

the degrees of all the other Rites of Masonry, and having had an opportunity of comparing them with the beautiful degrees of our Rite, your Grand Master has arrived at the decision that all other degrees, though good, yet as compared with the degrees of the Royal Masonic Rite, are only as chaff to the wheat, therefore he loves to labor in a vineyard where such excellent fruit may be found."

Touching reference was made to the deaths of George Canning Longley, 33°, 90°, 96°, and Dr. Robert Ramsay, 33°, 90°, 96°, both of whom were past grand masters of Canada and honorary members of the Sovereign Sanctuary. The announcement was made of the suspension of Ezra M. Crawford, of Boston, for gross unmaasonic conduct.

Continuing, Grand Master Wilson said: "We are pained to note that in some State jurisdictions, both in the York and Scottish Rites, quarrelling, wrangling, and almost fighting has been of frequent and nearly constant occurrence. It is strange that a Lodge or so-called Grand Lodge of Master Masons, whose members have received only about half of the legitimate work of a Master Mason (the balance having been stolen and placed in the Royal Arch system) should have the temerity to decide as to what degrees (which they have never taken) are or are not Masonic. Still more strange that a semi-Christian military organization (calling themselves Knights Templar) should sit in judgment on the question of regularity or irregularity of *Masonic* degrees. While we notice this silly squabbling, denunciation, expulsion, etc., with much sorrow, yet we thank God that in our beloved Rite peace and harmony prevails throughout the length and breadth of the land.

"Realizing that some might feel disappointed were I to close my brief remarks without saying a word regarding the antiquity of the craft, I will occupy a single moment with thoughts upon this venerable subject. All Masonic rituals, all Masonic traditions, all Masonic degrees, as well as all Masonic symbolism, either directly or indirectly point back to ancient Egypt as a source of all Masonic knowledge. We do not know that Masonry originated in Egypt. We do know, however, that we obtained it from ancient Egypt. We also have undisputed proof that the ancient Egyptians were the earliest people of which the present generation has any knowledge. It may be, and in fact we have some evidence to substan-

tiate the hypothesis, that Masonry, as practised by the earliest Egyptians, was then 'The Ancient Mysteries,' that it had been handed down, hoary-headed, from millions of generations, which had passed away long prior to the earliest date known to our ancient brothers in Egypt.

"We have to-day in some of our Masonic Lodges 'doubting Thomases,' that is, Masonic agnostics and unbelievers who are always ready to pooh, pooh, and ask 'How do you know?' and 'I do not believe it,' whenever the claim is put forth that Masonry is anything but a modern invention. We answer such by simply saying that if Masonry is not ancient as old Egypt is ancient, then the Masonic ritual is a lie and all Masons are liars. For ourselves we have abundant reason to believe that the traditions, rituals, and symbolisms of Masonry set forth God-like truths, and that Masonry is what it purports to be, the most ancient of all human institutions."

The address was brought to a close by the Grand Master thanking a number of very illustrious brethren for rendering him valuable assistance, among them being Daniel Rose, Grand Master of the Sovereign Sanctuary of Canada.

After the transaction of some business degrees were conferred on several prominent brethren, when the election of officers was proceeded with, among those elected being:—

M. Ill. Grand Master, Dr. Darius Wilson.

V. Ill. Deputy-Grand Master, A. N. Hill, Iowa.

V. Ill. Grand Secretary, Edwin Baker, Rhode Island.

Most Illustrious Bro. D. Wilson, M. D., declined to become a candidate for reelection to the position of Grand Master, and requested the members of the Sovereign Sanctuary to vote for another to fill that position. Very Illustrious Bro. Edwin Baker also declined to be a candidate for reelection to the office of Grand Secretary; but notwithstanding these declinations, the election of the above-named brothers came with such unanimity that they felt it their Masonic duty to accept these several positions, that harmony might prevail.

The 96°, Sovereign Sublime Master, was conferred upon M. Ill Bro. Henry L. Hill, of Connecticut.

Sovereign Sanctuary was then closed, but in the evening the members were entertained right royally by Oriental Rose Croix Chapter.