, a better abstract of what was done by the several Grand Chapters reviewed could not readily be found—concise and clear.

NEW SOUTH WALES—AUGUST, 1896.

Chapters, 13; members, 117.

A sheet containing the Proceedings of the Convocation of this Supreme Grand Chapter held at Sydney, August, 1896, lies before us. From this we learn that the roll of Chapters numbers 13, and "the number of certificates issued 117." These certificates we presume indicate the number of Royal Arch Masons. We also learn that those elected to office, who have not paid the fees of the office and obtained their Diplomas, are not entitled to Past Rank.

Also "that when a member of Grand Chapter ceases to be a subscribing member of a Private Chapter, he has no right to sit or vote in Grand Chapter; but if he becomes a subscribing member of a Private Chapter within twelve months, he shall then regain his right to sit and vote in Grand Chapter."

We do not see that our Proceedings have been received by them, though those of many other of our American Grand Chapters are mentioned.

T. F. H. Mackenzie, ———, First G. Principal.

Alf. J. Burbidge, Sydney, G. Scribe Ezra.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have received only the Proceedings of the half-yearly Convocation held on the 22nd of February, 1897, with M. E. T. F. H. Mackenzie, First Principal, on the throne.

Grand Chapter of New Zealand received recognition, and an interchange of Representatives accepted.

Some few amendments to the Rules of Grand Chapter were adopted, but they were of local interest only.

There is a small balance of cash in the hands of Grand Treasurer.

NEW YORK—100TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 188; members, 19,898; gain, 498.

This One Hundredth Anniversary of this Grand Chapter was held in the city of Albany on February 2nd, 1897, with M.: E.: George E. W. Stivers, Grand High Priest, on the throne. There were Representatives from 183 Chapters in attendance. The Representative of Alabama was also there. This Convocation was held where the first Convocation, as the first Annual, was held in 1798.

An Address of Welcome was made in behalf of the Masonic Hall Association (of interest for its historical sketch), "welcoming the Grand Chapter to its new home," to which the M.: E.: Grand High Priest made a very appropriate reply.

The Grand High Priest aptly speaks of these annual gatherings as "oases in the desert of life. After speaking in terms of praise of the founders of the Grand Chapter, one hundred years before, he says:

"We look back with gratitude to those founders of our institution with a peaceful happiness in the present, and stimulated by their example and encouraged and strengthened by the success of their undertaking, we greet with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction the beginning of our second century, confident, from its past history, of the future advancement, and of the coming greatness and glory of Capitular Masonry in this Jurisdiction.

"We must not rest upon the achievements of the past. Let us continue in the paths of rectitude and honor, and rejoicing that the principles of Masonry have been our guiding star, pass on to our destiny with the courage of our convictions."

He paid a deserved tribute to the dead; mentions the Chapters visited by him, and they were many; he found many of the old Chapters that had never received a visit from any Grand Officer. Of visitations, he remarks: "I know that the results

are beneficial and lasting." Like ourself, he is a great admirer of the M. E. Master's Degree. He issued a Dispensation for a new Chapter, and the Committee on Charters recommended a Charter.

He expresses his dislike to the law which requires all Master Masons residing in the jurisdiction of a Chapter to apply for the Degrees to that Chapter and no other, and gives very solid reasons for his position, and recommends some modification of this law so that a candidate may apply to the Chapter of his choice, or the one most convenient to his residence, or give to the Grand High Priest some discretionary power in the matter; but as the Greater New York, the prospect for which had given rise to the question, existed only in probability at that time, the Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom this part of the Address had been referred, concluded that it were "better to bear the ills we have than fly to those we know not of," and so postponed the further consideration, which recommendation was adopted. The Grand Lodge of Alabama allows a candidate for Degrees to apply to any Lodge in the State, but a unanimous vote of the Lodge nearest his residence is necessary before his petition can be acted on, and this has been found not to prove inconvenient.

He visited the Masonic Home of New York, and speaks in glowing terms of its inestimable benefit, and urges his Companions not to forget that, as they are all Master Masons, they should do all in their power to foster and maintain it.

As we go through the volume we meet with the portrait of the General Grand Secretary, Christopher G. Fox, which calls to mind the Triennial of 1880 at Detroit, where we had the pleasure of seeing the kind and congenial original, and which has lingered in memory.

Treasurer's balance on hand shows \$5,381.00.

It was resolved "That the Annual Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence hereafter submitted to the Grand Chapter be restricted to fifty pages of printed matter." The Report in the present volume covers 246 pages.

There were no grievances to redress.

John Webb, Jr., Gouverneur, G. H. P.

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

The Report on Correspondence, covering 246 pages, was presented, Companion George J. Gardner, Chairman of the Com-

mittee, and we are gratified that Alabama for 1895 should find a place therein. He quotes liberally and approvingly from the Address of Grand High Priest John G. Smith. Quoting something said by us in opposition to the use of ciphers, he adds:

"We sympathize with him regarding cipher Rituals, and predict that before many years have passed by, that plain text will be the rule and memory's storehouse the exception in imparting the Ritual."

He thinks the Order of High Priesthood is becoming a part of the Report on the Capitular Degrees, and "will become a feature of growing interest" in the future.

He foots up in his table 204,673 R. A. Masons affiliated.

NORTH CAROLINA—49TH ANNUAL, MAY, 1897.

Chapters, 21; members, 765; loss, 6.

This Convocation was opened in Ample Form by M. E. Companion W. S. Liddell, Grand High Priest at Wilmington.

Grand High Priest issued three Dispensations, one to continue a Dispensation, one to revive a Chapter and one for a new Chapter. Two Chapters were awarded charters at this Convocation.

He does not think that being an officer in the Grand Chapter precludes one from being elected to an office in his Chapter, and the Grand Chapter agreed with him.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$233.00.

There were no grievances to be enquired into and adjusted.

Grand Chapter determined to celebrate its semi-centennial and to this end a committee to prepare a place was appointed.

William A. Withers, Raleigh, G. H. P.

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

Companion James Southgate, for the fifteenth time, presented the review of the Proceedings of sister Grand Chapters, including Alabama for 1896, so that it goes without saying that it is a good one. He takes exception to the refusal of our Grand Chapter to place the printed Ritual of these beautiful Degrees into the hands of officers of Chapters, and comments as we quote below. In this we fear he overlooks that if the Chapter Degrees are to be considered by us as Masonic, that once we

promised most solemnly never to write or print, or in any way to make record of them in such manner as to be intelligible to even ourselves. The Grand Chapter of Alabama evidently has a better memory, or perhaps a more tender conscience.

After quoting from Grand High Priest Smith's Address his recommendation to obtain the necessary number of copies for this Jurisdiction from the General Grand Chapter, he thus comments:

"The Committee on the Address, however, made no recommendation, but expressed decided objections to any printed Ritual, and we infer that they propose to jog along with what they have, which is doubtless good, and never obtain uniformity, even in Chapters which may be located in the same city. The Report on Correspondence is from the experienced and able pen of our esteemed Companion, P. J. Pillans, who for so many years has written the Reports for Alabama. He reviews forty-two Grand Bodies, including North Carolina for 1896, to which he gives two pages of fraternal notice."

We are thankful for his approval of our estimate of the value of a Mark at the present time, and the tempest raised occasionally because some Brother, entertaining our views of its utter uselessness, may fail to select and record one.

We give the following extract showing the difference between the dropping from the roll and suspension for non-payment of dues, as to their effect upon Chapter membership. We only state that the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Alabama provides for summary punishment for non-payment of dues, and to make the punishment felt as such. the Grand Lodge has declared that this suspension means suspension from all Masonic rights, and that it knows of but one character of suspension. Now what can a Chapter Mason in Alabama do, but cut off all Masonic communication with one so situated? We hold that the Grand Lodge has the right to construe its own Constitution:

"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 can hold any Masonic intercourse with him?"

"Our law does not suspend for N. P. D., as has been often stated, but simply strikes from the roll. We do not consider

the N. P. D. a crime, and hence when the dues are paid the Companion is restored to membership without ballot. If, therefore, he is dismembered for no crime, he simply remains non-affiliated, and so long as he pays dues in the Chapter he can remain. We do not suspend without trial, and when suspended it is prima facie evidence that the offending one has committed some grave offense, and therefore he must be suspended in the Chapter. We grant you, Companion, that we are bound not to hold Masonic intercourse with one suspended or expelled while under such sentence, but with us the non-affiliate for N. P. D. is neither, and while he cannot visit the Lodge until he pays dues, he can visit the Chapter."

NORTH DAKOTA—8TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

Chapters, 14; members, 813; increase, 15.

The Grand Chapter was opened and presided over by M.: E.: Albert B. Herrick, Grand High Priest. He thinks "Masonry has had a wonderful growth in the young State of North Dakota." Due tribute is paid to the fraternal dead.

He issued but two Dispensations during the year, each of which was to fill offices.

One Chapter was constituted, and to perform the duty he deputed R.: E.: David E. Morgan, Deputy Grand High Priest, who reported that he thinks "the Chapter will prosper and do good work, although having but one Lodge to draw from."

Petitions from two Chapters were received praying Grand Chapter to allow of their consolidation, and Grand Chapter acceded to the request, designating the mode of their procedure.

