

times lost, and could not some additional means be adopted for their greater security? Would it not be advisable that those old, and generally unused books, &c., say at the end of some given period of years, be also deposited in the archives of Grand Chapter, where, when necessary, they could be referred to, and where they might be kept in safety as valuable heir-looms, which would be most highly prized by future generations of Craftsmen? I commend this matter to your serious consideration.

## CHAPTER SEAL.

It is an imperative command of the Constitution that "every Chapter shall have a Masonic Seal to be affixed to all documents proper to be issued, a description (or impression) of which shall be duly sent to the Grand Scribe E., and registered in the books of Grand Chapter."

I bring this matter thus prominently before you that the First Principals of Chapters may have no excuse for delay or forgetfulness, and I beg to remind the R. E. the Grand Superintendents that they should ascertain whether any Chapters are remiss in regard to this, and make report to Grand Chapter.

I am also of the opinion that it would be desirable to have every Chapter deposit with the Grand Scribe E. a printed copy of their respective By-laws, and all amendments made thereto from time to time. These being carefully collated and preserved in the Grand Chapter Library, would make a valuable addition thereto, and would be very convenient for the purposes of reference.

## INSURANCE.

It is intimated that there are Chapters which do not have their furniture, regalia, libraries, &c., regularly insured. It seems as though it is only necessary to call attention to this in order to have so important a duty faithfully performed. Where neglect has hitherto existed, officers should have a care that it is promptly remedied.

## CONSTITUTION.

I am informed that it has not been practicable for the excellent committee having in charge the preparation of the necessary additions to the Constitution of Grand Chapter, to have the same ready for presentation at the present Convocation. I beg, therefore, to suggest that the committee be continued for another year, and that they be requested to add a supplement containing all the necessary forms, &c., required for use by constituent Royal Arch Chapters, and, if practicable, a full and minute index.

## WORK.

I am of the opinion that it would contribute very materially to the welfare of the Order, besides facilitating uniformity in

ritual, should a complete system of work be prepared and promulgated by Grand Chapter. If there are well-skilled Companions who, on appointment, will undertake to perform this important duty, it seems as though Grand Chapter might ere long be fairly able to defray the necessary expenses connected therewith. I therefore submit the matter for your careful consideration.

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Your committee have, I understand, made a praiseworthy effort to meet the expectations of Grand Chapter by preparing a report on Foreign Correspondence during the past year. They ask that due allowance be made for this their first effort, with the hope that their future reports may attain a higher standard of excellence, and compare more favorably with the able reports generally received from abroad. Your committee well deserve the commendations of Grand Chapter.

## EARLY RECORDS OF VERMONT.

Besides a volume of the Early Records of the Grand Chapter of the State of Vermont, kindly presented by that Grand Body to the library of Grand Chapter, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by me of another volume of the same, with a suitable superscription thereon, and accompanied by a complimentary official letter. For these valuable donations, I beg to return your, as well as my own, fraternal thanks. Other like acceptable presentations from sister Grand Chapters will be gratefully acknowledged by the G. S. E. in his annual report or in our published proceedings.

## NUMBER OF CHAPTERS.

It appears as though there is a great disparity between the number of Chapters on our Registry and the number of Lodges on the roll of Grand Lodge;—and although a too sudden increase may not be a sign of healthy growth,—and although we may not at a very early day expect very rapid numerical increase, yet it is quite evident that in those jurisdictions where Freemasonry is attaining its highest development, Craft and Capitular Masonry generally advance with somewhat equal steps; and it seems as though, all things considered, that say one Chapter to every three thriving Lodges within our jurisdiction, might fairly be anticipated at no very distant day. It is, moreover, a source of satisfaction to observe that members of the third degree of the Order are becoming more and more conscious of the fact that they are not thoroughly perfected workmen in what they have already attained unless they make further progress through the following degrees of Capitular Masonry and secure exaltation as Companions of the Holy Royal Arch.