

TENNESSEE.

Thirtieth Conclave, Nashville, May 10th, 1892. Robert Pillow, G. C.

The year has been one of marked prosperity. Most of the Commanderies have made large gains. Some trouble is anticipated from the action of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee in suspending non-affiliates, and it is feared that that action may result in the destruction of some of the smaller Commanderies. They would have to suspend all of their members who were not affiliated with some Lodge.

A Committee was appointed to memorialize the Grand Encampment so that suspension for non-payment of dues by a Lodge or Chapter will not affect the standing of members of Commanderies.

These proceedings were issued within seven days after the meeting, a fact which reflects great credit on the Grand Recorder and his printer.

The Grand Recorder had a five months' trip to Europe and his report on Correspondence is very elaborate and instructive. Canada for 1891 receives a good notice. We copy his remarks on the Ritual :

" It will be valuable information to you, dear fratres, the status of the Grand Encampment Ritual at this writing. As Secretary of that Committee which the Grand Encampment appointed to prepare the ceremonials, and report the same to the Triennial Conclave at Denver, I am able to give accurate information, and that, too, without any divulging of the secrets of the Committee !

As reported to you last year, the writer prepared a full manuscript of the Orders of the Red Cross and the Temple, and sent the same to the Chairman of the Committee, just previous to his sailing for Europe. The Order of the Red Cross was shorn of most of its anachronisms, and the variations in the Ritual of the Order of the Temple from that adopted by Tennessee many years ago, and the variations are numerous, were based upon the several Rituals sent me by Jurisdictions and individual Templars. I am specially indebted to Past Grand Master Hopkins for the use of 'Ancient Rituals' !

During my absence in Europe the Sub-Committee had a meeting in Boston, and made much progress in the ceremonial work. The Committee kindly consented to let the work remain in the hands of the Sub-Committee until I returned from abroad. Very soon after my return the Chairman called us to meet in New York, and we came together in January. For days and days all labored from early morn until midnight, and at last agreed unanimously upon the ceremonials to be reported to the General Committee.

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