There was nothing before the Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$48.80, to which is to be added balance in hands of Grand Secretary, \$131.65; total, \$180.45.

Committee on Finance recommended that a fine of \$5.00 be imposed on all Chapters whose annual reports, dues and fees are not in the hands of the Grand Secretary by May 15th of each year, and Grand Chapter so adopted it.

David E. Morgan, Devil's Lake, G. H. P.

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

No Report on Correspondence is found.

NOVA SCOTIA—27TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1896.

This Grand Chapter includes within its Jurisdiction Prince Edward Island and New Foundland also. In it are twelve Chapters, whose members number 706, with a gain of 35.

The above, as well as the Address of M.: E.: Companion Simon W. Crabbe, show that the Craft is growing there, and the Grand High Priest visited nearly all the Chapters and speaks in flattering terms of their condition.

Grand Treasurer showed a balance of \$418.00 in the treasury.

A Constitution, revised, was adopted, and in it we find the provision given below, which differs from the rule obtaining here:

"Sec. 3. When the Grand Lodge, or any other competent authority in the Craft, shall suspend or expel any Brother who is a Royal Arch Mason, the Grand Chapter shall immediately, on such suspension or expulsion, and the circumstances relating thereto being communicated to it by the Grand High Priest, proceed to consider and decide whether such Companion shall be suspended or expelled from his Arch-Masonic functions for the period whilst such Craft suspension or expulsion continues in force. But no Companion shall, under any circumstances, be suspended or expelled until he shall have been summoned and allowed to show cause why such sentence should not be recorded and enforced, and every opportunity afforded of defending himself, either in Grand Chapter, as aforesaid, or before other duly constituted authority."

D. H. Campbell, Halifax, N. S., G. H. P.

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

NOVA SCOTIA—28TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

Chapters, 14; members, 728; loss, 6.

The Provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Foundland are united in this Grand Chapter, which on this, its Twenty-eighth Annual Convocation, held in Halifax, M.: E.: D. H. Campbell, Grand High Priest, presided. During the year he visited all the Chapters, either personally or by proxy, and with one exception the condition of each was reported as fair. The exception was supposed to be past resusci-

tation, but a Grand visitation so inspired the Companions as to infuse new life and vigor, and it has become an important factor within the Jurisdiction. Where there were vacancies in the roll of Representatives the Grand High Priest filled them.

He granted several Dispensations for various purposes, all of which were approved by Grand Chapter.

He speaks of the negligence of Secretaries and Companions in regard to dues thus:

"BACK DUES.

"This is a disease which is sapping the life blood out of the majority of our Subordinate Chapters. It is beyond my comprehension why Companions who would scorn to owe a private debt will allow their dues to the Chapter to go on month after month and year after year, never paying the slightest attention to the demands made upon them. I would strongly urge upon Chapters in every case where a Companion is able to pay, and will not, to enforce the By-Laws."

Donald Darrach, Kensington, G. H. P.

D. H. Campbell, Halifax, G. Sec'y.

There is no Report on Correspondence in the copy of Proceedings received.

OHIO—80TH ANNUAL, OCTOBER, 1896.

The Proceedings of this Grand Chapter we failed to get last year, but we have those for 1896 now at hand.

Chapters, 196; members, 14,265; increase, 504.

Four Chapters were authorized by Dispensation of Grand High Priest Jacob H. Bromwell, and two were chartered.

There appears to have been some little trouble in obtaining receipts from the several new High Priests for the Rituals when transferred to them by their predecessors, though after correspondence this was accomplished. In this way only can these printed Rituals be kept out of the hands of the uninitiated.

The Masonic Home receives notice from the Grand High Priest, the trustees of which report the receipt in the aggregate of \$148,945, and the expenditure of \$147,580.00, leaving a balance of \$1,365.00. The endowment fund has a nest egg of

\$200.00. The number of admissions applied for is 81. Those on file, awaiting action of Committee, 39; of these, 24 are men, 5 are women, and 10 are children.

Here, as elsewhere, difficulty is found in getting brethren to select and record a Mark, and indeed, of what practical use now is the Mark, except as an ornament?

For non-payment of the tax for Masonic Home one Chapter comes near being punished for contempt.

Treasurer's balance, \$496.95.

Congratulations were extended to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, of New South Wales, and for its recognition by the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales, but exchange of Representatives declined because it "has not the supervision over the Royal Arch Degrees within its territory."

A publisher of Cincinnati made a proposition to establish a Masonic periodical, to be published under the censorship of the Trustees of the Home (others to be in no way responsible financially) and to "donate all subscriptions to the Masonic Home." This was endorsed and accepted by Grand Chapter.

The following, after full discussion, was passed:

"Any member who shall have paid dues to this Chapter for twenty-five (25) years shall receive a certificate signed by the High Priest and Secretary, with the seal of the Chapter attached, and in consideration of said certificate the member receiving the same shall pay one dollar, making him an honorable life member of the Chapter. Such honorable life member shall be exempt from payment of all dues, except the annual dues to the Grand Chapter, but shall be subject to discipline of this Chapter."

Geo. D. McBride, Gallipolis, G. H. P.

Chas. C. Kiefer, Urbana, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is presented by Companion S. Stacker Williams, a very Samson in the Guild, reviewing Alabama for 1895.

In his introduction he continues the history of Royal Arch Masonry in this country, but though full of interest, as we had not that in his preceding Report to which he refers, we will make no extract from it.

He notes that the Report of the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address, who reported adversely to the introduc-

tion of the printed Ritual," was signed by two Companions, neither of whom are members of either of the two good working Chapters visited by the Grand High Priest."

The following expresses wisely and clearly the correct position, as we take it, on this question:

"Can a regular Chapter, duly assembled, do clandestine work? The Grand High Priest held the candidate not to be in legal possession of the secrets, and suggested that he be healed. On this point we differ. There may be mistakes made in preliminary proceedings; a Chapter may forget to take a ballot on an application, or in its haste may not call for a report of its Committee appointed to investigate the character and standing of the candidate; yet, if the body is legal and the meeting is legal, its work can not be clandestine. Neither the balloting nor the Report of the Committee puts a candidate in possession of a Degree. The Degree is conferred by and in the body.

"In States where Jurisdictional lines exist, as in Ohio, for instance, scarcely a year passes without a case of the inadvertent invasion by one Lodge of the territory of another. The Degrees are conferred by a Lodge (or Chapter) upon a candidate to whom it has no legal right, and what is done in the case? Why, the infringing body is usually called upon to pay over to the injured body the fees received from the candidate. But no taint attaches to the candidate. Nobody thinks of branding him as clandestine or of directing him to a doctor to be healed."

With one more clipping on Masonic history we are through with our interesting Companion Williams:

"The York Grand Lodge never had any connection whatever with the Grand Lodge, which arrogated to itself the title of 'Ancient,' and which has so often been erroneously termed the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons. The York Grand Lodge never chartered a subordinate outside of England, hence the term York, or Ancient York, as applied to Lodges established by the said so-called Ancient Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and elsewhere in America during our early history, never was appropriate. There never was a Lodge in America to which the term York, as designating its descent from that Grand Lodge, would apply. So far as America is concerned, the term York, or Ancient York Masons is, and al-

ways has been, a misnomer, monitors and fiction writers to the contrary notwithstanding."

OREGON—37TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

Chapters, 25; members, 1,258; loss, 35.

M. E. John H. Irvine, after opening the Grand Chapter, with Representatives from twenty-three Chapters present, read his Address. In it he pays a feeling tribute to the immortal dead. He says that, "with a single exception, harmony and brotherly love seem to prevail throughout our Jurisdiction." He decided that a High Priest had the right to install any Subordinate Officer of the Chapter at any regular Convocation of the Chapter subsequent to his election; that in the absence of the Council of a Chapter, the Junior High Priest of the Chapter present can open the Chapter and attend to the business; that substitutes are permissible in conferring the Royal Arch Degree; that it is imperative for a Royal Arch Mason to have his Mark recorded in the Chapter in which he was made a Mark Master; that a Chapter holds perpetual jurisdiction over rejected material; that a re-elected High Priest cannot install the officers until he has himself been installed.

His Dispensations were all for conferring the Degrees "waiving the statutory time."

He recommended the insertion in the Proceedings of the portraits from year to year of the Past Grand High Priests until the list has been completed; these to be accompanied with a biographical sketch. Grand Chapter approved this, and this volume contains a part.

In consequence of the growing infatuation for a printed Ritual, and that it expresses so clearly what we have heretofore said on the subject, and the possible evils that may result from them, we copy entire a letter from the Grand Lecturer and a Past Grand High Priest to the Grand High Priest on the subject. Some have sneered at our position, and we are told that the cipher is far older than Capitular Masonry itself; but none deny that they are wrong as to the symbolic work. This gives rise to the question, Is Capitular Masonry a legitimate part of the general institution? We do not undertake to answer, but leave this to the individual conscience of each Companion. We

are satisfied that on this question the consciences of our Brethren and Companions are becoming fully aroused.

Following is the letter spoken of above:

"Portland, Oregon, April 27, 1897.

