

assembled in the capitals of all civilized nations, assuring them that we, too, are searching for the most ancient landmarks, and will maintain the excellent tenets of our Craft with the dignity and honor of our ancient brotherhood, and that we understand how and why the "lambskin," or badge of a Mason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, is, when worthily worn, more honorable than Star or Garter, or any other badge which king, prince or potentate can bestow, except he be a Mason.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF INDIANA.

THE Twenty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Indiana was held in this city, commencing at 2 o'clock p. m. on Tuesday, April 27th. As the *Advocate* goes to press on that day, we are unable to give a full report of proceedings in this number. At the hour of opening, every Commandery in the State except one was fully represented, and quite a large number of visiting Sir Knights present.

The Grand Commandery was opened at the appointed hour by Sir Andrew H. Hamilton, R. E. Grand Commander, who then read and submitted his Annual Address. We would be glad to present his address in full, but our space will not permit it this time, and we can give only brief extracts. It defines the duties and obligations of a Knight Templar clearly and pointedly, and exposes some of the evils resulting from a want of appreciation among the members of what constitutes the true and courteous Sir Knight. On this we clip the following:

"In our Commanderies we find some who never forget self; who can not understand their duty to the Order and the relation which should exist among comrades bound by kindred vows and solemn obligations. They are always ready to censure, quick to take offence, anxious to have extreme measures carried into effect, indignant if their views are not accepted, and expecting constant attention paid to them. Oftentimes they are not contented with making complaints within the Commandery; they censure, before those not members of the Order, what they deem the faults, foibles and errors of their comrades, having so little knowledge of the true spirit of their vows as to be utterly ignorant that by so doing they are perjured Knights. To avenge a slight they are ready to injure an Order which they have promised to support. It is not enough for us that we preserve the mere letter of the law; there is a social and a business morality by which we should endeavor to regulate our conduct. We should be liberal and just in our business transactions, not taking advantage simply because the law allows it. The Knight Templar should be the gentleman—polite and courteous in his conduct, yielding where no great principles are at stake, divesting himself of self and forgetful of self, not censorious, having a due regard for the feelings of others, remembering that others may have intellects the equal of his own, and that it is impossible that any society will permit one man to set himself up as the pattern by which the others must regulate themselves.

"Crabb has drawn a character worthy of imitation:

"Good he refused with future ill to buy,
Nor knew a joy that caused reflection's sigh;
A friend to virtue, his unclouded breast
No envy stung, no jealousy distressed;
Yet far was he from stoic pride removed;
He felt humanely, and he warmly loved."

The Grand Commander reports the organization during the past year of two new Commanderies, one at Crawfordsville and the other at Plymouth. Regarding the latter he says:

"On the 8th day of this month I met the Plymouth petitioners, and organized the Commandery. Probably no Commandery in the State has larger or better-furnished rooms than this one. Everything is there which is necessary, and of the best quality and material. The officers in charge are men of ability, and of fine standing in the community. If it be necessary for the well-being of a Commandery only to have well-furnished rooms and officers of superior merit, then Plymouth Commandery, U. D., commences its career under most flattering auspices."

He takes strong ground against the practice which prevails to some extent of continuing one Sir Knight in the office of Eminent Commander for many years, and suggests that he should refuse a re-election after having held the office two terms. We think the suggestion a good one, not only in this but in all other masonic bodies. In the Grand Commandery he thinks one term should be the limit.

He mentions the names of seventeen Sir Knights deceased during the year, and pays the following tribute to the virtues of Sir William C. Babcock, who died in December last: