

Council of R. & S. Masters in that city, to be named "Enoch" Council. The petition having been duly recommended by R. Ill. Comp. T. B. Harris, Inspector General of the Hamilton Division, I issued my Dispensation, and in the absence of that officer, who was unable to attend through illness, R. Ill. Comp. David McLellan, Past Inspector General, proceeded to London, accompanied by V. Ill. Comp. Wm. Gibson, G. M. of C., and Illustrious Master of Salem Council, Hamilton, and assisted by R. Ill. Comp. Dr. Bratten, of London, and Ill. Comp. Jos. Purvis, of Toronto, and duly opened the Council on the 23rd July, 1874. I recommend that a warrant be granted.

RECOGNITION.

I continue to receive communications from Grand Councils extending fraternal recognition, and, in some cases, asking for an exchange of representatives. Since the last Annual Assembly the following Representatives have been appointed near this Grand Council:

By Grand Council of Louisiana, R. Ill. Comp. Fred. J. Menet; By Grand Council of Arkansas, V. Ill. Comp. James B. Nixon; and I have appointed R. Ill. Comp. Francis Menet near Grand Council of Kansas; R. Ill. Comp. Thomas Paisel near Grand Council of Arkansas.

I submit these appointments for your approval, feeling assured that you will ratify my action, and extend a cordial welcome to our Ill. Companions on the presentation of their credentials. At the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons (1872) a memorial was presented by your Executive Committee asking that body to extend fraternal recognition to this Grand Council. With our approval no action was taken at that session, and I would not again have alluded to the subject had not M. E. Comp. S. B. Harman, in his able address to Grand Chapter, at its last Annual Convocation. (1873), in a very kind manner, brought the matter prominently under the notice of Grand Chapter. The Executive Committee, however, in their report did not consider it "advisable to extend recognition to any other orders than those at present recognized by Grand Chapter." I am certain that members of this Grand Council will not desire to seek recognition from any body that does not wish to exchange the usual Masonic courtesies, nor will such action interfere in the slightest degree with those Masonic organizations that are making such rapid progress in the Dominion. In explanation of the degrees conferred in our Council, I may be permitted to give the following quotation for the information of the uninitiated, from the Report of the Grand Council of Pennsylvania.

"The Council degrees are the historical or explanatory degrees. The Royal Master's has exclusive reference to the three symbolic degrees—more particularly to the mark Master's degree. The Super-excellent Master's degree is the connecting link between the M. Ex. Master and R. A. Degrees, and accounts for those events, Jewish and Masonic, which took place from the dedication of the first Temple, to the effort made in re-building the second Temple, a period of 470 years; whilst the Super-Ex. Master degree accounts for, and explains the discovery made in the R. A. degree."

These degrees are as important as many others and those who are familiar with our beautiful Ritual will continue to take a deep interest in the secrets of the ninth Arch.

UNIFORM WORK, TITLES, ETC.,

The New York Convention having adopted a uniform "work," I have been acquainted with it and beg to recommend that it be adopted by the Grand Council. I cannot however agree with our Ill. Comps. in every respect and cannot therefore, at present recommend any change in regard to the Super-Ex. Master's and Red Cross Degrees.

A resolution was adopted declaring it to be the opinion of those present that the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters should be made prerequisite to the orders of knighthood. It is not advisable that we should take any such action in this jurisdiction as, in my opinion, it is better that the Cryptic Rite should occupy an entirely independent position, and that no efforts be made to induce those to take the degrees, who are not likely to be active workers. Masonry in all its branches has far too many drones in its busy hive, and I trust every caution will be exercised in the admission of candidates to the ninth Arch, so that none of those will be admitted who desire only to take "all the degrees they can get" without any regard to the further obligations and duties, thereby entailed upon them.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The many duties devolving upon the members of the executive committee have prevented the proper preparation of a report on Foreign Correspondence. This important branch is too valuable to be neglected, and although it has entailed additional labor upon me, I have undertaken the task and performed the duty rather than not have a report, although I deeply regret that work was not performed by some Comp., who has more time than I have at my disposal, and far more literary ability to bring to bear upon the subject.