"J. H. Irvine, Esq.,

"M. E. Grand High Priest of Oregon:

"My Dear Sir and Esteemed Companion:—Your letter of the 18th was duly received, and should have been answered before this. I have been debating just what suggestions I had to give in reference to the work as you had requested. In the meantime I have been exceedingly busy in home affairs, which I place first; second, in Council, of which I hope you received a copy. Been congratulated on Oregon being so prompt in issuing Proceedings so soon after assembly, so hope to score one for Oregon. Other duties have taken my time so completely that I have gotten nearly covered up. However, allow me to thank you for the kindly expression in your last, and let me assure you that I will always lend you or others a hand (a sailor expression) in Masonic work, so far as able. I have, unfortunately or otherwise, been unable to devote my attention to the office of Grand Lecturer in Grand Chapter. My presence has not been asked, and I dislike to obtrude myself where I am not especially invited, so I can only report that I do not think the lectures of the Degrees have been generally given in the various Chapters, unless some old hand who did not learn Masonry from a book was at the helm. In answer to your inquiry, permit me to say that I think it may be advisable for you to call in question whether all that is contained in the book and relating to the conferring of the Degree, or whether after the Degree the presiding officer should not give the proper lecture; otherwise the lesson that should be taught has been lost sight of, and our 'strength has been spent in vain.' But the most glaring, the worst thing to deal with is the publication of Rituals in cipher and through the mails sent broadcast to members of the Order, especially those whose names are in the printed Proceedings, asking them to criticise the work and make suggestions as to what may be the established work of their Jurisdiction, and stating they will gladly alter it to suit customers. Now I never learned the esoteric part of Masonry from a book, but all my Degrees in the York Rite were given me orally. My indigna-

tion was aroused since receiving your letter, from the fact of my receiving one by mail, directed to me as Grand Lecturer, and a printed (typewritten) letter addressed to me as Past Grand High Priest, desiring 'a little information,' etc., and stating that 'the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary were vested with authority to arrange and adopt a work for Subordinate Chapters (see Fifteenth Annual Convocation, as per standing Resolution),' and 'we fail to find any information as to what your Ritual was,' so they send me a copy of the 'Signet of Royal Arch Masonry,' with Order of High Priesthood, and Royal and Select and Super Excellent Master appended thereto, for me to 'examine as soon as possible and write an opinion of it.' (All quotations are marked and underscored.) And 'in subsequent edition we will correct and revise all errors, and make it as absolutely perfect as it is possible for a text-book to be,' etc.

"Now more than thirty years since I took upon myself, freely and voluntarily, the O. B. of an E. A., and I received my lecture from men whom I look back upon with the utmost respect and veneration as men and Masons. I received from them a sacred (to me) trust, and I am not only grieved, but astounded, to receive such a proposition. I don't know what the men think—that I am a web-foot, a wild man from the woolly West, or anything they like; but I simply put the book into a package and sent it back to them without a word or reason therefor; and if in receiving it (I placed my address outside) they can conceive of the contempt and utter abhorrence that I feel for such a violation of the first Degree, they may realize in some faint degree the opinion I hold of them and their Masonry.

"Now, to bring this thing to a close, and it has annoyed me exceedingly, I would suggest that you, in some suitable terms, bring this subject before the Grand Chapter; as, if it has been done in my instance, why not in others? The first thing we know, books will be placed in the hands of every Companion on his exaltation, not only for the Degrees received, but for Council and High Priesthood as well; if he can read one, and has made a study of Masonry, he can read the other almost as equally well.

"I have given you a topic, but I am hurried writing this, and can't go to the length I would like to do, but hope you may be able to give the warning in season against the receiving of such works from publishers, to the detriment of the Craft in Oregon.

In other words, the less books we have the better, even if we have to have a select Committee to revise the work now adopted. For that purpose, I would, if agreeable, ask you to recommend the appointment of a Committee of not more than three to revise and adapt the work of the Jurisdiction to the needs of the Craft, and, should such recommendation be adopted, hope you will be able to appoint some good men, who know something more than the reason that 'they done so when I was made,' or 'that's the way they done when I was exalted,' and that such work as is adopted be exemplified before the next Grand Chapter, and all Chapters should be compelled, as in Missouri, to attend the call of the Grand Lecturer and receive the work from him orally—no books.

"Yours for Masonry, pure, simple, and for the betterment of our fellows,
POPE (not the infallible)."

L. N. Roney, Eugene, G. H. P.

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

The Report on Correspondence emanates from the pen of Past Grand High Priest J. M. Hodson, and is one of the completest of the whole. Alabama for 1896 finds a place there.

He notices our effort to cheapen the Degrees, and fears "there is such a thing as being too cheap."

He agrees with us that non-affiliation precludes one being in good standing, and reasons thus:

"If a Companion who is a non-affiliate is in good standing, what shall we say of the one who maintains his membership, keeps all his dues paid and discharges all his other Masonic duties? Is the latter in extra standing? Certainly there ought to be some distinction, and if the latter is only in good standing certainly the former is off color. The fact is, he has no standing; he is out in the cold, cold world, and the quicker he is made to realize that fact the better, both for him and the Fraternity. We never took any stock in these goody-goody half-and-half fellows, anyway."

We are also very much gratified at finding him at one with us as to the requiring entrance to High Priesthood a pre-requisite to installation. What we therein supposed, actually occurred. See Nebraska in this Report. Space filled. Adieu.

PENNSYLVANIA—102ND ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1897.

Chapters, 121; members, 16,439; gain, 482.

Mark Lodges, 3; members, 1,018; loss, 17.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by M. E. Companion Ezra S. Bartlett, Grand High Priest, who proceeded to present his "Annual Report." In it we are told that "there are 33,000 more Master Masons than there are Royal Arch Masons in this Jurisdiction." A feeling tribute is paid to the dead of this and sister Grand Chapters. He states that although the utility of the system of Grand Representatives is denied by some, "we approve the system, and in the exercise of the Constitutional power vested" to appoint Representatives in Grand Chapters of other Jurisdictions, "have commissioned," and proceeds to name them. We give the following as absolutely correct:

"Just here, for the information of those who seem to believe that the powers of the Grand High Priest are unlimited, who should know better, and who are disposed to become critics, if their requests are not granted, let me say, that the Grand High Priest has not the power to set aside a Constitutional Law, nor the power of setting aside the By-Laws of a Subordinate Chapter. As an obligated Executive Officer his is the duty to see that they are not evaded or set aside; that they are obeyed."

The installation of officers of the Grand Chapter, who had been previously elected at the last quarterly Communication, was then had, with—

Companion Michael W. Jacobs, Philadelphia, G. H. P.

Companion Charles Cary, Philadelphia, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence was made by the Chairman, Companion Mathias A. Henderson, Past Grand High Priest, the labor having, however, been divided among the entire six members of the Committee. We regret that the Proceedings of Alabama do not appear in the Report. This doubtless occurs from the fact that this Annual is held in the latter part of December, while our Grand Chapter meets early in the same month, and the Proceedings were not out of the hands of the printers; yet, those of the preceding Convocation should have been on hand.

Companion Henderson has this to say as to the reasons which govern the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania in refusing Degrees to be conferred by a Chapter on one rejected by another:

"A Pennsylvania Chapter rejecting an applicant cannot allow another Chapter to confer the Degrees, for the reasons that they cannot consent to others making a Royal Arch Mason out of material which they did not consider good enough for themselves. In other words, we say to our Chapters: If Bro. A. B. is not good enough for you, he is not good enough for them, and though you do not want him, you cannot consent to another taking him. We hope the above may assist Companion Foster in dispelling the clouds which he says obscure his understanding of the question."

As the two-questions of the propriety and Masonic usage in regard to public installations and of the use of cipher Rituals are before the Grand Bodies, we give what Companion Edgar A. Tennis, P. G. H. P., another member of the Committee, says about them:

"We believe that a visit to our Grand Body, or even to any of our Subordinate Bodies will have the effect of convincing our good Companion that the work can be done, and well done, without the use of Cyphers; and that modesty with which we carry on all our Proceedings is more desirable and attractive than any public exhibition, such as necessarily follows installations when other than members of the Craft are present. We admire the enthusiasm and generally progressive spirit of our Companions in the far-off new country, and don't want them to go astray upon questions that have long since been passed upon by Grand Bodies many years their senior. The conservative spirit of Pennsylvania may not suit the dash and buoyancy of our Western Companions, but in the long years of usefulness you will find that it is the better part of valor to stick close to the ancient usages, customs and landmarks. We shall watch with much interest the further progress of this Grand Chapter, to which we extend our hearty congratulations and fraternal regard. For further information and conviction as to public installations, etc., I respectfully refer you to the Correspondence of Pennsylvania and Maine, wherein Companion Africa, of our Jurisdiction, answers with many historical fac-

and prudent, modern customs, the arguments advanced in favor of any publicity of our Rites."

We find Companion J. Simpson Africa in unison with our heretofore expressed "condemnation of the introduction of the profane behind a curtain in Chapter work." He accounts for it however as "coming from a Jurisdiction where the work in cypher is permitted, it is esteemed a move in the right direction."

He thinks, as we do that the charter must be present to legalize the work of a Chapter.

We could dwell longer with this most valuable Report, but fear that we may stretch our limits too far.

QUEBEC—20TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 11; members, 514; increase, 27.

This Grand Chapter was opened and presided over by M.: E.: Companion J. B. Tresidder, Grand Zerubbabel, who, in his Address, made these remarks relative to the Anti-Masonic Congress held last year in Trent, Italy, somewhat in keeping with our own views as expressed in a special report on the letter of the Grand Master of Masons in Italy which had been referred to this Committee by our M.: W.: Grand Master. We commend the following to our Companions and Brethren:

"It is a matter for sincere congratulation that the peace of the Masonic world has not been interrupted, and that harmony prevails, notwithstanding the fact that since we last met in this Temple a so-called Grand Anti-Masonic Conclave has been held at Trent, and I venture to say that its effect, as far as the Masonic world is concerned, will be to stimulate the individual members of our noble Order to renewed efforts, and to prove, by our conduct and example, that it is our aim to walk uprightly before God and men in our various stations of life, regulating our action by rule and line acceptable to our Maker."

We heartily sympathize with our Companions of Quebec, for we know that the spirit which actuated the ecclesiastics prompts to the same teachings among a very large part of the population surrounding them.

Due respect is paid to the memory of deceased Companions.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$373.73 of the General Fund and of \$667.00 in the Benevolent Fund.

Why have we not a similar fund?

The Committee on the Report of the Grand Secretary expresses astonishment at the tardiness of some of the Secretaries of Chapters in forwarding their returns and dues, and that occasionally there are found High Priests who proceed to exalt a Brother who has not selected a Mark. We ask again of what use is this Mark now, save as an ornament, and why continue it when its usefulness is at an end?

J. B. Tresidder, G. Z.

Will H. Whyte, G. Sec'y.

The Report on Correspondence is from the skilled Companion, E. T. D. Chambers, whose productions have so often heretofore given us pleasure. We are pleased to greet him again. But where is Alabama, and why had her Proceedings not been received?

We hear him saying "The proper preparation of these Reports requires time and thought."

SOUTH DAKOTA—8TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

There are 27 Chapters embraced in this Jurisdiction, numbering a membership of 1,441, and showing an increase during the year of 16.

The Grand High Priest, G. V. Ayres, reports the Craft "in a prosperous condition, so far as I know."

He reported in full the announcement of the reconciliation of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island with the General Grand Chapter.

He issued a Dispensation for the formation of a new Chapter, and this received a Charter.

From Report of Grand Secretary we find that he computes the gains in membership at 82, and the losses at 130, which would make the net loss 48, while by his synopsis of returns, deducting membership in 1896 from that in 1897, will show an increase of 16. Now which?

Treasurer's balance, \$1,259.52.

Samuel J. Coyne, Aberdeen, G. H. P.

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

M.: E.: Companion L. G. Levoy, Past Grand High Priest, once more presented one of his pleasing and instructive Reports on Correspondence, reviewing the Proceedings of forty-five Grand Chapters, including those from Alabama for 1896 and 1897.

We sincerely thank him for the impulse that prompted the wish that we might live and write thirty more Reports, but not for the wish itself. The labor is now great, but how with a few more years added to those already more than a decade beyond the usual span?

This from his conclusion :

"All along the line come words of cheer which confirm us in the belief that in the near future may be expected a dawning of prosperity in the way of increased membership and interest never before experienced in the annals of Royal Arch Masonry, but one thing mars the glowing prospect, and that is the great army of non-affiliates which seems to continue to grow with increasing regularity. We are pleased to note, however, that some Grand Chapters are seeking a means to curtail the evil, and that many Correspondents are more interested in the subject and agitating it, and undoubtedly good will follow in the checking of this menace to the welfare of Capitular Masonry."

TENNESSEE—88TH ANNUAL, JANUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 69; members, 2,602; increase, 108.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by the M.: E.: W. D. Henderson, Grand High Priest, who stated in his Address that he was "pleased to report that the spirit of peace and harmony, which should ever characterize all Royal Arch Masons, exists in all its love and beauty between our own and all sister Jurisdictions."

He was called on but for two Rulings, both of which we think in accord with Masonic Laws. He thinks the use of substitutes should if possible be avoided.

Dispensations were issued by him for four new Chapters; two of these received charters and two others which had been working, we presume, under Dispensation, continued, and the other two were probably continued.

The Grand High Priest makes a beautiful conclusion to his Address, on what is Masonry and the duties of Masons, of

which the Committee on Jurisprudence says: "We would that every Mason could read the conclusion of this Address," &c.

Balance in hands of Grand Treasurer, \$1,992.42.

There were no appeals.

Isaac J. Thurman, McMinville, G. H. P.

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

Companion Henry H. Ingersoll made the Report on Correspondence, including in it Alabama for 1895.

He fears unfavorable deductions may be drawn from the figures shown in the Proceedings, but hopes that what we have "lost in numbers" we have "gained in discipline and devotion."

He approves of the plan adopted of increasing the number of lecturers and requiring them to visit all the Chapters and make a full report of the condition of the Chapters severally, Masonically, materially and financially.

The following from his conclusion is so apt, and we hope may prove serviceable that we give it to you, Companions, who know our views on such innovation:

"The 'new woman' is not wholly absent from Freemasonry. In the Northwest, especially, her voice is heard in the Lodge Room—not merely as a quartette singer, but also as a solo speaker. The Eastern Star is shining forth, and the wives, sisters and daughters of Masons, being organized into Lodges, are becoming familiar with affairs that belong only unto men. Many Brethren and Companions in some States are encouraging this new departure.

"It is a passing show, of course. And when the craze is over, when the epidemic ceases, we shall be, or if not we, our children will be what we were and our parents before us.

"The men will grow beards, and sing bass, and win bread, and be fathers, and wear pants, and fight the battle of life in field and farm, in shop and mill, in pulpit and forum; and the women, God bless them, will be mothers and wives and sisters and daughters of men, queens of the home, ruling there by right divine, and making it like heaven, dispensing love and joy in human hearts, and being happiest of mortals from making others happy; in their own sphere will they rule and shine 'a little lower than the angels.'

"Let us, Companions, not encourage their mania for clubs

and circles and Lodges and Chapters, or anything that tends to lower them in our esteem, weaken the home tie, destroy their holy influence or bring them to our level!"

TEXAS—47TH ANNUAL, DECEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 140; members, 6,205; increase, 107.

This Convocation was opened in Ample Form by M.: E.: Companion A. S. Bunting, Grand High Priest.

He issued a Dispensation for a new Chapter, which, having presented work fit for the Temple, was awarded a charter.

Six Chapters were revived.

In this there is a Grand Committee on Work, such as we have, whose terms expire by law all at one time, and the Grand High Priest recommended that they be made to expire annually, one at a time.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$5,421.00.

A very grandeloquent Address on the beauties and value of Masonry was delivered by the Grand Orator, Companion William Clark.

Upon report and recommendation of the Committee on Jurisprudence, the following Resolutions were adopted:

"No. 2. Resolved, That if any Mark Master, who receives the Degree after the adoption of this Resolution, fails to 'choose a Mark,' and furnish the same to his Chapter within twelve months from the date of 'marking,' he shall be deemed guilty of a Masonic offense, and may be proceeded against by his Chapter in the same manner as now provided for trials for Masonic offenses.

"No. 3. Resolved, That any one a Mark Master at the date of the adoption of this Resolution, who has not heretofore chosen a Mark, and shall fail to do so within twelve months after the adoption of this Resolution, may be proceeded against as in cases provided for in Resolution No. 2.

"No. 4. Resolved, That the Secretaries of all Chapters be instructed to notify all members of their Chapters, who have not chosen a Mark, of these Resolutions."

R. O. Roundswall, Waco, G. H. P.

George Lopas, Jr., Houston, G. H. P.

The Report on Correspondence, which includes Alabama for 1895, and is the third from him, and, like those preceding it, betokens a clear head and sound discrimination. He says the Address of Grand High Priest J. G. Smith "is short, but shows earnest zeal and intelligence." Yet, quoting a passage from it, he says, "This shows that Alabama Chapters are not endowed with enough enthusiasm to set the world on fire."

From under Arkansas, we copy :

"We intended to copy the entire Report on Correspondence from Companion Laughlin, but find when too late that most of it is on the back of the above clippings. It covers about one-half page, and is devoted almost entirely to an argument in favor of a written or printed 'cipher Ritual,' and presents the making and deposit of the 'key' as his argument and precedent. Great Caesar! Did Companion Laughlin intend this as an argument in favor of 'printing' or 'writing' the 'Ritual'—even in cipher?—conditions are entirely dissimilar. The object to be sought is entirely different, and if Companion Pillans will interpose a general demurrer, we will act as judge and sustain it."

We assure our Companion we have no idea of entering into any contest, for if this Capitular Masonry is a part of the Grand Masonic Order, then every E. A. knows that all of the ciphers are wrong, and if it be no part of the Order, then Companions may be governed by their tastes. We, however, have been taught to look upon this as a branch of the original tree, and not an independent shoot, only said to be so. We will, however, add what was once before said by us, that if persisted in this was but the beginning of the end.

