

M. E. Comp. J. W. Jordan (Hot Springs), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. L. E. Barber (Little Rock), Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

Held at San Francisco, April 10th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Alex. G. Abell, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters in the jurisdiction, 48; represented in Grand Chapter, 45; number of exaltations, 248, members, 2,888; receipts during the year, \$4,100.00. Annual Convocation, 23rd.

The Grand High Priest reports harmony prevailing among the Chapters, and that they are in a good and prosperous condition. On the proficiency of candidates, he says:—

"I suggest that there seems to be too great a latitude of rapidity with which candidates in our Order are advanced from one degree to another. In the Lodges of our State they are required to exhibit their proficiency in one degree before they can be advanced to another, and, as the intention of that regulation is that every candidate shall show a thorough knowledge of that which he has already been taught before being instructed further, I see no reason why the same useful course should not be pursued in the preparation and instruction of candidates in the several degrees conferred in our Chapters. As it is, they are hurried through at a rate of speed only limited by their own desires, and, too generally, when they have received their last degree, are almost as ignorant of our work and teachings as when they entered upon the threshold of the first. They have become Royal Arch Masons in name, but not in knowledge. Would it not be well, therefore, to adopt a regulation prescribing that no candidate shall be advanced to a higher degree until, in open Chapter, after strict examination, he shall have shown himself thoroughly acquainted with all that he has been taught in the one next preceding? And would it not be well, also, inasmuch as there is no inquest in the Lodges concerning proficiency in the third degree, that, before receiving in our bodies the degree of Mark Master, the candidate should be required, in the same manner, to show that he possesses the proper requirements of a Master Mason?"

He mentions the death of Comp. Charles Marsh, P.G.H.P., one of their best known and best beloved members.

The Grand Lecturer spent eight full months of the year and travelled many hundred miles in the performance of his arduous duties. He aims at securing perfect uniformity. In his report he says:—

"My reception everywhere was most cordial at all times, and the strictest attention was given to the correction of errors, where any

were found to exist. I can truly say that well rendered in all however—which is that is too often ind of reception in the I so interesting and in sions for fun or the of California are laci that they do not full vealed that causes t nicious custom and men. The consequ stead of being intere Masons only in nam so capable of inspiri correct this evil, but attended with the s fore, by this Grand (good to the Royal Ch

On the subject of the Chapter, the Mississippi, and

"Resolved, That adopted by the Grand Council of Royal an object the transfer of Royal Arch Chapter

"Resolved, That a High Priest, whose toe to be appointed l the General Grand (plish the desired tra

"Resolved, That a Chapter comply with Grand Chapter at its the carrying into eff

The Grand Cha Comp. Charles and notices Cans shewing their praw ours, and from mo

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