

OHIO—1897.

55th Annual. Toledo. September 8th and 9th.

To the Proceedings is a "præludium," containing details of the celebration the day previous to the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, of the attainment, by Toledo Commandery No. 7 of the fiftieth year of its existence.

The occasion was fittingly celebrated by the attendance of many of the Commanderies of the state, accompanied by ladies innumerable. From the account, the event was indeed a gala one. The city was "en fete," and the social receptions all that could be desired. A parade, review and exhibition drill being included in the programme.

The annual Conclave was presided over by the Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Kt. Barton Smith, whose portrait prefaces the Proceedings. 54 Commanderies were represented.

The Grand Commandery received courteous and hearty welcome to the city, from the Mayor, the Governor of the State and from Toledo Commandery. The Grand Commander gave a long and exhaustive address. Paid a loving tribute to the memory of their late Grand Prelate, the Rev. T. J. Melish, and a large number of Eminent fratres whose loss they mourn. He reported that every Commandery had been inspected during the year and that they were generally in a most satisfactory and prosperous condition, but from the reports the inspections had come to be needed. He suggested a committee to prepare instructions for inspections which would cover the duties of the inspecting officer as well as the Commandery. He stated that 45 Commanderies had attended divine service once or more during the year at either Good Friday, Easter or Ascension services, the larger number at both of the two latter days.

An interesting account of their Masonic Home is presented. The Mississippi proposition to shear the Grand Encampment of most of its authority was concurred in.

Sir Knight Enoch T. Carson, now their oldest Past Grand Commander, submitted his twenty-second