He defines, we think, very clearly the position of the Grand Chapter of Texas in her relation to the General Grand Chapter, and we cannot see why there cannot be a feeling of harmony between them. Here is what he says:

"No, Companion Singleton, the Companions of Texas understood the relationship. The General Grand Chapter is an 'independent sovereign body.' Those Grand Chapters who are members of that sovereignty are subject to its authority. It would be an anomaly to say that a constituent member of a body is independent of the sovereign of which it is constituent. The General Grand Chapter is supreme, and some of the members of the corps have already insisted that it shall become a

'governing body.' All it has to do is to declare itself a 'governing body,' and all the members of the household are bound by its sovereign act."

When reviewing Kentucky, he quotes from Companion Statons, of Vermont, thus, as to retrenchment of expenses:

"These retrenching fellows never think it necessary to retrench on themselves. Grand Chapter pays \$3.00 per diem during the session, and eight cents per mile one way. The railroads never fail to give reduced rates of one and one-third fare, making the traveling expenses about one-half the amount allowed. Some of the members—a very few, however—stop at hotels, paying the full amount of per diem. Some stop at hotels, paying two-thirds of the amount, while a large majority stop at cheap hotels, paying one-third the amount allowed.

"But every time a move at retrenchment is made it always strikes the class of members and officers who do the hard work, while the retrenchers stand off and look on with self-complacency that the work goes on by those whom they would cut off entirely, and do nothing but draw their mileage and per diem, have a good time, and go home."

And no one has felt this more than Companion Staton, but our Texas Companion very properly says:

"Cut it off, and use the money to pay your printer and other things needful. We don't pay mileage or per diem either. We have good attendance, and our members—a great many of them—travel about three times as far as they can in Kentucky without traveling around the State, and they put up at good hotels and boarding houses."

Neither do we in Alabama, either in Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter, yet our attendance is usually fairly large.

Of physical qualifications, under Massachusetts, we hear him saying, as to a decision of the Grand High Priest:

"The true English of this position is: If he can be made to comply, that is all that is necessary. If you can dispense with one leg, you can dispense with one arm also, one ear, two, as for that matter, and blind in both eyes. Glasses are no substitute for limbs; they are simply aids to the vision."

We can't give all his good things, else we might bankrupt the treasury.

VERMONT—80TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

Chapters, 27; members, 2,783; increase, 63.

All the Chapters were represented. M.: E.: Grand High Priest Daniel W. Nicholson proceeded to open the Grand Chapter, and after the appointment of Committees, delivered his Address. In it is found the following paragraph, which we commend to our Companions. He pays a feeling tribute to the dead. He speaks thus flatteringly of Masonry:

"Our institution boasts its origin in the early ages of the world; it retains its ancient laws uncorrupted, its venerable rites and expressive symbols unchanged, and its primeval ceremonies entire. The stupendous pyramids which were raised, the lofty obelisks inscribed, and the magnificent temples built by Masonic hands, have yielded to the ravages of time; but the institution itself has survived their overthrow and outlived their glory. It will continue still, and flourish till—

"The great globe itself
And all which it inherits, be destroyed,
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."

"Like the sun, its emblem, it has at times been obscured. The clouds of error and the darkness of ignorance have overshadowed its lustre, but from the temporary penumbra it has always emerged with increased splendor. And although from low minds mists of prejudice may still arise and dim the clearness of its horizon, accusing us of sacrilege because we call our officers Bible names, before the meridian light of reason, truth and wisdom they will quickly disappear."

He recommended a careful revision of the Ritual of the Grand Chapter, and, when adopted, its being printed in cipher and five hundred copies be printed for distribution, and the Committee to which it was referred recommended and it was adopted:

"That the entire subject of the preservation of the esoteric work, as adopted by the Grand Chapter, its dissemination in the future and its custody, be referred to the incoming M.: E.: Grand High Priest and his associates of the Grand Council, with full authority to act; provided, however, that nothing in this

shall be construed as authorizing any change of the adopted work, except to conform to the requirements of the M. E. General Grand Chapter and the essentials determined upon by that Grand Body."

The Committee on Grievances expressed great gratification on finding their office a sinecure.

Grand Treasurer reports a balance of \$6,225.00.

Eugene S. Weston, New Haven, G. H. P.

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

The volume of Proceedings contains also an account of the Annual Convocation of D. D. G. H. Priests held in Burlington in October, wherein sundry addresses were made on the several Degrees of the Chapter, and but for want of space we would give you parts as both interesting and instructive.

Our esteemed Companion, Past Grand High Priest Marsh O. Perkins, again presents one of his excellent Reports on Correspondence, in which Alabama for 1896 finds a place.

Noting the fact that a proposition to confer the Degrees gratuitously on ministers of the Gospel, he announces his views, which we think sound, thus:

"Why such class distinction, we cannot comprehend. Why not set up 'the butcher, the baker, and the candle-stick maker' in the same category? If a Reverend Brother desires the Degrees, and has not the where-with-all to pay for them, let the Brethren individually 'chip,' but don't rob the Chapter's treasury because a Brother wears a white choker or a clerical coat and visage."

And alluding to us, he says:

"And in many other things, but is as far away on 'printed' Rituals as ever. We have the utmost admiration for his consistency in the matter, but frankly confess we believe that the darkness in the land of the Alabama Ritual will never be relieved until some method is devised to carry light to every Companion in the Jurisdiction. But isn't our good Brother straying into the paths of heterodoxy in the following under North Carolina?—

"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.' "

We would not that our esteemed Companion should think hard of us, but we only expressed our conviction, the result of our observation and experience. Now there is much written of the Past Master's Degree, in which most excellent lessons are taught, and we are free to confess that the recollection of them has often moulded our course while presiding for many years over a Lodge. Yet, though a Degree of Capitular Masonry, and one lesson clearly and forcibly taught, that a Master of a Lodge should always be certain that the charter of the Lodge was within his reach, we find a Grand High Priest ruling that a High Priest need not have the charter in his Chapter Hall, for it is "only an evidence" that his Chapter is legally permitted to work. Strange, and we confess, to us, incomprehensible inconsistency.

VIRGINIA—89TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1896.

Chapters, 39; members, 2,504; increase, 97.

The Proceedings of this M. E. Chapter for 1896 are before us. This Convocation was presided over by M. E. Jacob Bumgardner, Grand High Priest, who recounted his official actions to the Grand Chapter. Proper attention is paid to the memory of the immortal dead, among whom was their venerable Grand Chaplain and Past Grand High Priest G. W. Dame, of whom the Grand High Priest says:

"No stronger evidence of his exalted worth and the love of his brethren can be given than the fact that for more than a quarter of a century he led the Craft in its devotions at the several Annual Sessions of the three Grand Bodies of this Jurisdiction."

Grand High Priest attended a school of instruction and was greatly pleased with its probable results, and asked Grand Chapter to continue to aid these schools.

He is enthusiastic about the Home, and endorsed some recommendations of his predecessors urging the Grand Chapter to

"take action looking to the establishment of some distinctive feature bearing its name" and Grand Chapter made an appropriation not to exceed \$300.00, should there be such balance after the expenses of Grand Chapter had been paid.

A Dispensation for a new Chapter was issued and it was chartered at this Convocation.

There were no decisions wanted nor were there any grievances to redress.

John P. Steffner, Bristol, G. H. P.

James B. Blanks, Petersburg, G. Sec'y.

The Grand Treasurer reports at this Convocation a balance of \$43.47.

We have this year a Report on Correspondence from the pen of M. E. Companion C. L. Nesbitt, Past Grand High Priest, who kindly reviews Alabama for 1895. We infer that he has no greater liking for the Past Master's Degree than ourself.

He approves of the position taken by our Grand Chapter adverse to a charge for a dimit, and that there should be no fee for affiliation, for "every proper inducement should be offered to Companions to affiliate." So far we agree, but we cannot agree with him when he says the presence of the charter is not necessary, if the presiding officer knows it is in safe keeping, for if this be so, why not relegate the P. M. Degree to its proper keeping, the Symbolic Lodge, or why teach in the Chapters what must not be practiced?

He advocates requiring from all visitors the exhibition of a receipt from Lodge or Chapter, or both, for the dues of the last year. This we believe also would be very annoying to the frauds and tramps, but beneficial to Lodges and Chapters and individual Masons.

The Report is an excellent one, concise, full and with opinions sound generally and forcibly expressed, and although his first needs no apology as made in the conclusion. We trust we may meet again, Companion.

WASHINGTON—12TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1895.

Chapters, 17; members, 1,143; decrease, 2.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by M. E. Grand High Priest, Edward R. Hare, when Grand High Priest delivered his Annual Address. In this he congratulates the

Companions on the harmony and good feeling existing between the several Grand Chapters and also the various Chapters of this Jurisdiction. He granted by Dispensation on several occasions the use of a substitute in conferring the Degrees.

He made one appointment of a Representative, in accordance with the practice of the Grand Chapter, but adds:

"I should be pleased to see the Grand Chapter abandon a practice which can never be of any benefit to us and which may do us harm; and certainly the cost of this system can, under the present conditions, be dispensed with and our surplus still be none too great."

In which he may be right, but whence the cost?

In obedience to the requirement of the Grand Chapter he applied for and obtained the requisite number of copies of the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter, when he discovered many errors in the key which he thinks may lead to erroneous interpretation of the Ritual, and recommended that this be referred to a committee for adjustment. Thus we are not yet nearing that ignis fatuus, uniformity of work.

Grand Treasurer reports cash balance \$2,037.43.

