

### THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

The annual gathering of the Arabic Nobles at Cleveland, O., on Tuesday, 23rd inst., was largely attended. There were 186 delegates present, and fully 4,000 Nobles. Detroit was selected for the next annual meeting of the Imperial Council, without a dissenting voice. Among the matters of business transacted it was decided that hereafter the five lowest officers of the Imperial Council shall be appointed by the Imperial Potentate, instead of being elected. These officers are Imperial First Ceremonial Master, Imperial Second Ceremonial Master, Imperial Marshal, Imperial Captain of the Guard and Imperial Outer Guard. The officers elected are as follows:—Imperial Potentate, Harrison Dingman, Washington, D.C.; Imperial Deputy Potentate, Albert D. McGaffey, of Denver, Col.; Imperial Chief Rabban, Ethelbert Allen, Kansas City, Mo.; Imperial Assistant Rabbin, John H. Atwood, Leavenworth, Ks.; Imperial High Priest and Prophet, William H. S. Wright, St. Paul, Minn.; Imperial Oriental Guide, Lou B. Winsor, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Imperial Treasurer, Wm. S. Brown, Pittsburg, Pa.; Imperial Recorder, Benjamin W. Rowell, Lynn, Mass. Charters were granted temples at Phoenix, Ariz., and Hartford, Conn., and dispensations were granted for temples at Boise City, Ida., Charleston, W. Va., and Savannah, Ga.—*American Tyler*.

### GRAND CHARITY FUND.

One of the main objects of the Masonic organization, and the principal reason for its existence, is to afford relief to those in need of assistance. The best method for dispensing Masonic charity has been for many years a subject of much discussion in the Grand Lodges of the United States. The two principal methods adopted among the Grand Lodges are the erection and maintenance of Masonic homes for needy Masons, their widows, and or-

phans, on the one hand, and the providing of a fund for the direct assistance and relief of such needy Masons, their widows, and orphans, at their homes, on the other. After a discussion on the subject in its various phases for many years, the Grand Lodge, of Iowa, two years ago, unanimously adopted the latter method. The Grand Charity Fund thus provided for has, by its judicious expenditure under the direction of the Trustees, abundantly proven the wisdom of the action of the Grand Lodge. The reports of the Trustees of the Grand Charity Fund, made at the last session of the Grand Lodge, and at this session, show that the temporary fund provided for has been carefully expended for the relief of needy Masons of Iowa, and their widows, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that every dollar that has been paid out of this fund has been used directly and solely for the personal relief and assistance of some needy brother or his widow, and that no part of it has been used in the erection or furnishing of costly buildings, or for the payment of interest upon the fund invested or borrowed for the erection of such buildings, or for the payment of salaries, expenses, and support of officers and employes to manage and care for said buildings and their inmates.

We have the satisfaction of knowing that the relief that has been furnished under this system has been in almost every case by the payment of a much less sum than would be necessary for the total support of the persons thus assisted. Had the same persons been sent to a Masonic home the whole expense of their support must have been born by the Grand Lodge. As it is, they have remained at their homes with their families, and with their own friends, and the amount paid, though much less than would have been necessary to support them in a Masonic home, has undoubtedly been of much greater benefit to them by reason of their being permitted to remain with their families and friends. This feature of our system is one that commends it