The Grand Representative system, in accordance with recommendation of the Grand High Priest was "abolished in this Jurisdiction."

A provision was made whereby a Chapter might suspend from all Masonic rights as a Royal Arch Mason a member indebted to the Chapter for one year's dues.

Companion Weatherwax, Grand Orator, delivered an oration in verse, which he substituted for that he had prepared.

W. LeRoy Darby, Pomeroy, G. H. P.

Yancy C. Blalock, Walla Walla, G. Sec'y.

Again the Grand Secretary gives us his ruminations over the Proceedings of various sister Grand Chapters, among which Alabama for 1895 makes her appearance. We are kindly treated, and only wish we could grasp that hand.

We like what he says in the following, and the way he says it:

"We never could understand why so many Companions and Brothers advocated the admission of ministers free. From a financial standpoint the average minister is a great deal better

able to pay the fees for the Degrees than the average layman, and as a worker in the fraternity he is a failure—owing to his clerical duties, we suppose. You seldom see him at your Convocations, except on rare occasions; therefore his influence as a Christian Companion is lost to us. Hence we advocate, the 'equal footing plan' for all."

We must, however, 'tho reluctantly, bid this good and jovial Companion good night.

WASHINGTON—13TH ANNUAL, JUNE, 1897.

In this State are 17 Chapters; with one U. D. its membership is 1,131, and the table shows a loss of 10.

Grand High Priest Walter L. Darby granted a Dispensation for a new Chapter, and at this Convocation it was deemed worthy of a charter.

Cash balance on hand, \$2,140,00.

Two copies of the "Signet of Royal Arch Masonry" was ordered to be purchased for the use of Grand Chapter in installing officers, and Grand Chapter adopted as the maximum of limit to the Report on Correspondence "sixty pages or less."

Grand Chapter proceeded to elect officers with the following result:

Carmi Dibble, New Whatcom, G. H. P.

Yancy C. Blalock, Walla Walla, G. Sec'y.

The latter presented the Report on Correspondence, but we do not find that he has confined himself to the limit prescribed by Grand Chapter, as it covers 118 pages, with Alabama for 1896 along with the crowd.

He quotes the recommendation of Grand High Priest Smith as to the adoption and introduction of the Ritual prepared by the General Grand Chapter, without comment, however, nor does he tell how our Grand Chapter disposed of it.

WEST VIRGINIA—26TH ANNUAL, NOVEMBER, 1896.

Prof. Samuel N. Myers, M. E. Grand High Priest, opened the Grand Chapter in Ample Form, and it being announced that the M. E. Grand High Priest, George L. McCahan, was in waiting, he was introduced and greeted with the grand honors.

The Grand High Priest then delivered his Address.

He granted Dispensations for two new Chapters, and to both were charters awarded.

Grand Treasurer reported a balance of \$834.36.

There are now 23 chartered Chapters, with a membership of 1,381, and an increase during the year of 165.

No questions were before the Committee on Jurisprudence.

The Committee on Work, for want of time, did not exemplify the work.

Having concluded the business of the Convocation the Grand Chapter was closed and the members repaired to the banquet hall, where preparation had been made for the celebration of the quarter centennial of this Grand Chapter.

The Proceedings of this celebration are published in the copy of the Proceedings and appear to be in lieu of a Report on Correspondence.

James McCahan, Wheeling, G. H. P.

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

WISCONSIN—47TH ANNUAL, FEBRUARY, 1897.

Chapters, 73; members, 5,894; increase, 87.

The Address of M. E. Thomas Pryor, Jr., is concise and to the point. He issued Dispensations for two new Chapters, which were chartered at this Convocation.

He declined to issue some Dispensations asked for, because he did not think the Grand High Priest had any such power, there being no authority given to him in that direction, and not believing that there were any prerogatives attached to the office of Grand High Priest to follow a Grand Master, and finally, because this power is forbidden by the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

His decisions are few, but sound. He thinks that money spent in defraying the expenses of Grand Officers in making visits to Subordinates would be like "good seed in good ground," and be productive of a rich harvest.

He recommended that provision be made for the expenses of delegates to the General Grand Chapter, and an appropriation for that purpose was made.

For the fourteenth time Companion William C. Swain pre-

sented the Report on Correspondence, and we are gratified to find Alabama for 1895 still in the front rank.

We find him "inclined to agree with the Committee on Jurisprudence" in its Report adverse to the recommendation of Grand High Priest Smith to put the Ritual of the General Grand Chapter into the hands of the officers of the Chapters. By the way, this or a printed Ritual, is sometimes spoken of as The Ritual, The Black Hawk, The Key, and sometimes as The Hindoo Theology.

His allusion to the pleasant day at Detroit recalls most vividly the many pleasant acquaintances made there and the many who have passed the veils. If one lives long, how many must he see drop by the way, and how lonely seems the journey on!

Incidentally his views on the Wisconsin plan of administering Masonic relief to those needing help, are given, though it be a Grand Lodge plan; but we give what he said and why he said it. He quotes the first sentence from us and then we have his views:

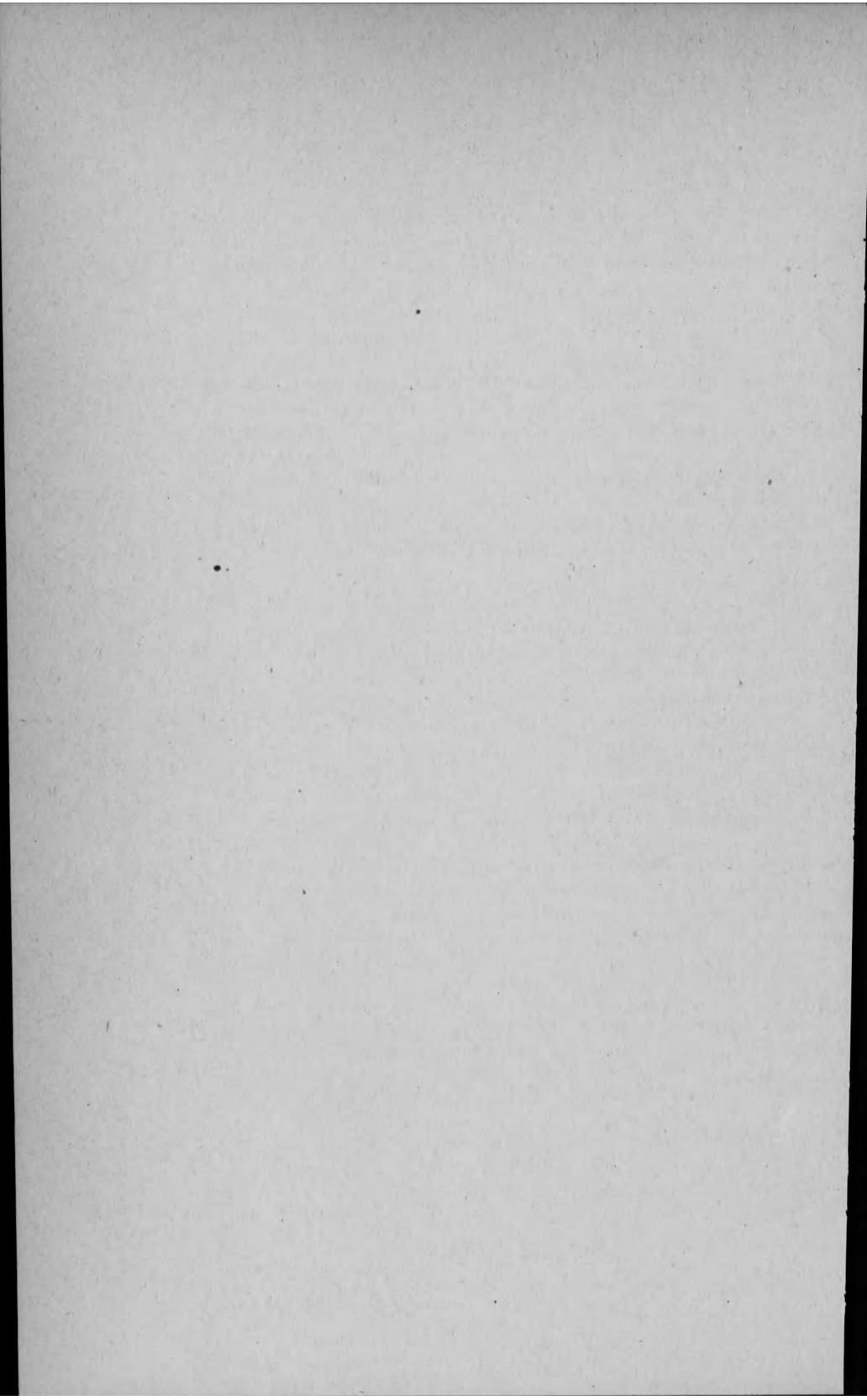
"'He is a strong advocate of the plan proposed by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, and submitted to the various Grand Lodges for the adoption of some rule for organized charity whereby the amount expended in behalf of a needy Brother might be refunded on compulsion.'

"Which four lines sets us to thinking that the opponents of the 'Wisconsin proposition' dwell too much upon what they call the compulsory feature of the plan, and entirely lose sight of the fact that it was intended not only to make sure relief to worthy distressed Brethren, but to aid in detecting frauds, and to relieve weak Lodges of burdens they are unable to bear, by bringing Grand Lodges, with their charity funds, to their rescue, and all this under such restrictions as Grand Lodges might impose. This writer is the author of the proposition, and is glad to say that it is gaining ground, and that he believes that when it is understood it will generally prevail."

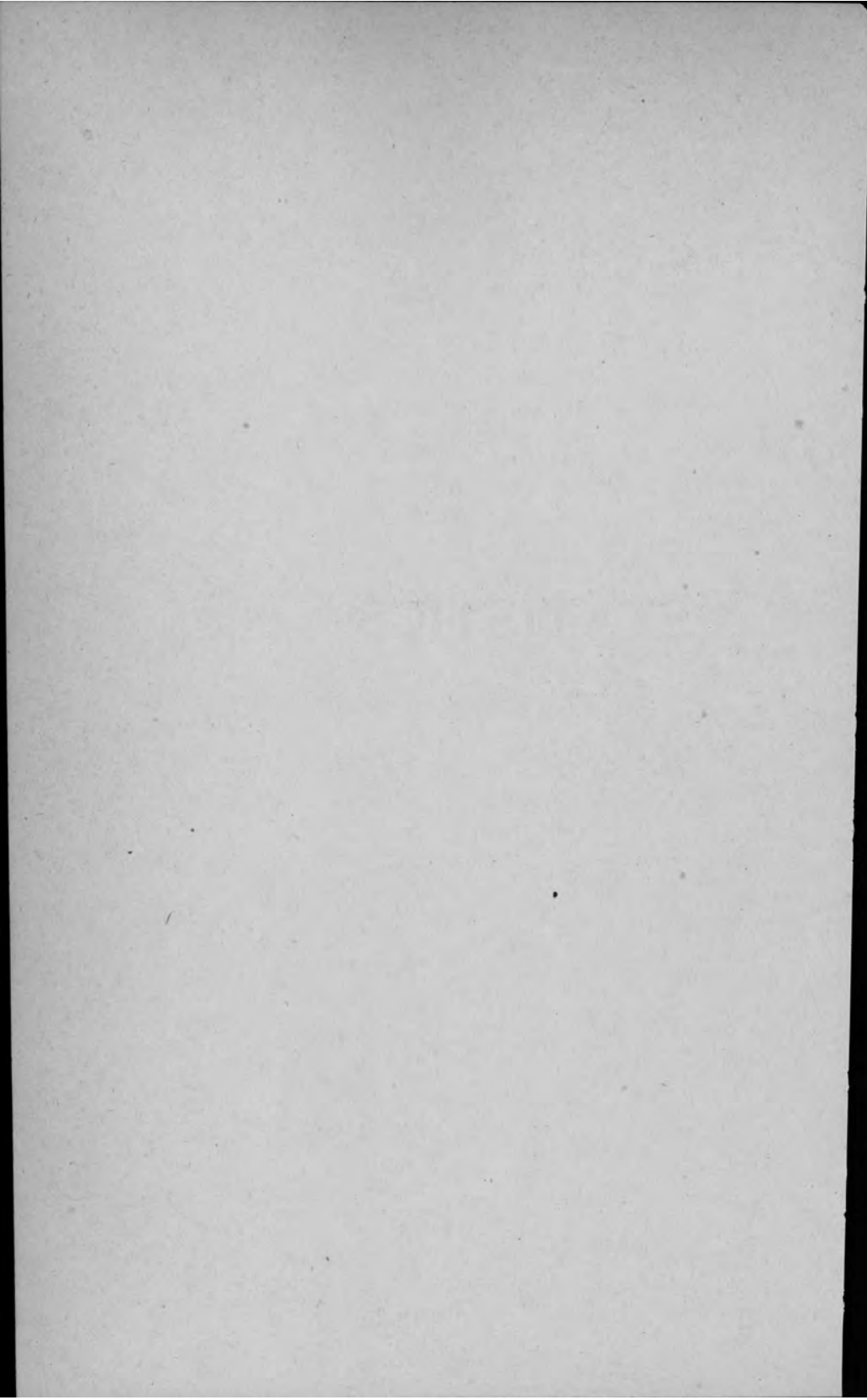
Adieu, dear Companions, for the nonce. We hope to hear from you and talk with you again.

Fraternally submitted,

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.

Number.	NAME.	No. of Members.	Am't of Dues rec'd	Advanced.	Presided.	Rec'd & Accepted.	Exalted.	Affiliated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Rejected.	Suspended.	Reinstated.
10	Tuscumbia	27	\$ 19 75	3	3	3	3					4	2
12	Marion	20		3	3	3	3			2			
19	Mt. Moriah	32	24 00	7	6	6	6		1	1			
21	Mobile	43	32 25	1	1	1	3	2	1			5	
22	Montgomery	48	38 00	6	6	6	6	2	3			2	
23	Talladega	30	22 50	2	2	2	2	1		1		5	1
24	Eufaula	46	34 50			3	3					1	
25	Courtland	12	9 75							1		1	
26	Union	31	23 50										
28	Sts. John	43	32 00					1		1			
32	Fulton	21	15 75							1		2	
38	Decatur	31	23 25	2	2	2	2		3			9	1
40	Camden	12	9 00							1			
54	Tyrian	61	45 75					3				2	
56	Zerubbabel	14	10 50	3	3	3	3		1				
63	Clayton	29	21 75	8	8	8	8		1			10	
64	Central	17	12 75						1	1			1
71	Landmark	36	27 00	3	3	3	3		1	1		3	
76	Elyton	11	6 75										2
79	Hillabee	28	21 00	3	3	3	3	12				1	
80	Myles J. Greene	24	18 00	5	5	5	5						
85	Gaston	19											
88	Springville	17	12 75					1				6	
92	Notasulga	14	10 50						2				
93	Columbus	18	13 50										
96	Daniel Pratt	17	12 75										
99	Thomas M. Bragg	33	16 50	13	13	13	13	1				2	
100	Rock Mills	14	21 00										
101	Mineral City	146	108 75	10	10	10	10	2	4	1			3
106	Graham	21	15 75						1				
107	Fort Payne	23	17 25			1	1		1				1
108	Pratt City	48	36 00										
109	Blocton	17	12 25									3	
		1023	\$720 75	69	68	69	72	25	20	11		56	11

+ SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

- Tuscumbia, No. 10—James Jackson, James A. Short, Stephen E. Bradley, George W. Baldwin.
 Mobile, No. 21—L. Orlando Hicks, Joseph Neno, Jno. W. Taggart, W. B. Rowland, E. L. Moreshol.
 Montgomery, No. 22—McDuffie Cain, S. B. Patton.
 Talladega, No. 23—N. M. Franks, W. T. Hamilton, Thos. C. King, J. A. Mullendore, L. M. Otts.
 Eufaula, No. 24—Moses Alexander.
 Courtland, No. 25—Wm. V. Chardavoyne.
 Fulton, No. 32—James E. Kennedy, Isaac M. Rogers.
 Decatur, No. 38—Lycastus S. Robinson, Ephraim Lyons, Edward W. Collier, James P. Clark, John D. Wyker, David T. Wachter, John Mathews, John B. Turley, John E. Banks.
 Tyrian, No. 54—Josephus S. Beard, Ira Champion.
 Clayton, No. 63—A. H. Alston, H. Collins, J. T. Floyd, B. C. Glenn, J. M. Hobdy, Alto V. Lee, Sr., Seth Mabry, A. L. Oliver, W. J. Valentine, James M. Williams.
 Landmark, No. 71—Levi Wilkinson, Needham Hughes, Charles H. Loftin.
 Hillabee, No. 79—F. M. Partridge.
 Springville, No. 88—Thomas D. Bradford, David F. Crawford, Elijah M. Conden, Green B. Rowell, Thos. H. Sikes.
 Thos. M. Bragg, No. 99—James C. Massey, Allen Reaves, Byron C. Williams.
 Blocton, No. 109—Eli Shortridge, Alford H. Gentry.

SUSPENDED FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

- Blocton, No. 109—James T. Reed.

RE-INSTATED.

- Tuscumbia, No. 10—James Caden, Edward R. Simms.
 Decatur, No. 38—John B. Graham.
 Talladega, No. 23—Robert J. Cunningham.
 Central, No. 64—W. M. Rhodes.
 Elyton, No. 76—George M. Morrow, Ellis M. Veitch.
 Mineral City, No. 101—Charles Drennen, Jno. S. Clements, Jno. W. Mullen.
 Fort Payne, No. 107—William R. Poe.

DIED.

Marion, No. 12—William F. Davis, Dec. 21, 1896, aged 68.

John H. Poole, Jan. 27, 1897, aged 69.

Mt. Moriah, No. 19—Duncan Dew, Jr., Oct. 9, 1897,
aged 66.

Talladega, No. 23—Richard R. Hurley, June 14, 1897,
aged 70.

Courtland, No. 25—Daniel B. Campbell, Dec. 1, 1896,
aged 62.

Sts. John, No. 28—Theodore A. Hall.

Fulton, No. 32—John W. Menefee, May 29, 1897.

Camden, No. 40—John R. McDowell, Feb. 7, 1897,
aged 84.

Central, No. 64—P. M. Fancher, June 16, 1897, aged 81.

Landmark, No. 71—George H. Thomas, Feb. 1, 1897,
aged 52.

Mineral City, No. 101—LaFayette Henderson, April
28, 1897.

RECAPITULATION.

Chapters that made returns	33
Chapters that paid dues	31
Chapters that were represented	31
Number of Members present	84
Members reported at this Convocation	1023
Dues received at this Grand Convocation	\$720.75

WORK OF THE YEAR.

Advanced	69
Presided	68
Received and Accepted	69
Exalted	72
Affiliated	25
Dimitted	20
Died	11
Suspended for Unmasonic Conduct	1
Suspended for Non-Payment of Dues	56
Reinstated	11

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

Chapters square on the books	31
Chapters delinquent	7
Charters forfeited	2

Eunomia, No. 5, and McKinley, No. 48.

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	Thomas T. Rowland	Amos L. Moody	Monday aft 2d Sat.
10	Tuscumbia	Tuscumbia	Colbert	Tuscumbia	J. O. Bailey	Gains R. Johnson	1st Tuesday.
12	Marion	Marion	Perry	Marion	Joseph P. McQueen	James P. Barclay	2d Friday.
19	Mt. Moriah	Eufau	Greene	Eufau	Oscar J. Cohen	Charles E. Pearce	1st & 3d Mondays.
21	Mobile	Mobile	Mobile	Mobile	Charles B. Westcott	William H. Dingley	2d Tuesday.
22	Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery	Montgomery	William J. Rhodes	George M. Joiner	2d Friday.
23	Talladega	Talladega	Talladega	Talladega	George A. Beauchamp	William T. Holliman	3d Thursday.
24	Eufaula	Eufaula	Barbour	Eufaula	Nalcolm J. Gilchrist	Henry C. Holleman	3d Tuesday.
25	Courtland	Courtland	Lawrence	Courtland	John B. Christian	Junie Harwood	1st Thursday.
26	Union	Uniontown	Perry	Uniontown	Thomas P. Whitby	Albert S. Starr	4th Monday.
28	Sts. John	Selma	Dallas	Selma	Thomas A. Groves	Eugene M. Marshall	3d Friday.
32	Fulton	Orville	Dallas	Orville	William E. Oakley, Sr.	Thomas F. Turley	4th Tuesday.
38	Decatur	Decatur	Morgan	Decatur	William A. George	Joseph P. Benson, Jr.	Friday on or bef 1. m.
40	Camden	Camden	Wilcox	Camden	Josiah Jernigan	Joel D. Murphree	2d & 4th Saturdays.
54	Tyrian	Troy	Pike	Troy	Cyrus A. Cowart	Thomas A. Shephard	4th Saturday.
56	Zerubbabel	Camp Hill	Tallapoosa	Camp Hill	George W. Roberts	John R. Appleton	4th Friday.
57	Collinsville	Collinsville	DeKalb	Collinsville	W. H. Robertson	T. D. Grubbs	1st & 3d Mondays.
63	Clayton	Clayton	Barbour	Clayton	William F. Aldrich	Thomas J. Hoskins	2d Sat. on or aft 1. m.
64	Central	Aldrich	Shelby	Aldrich	Joseph C. Tucker	Berry P. Garner	3d Saturday.
71	Landmark	Ozark	Dale	Ozark	Richard N. Hawkins	George W. Harrell	3d Saturday.
76	Elyton	Elyton	Jefferson	Elyton	W. L. Johnson	George M. Gamble	Friday bef. 4th Sunday.
79	Hillabee	Alex der City	Tallapoosa	Alex der City	H. Clay Armstrong	Theodore D. Power	1st Tuesday.
80	Myles J. Greene	Opelika	Lee	Opelika	Charles C. McCall	John C. Christopher	2d Thursday.
81	Gaston	Desotville	Choctaw	Desotville	Herman Herzberg	Benjamin F. Pope	1st Monday.
86	Coosa	Gadsden	Etowah	Gadsden	William T. Duke, Sr.	Edward M. McClendon	Saturday bef 3d Sun.
88	Springville	Springville	St. Clair	Springville	James S. Edwards	Thomas B. Wallace	2d & 4th Saturdays.
92	Notasulga	Notasulga	Macon	Notasulga	George I. Smith	Andrew J. Morris	2d Thursday.
96	Columbus	Newton	Dale	Newton	Charles R. Brien	Thomas W. Bell	2d & 4th Mondays.
98	Daniel Pratt	Prattville	Autauga	Prattville	Samuel Henderson	John A. Warden	1st & 3d Saturdays.
99	Thos. M. Bragg	Luverne	Grenshaw	Luverne	Clarence E. Meglenry	James T. Meade	2d & 4th Thursdays.
100	Rock Mills	Rock Mills	Randolph	Rock Mills	Thomas J. Thomason	Alfred C. Saxon	1st & 3d Saturdays.
101	Mineral City	Birmingham	Jefferson	Birmingham	William W. Haralson	William T. Fuller	2d Friday.
106	Gramam	Graham	Randolph	Graham	Poncey J. Rogers	James M. Donaldson	1st & 3d Tuesdays.
107	Fort Payne	Fort Payne	DeKalb	Fort Payne	Thomas E. Dison	Samuel Hartley	2d Monday.
108	Pratt City	Pratt City	Jefferson	Pratt City			
109	Blocton	Blocton	Bibb	Blocton			

MEMORANDA.

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

Arkansas	Newell M. Thornton	Abbeville.
Canada		
Colorado	Jno. B. Christian	Uniontown.
Connecticut	William G. Titecomb	Anniston.
Dis't of Columbia	Oscar J. Cöhen	Mobile.
Florida	Benjamin F. Pope	Gadsden.
Georgia	Edward F. King	Gainesville.
Illinois	George F. Moore	Montgomery.
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. Pillians	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	Louis J. Adler	Uniontown.
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 ALABAMA NEAR OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS.

W. W. Garland	Morrilton	Arkansas.
Wm. B. McArthur	Ottawa	Canada.
Tyler D. Heiskell	Fort Morgan	Colorado.
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.
William 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.
Robert L. Saunders	Jackson	Mississippi.
Thomas E. Garrett	St. Louis	Missouri.
John N. Westburg	Omaha	Nebraska.
Frederick G. Weise	Bordentown	New Jersey.
Thomas S. Kenan	Raleigh	North Carolina.
William McMillan	Virginia City	Nevada.
William H. Tapping	Grand Forks	North Dakota.
David Small	Charlottetown	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.
Chas. P. O'Connor	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.
William G. Swain	Milwaukee	Wisconsin.

GRAND SECRETARIES AND THEIR ADDRESSES.

Alabama	H. Clay Armstrong	Montgomery.
Arizona	George J. Roskrue	Tucson.
Arkansas	James A. Henry	Little Rock.
California	Thomas H. Caswell	San Francisco.
Canada	Thomas Sargent	Toronto.
Colorado	Edward C. Parmelee	Denver.
Connecticut	James McCormick	Hartford.
Delaware	James H. Price	Wilmington.
Dist. of Columbia	Arvine W. Johnston	Washington City.
England	C. Fitzpatrick Matier, Mark Masons' Hall	London, W. C.
Florida	William A. McLean	Jacksonville.
Georgia	William A. Wolihin	Macon.
Illinois	Gill, W. Barnard	Chicago.
Indiana	William H. Smythe	Indianapolis.
Indian Territory	Joseph S. Murrow	Atoka.
Iowa	Alf. Wingate	Des Moines.
Ireland	Archibald St. George, Freemasons' Hall	Dublin.
Kansas	Jacob DeWitt	Salina.
Kentucky	Henry B. Grant	Louisville.
Louisiana	Richard Lambert	New Orleans.
Maine	Stephen Berry	Portland.
Maryland	George L. McCahan	Baltimore.
Massachusetts	J. Albert Blake	Boston.
Michigan	J. S. Conover	Coldwater.
Minnesota	Thomas Montgomery	St. Paul.
Mississippi	J. L. Power	Jackson.
Missouri	William H. Mayo	St. Louis.
Montana	Cornelius Hedges	Helena.
Nebraska	William R. Bowen	Omaha.
Nevada	Chauncey N. Noteware	Carson City.
New Brunswick	Freeman W. Wisdom	St. John.
New Hampshire	George P. Cleaves	Concord.
New Jersey	George B. Edwards	Jersey City.
New South Wales	Alf. J. Burbidge	Sydney.
New York	Christopher G. Fox	Buffalo.
North Carolina	H. H. Munson	Wilmington.
North Dakota	Frank J. Thompson	Fargo.
Nova Scotia	D. H. Campbell	Halifax.
Ohio	Charles C. Kiefer	Urbana.

Oregon	James F. Robinson	Eugene.
Pennsylvania	Charles Cary	Philadelphia.
Quebec	Will H. Whyte, Box 1207	Montreal.
Rhode Island	William R. Greene	Providence.
Scotland	R. S. Brown	Edinburgh.
South Carolina	A. E. Fugle	Columbia.
South Dakota	George A. Pettigrew	Flandreau.
Tennessee	W. A. Clendenning	Nashville.
Texas	George 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. Laflin	Milwaukee.
Gen. Gr. Chapter	Christopher G. Fox	Buffalo, N. Y.

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