

dollars per annum for running a moribund Grand Council of which, according to the statistics of the *Masonic Review*, "eighty-one per cent of the subordinate Councils are on the ragged edge of despair, while but four or seven per cent are prosperous.

This is a sad commentary, but a true one, and proves better than a thousand essays on the subject of the advisability and necessity of absorbing these degrees into our Chapters. True the Grand Council of Indiana at its recent annual convocation (Oct. '78) declared that Royal and Select Masters made under Chapter Warrants should not be received as visitors in subordinate Councils of that Grand Council jurisdiction. The resolution only shows a narrow-minded bigoted spirit, utterly unworthy of Masonic respect or Masonic brotherly feeling. As we have said before: "If the members of the Cryptic Rite in any Jurisdiction prefer to be governed by Grand Chapters instead of Grand Councils, they have a right to do so, and the degrees conferred under such authority are as legitimate and regular as any others."

We have, however, written to a greater extent upon the subject than we originally intended. We do not suppose that at present the Grand Council of Ontario will waive its jurisdiction over these degrees, but it is well to discuss the matter. If the degrees are as beautiful and interesting as their friends claim them to be, if they really develop and unfold that which at present is missing in the Royal Arch, if they shed more light upon our Royal Art, would it not be better to follow in the footsteps of those Grand Councils that have amalgamated with the Grand Chapter, and thus save an useless annual outlay, and at the same time spread more light to the Craft in general than can possibly be the case while they remain a separate and isolated Rite? The answer we think must be in the affirmative, and we leave it to the good sense of Capitular and Cryptic

Masons throughout the Dominion to decide if such an amalgamation would not be for the best interests of the Craft in general and the Royal Art in particular.

### Hamilton.

The installation of the officers of four of the Masonic Lodges in this city, and also of the Lodge at Stoney Creek, was conducted by the District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, in the Masonic Hall, on the evening of St. John's Day, in the presence of a large number of members of the various lodges. The following Masters and Past Masters were present: R. W. Bros. Hugh Murray, E. Mitchell, R. Bull, R. Brierley, Gavin Stewart and J. J. Mason; V. W. Bros. Robt. A. Hutchison, C. R. Smith, Wm. Reid and J. M. Gibson; and W. Bros. R. Hills, James Widger, A. Macallum, J. M. Meakins, R. L. Gunn, John Henry, D. McPhie, S. F. Lazier, G. Dickson, David Aitchison, H. McC. Wright, J. Holden and W. A. Woolson. The ceremony was performed by R. W. Bro. Murray and his assistants with that skill and ability for which the brethren of Hamilton are so justly noted. The following is a full list of the officers of the respective lodges:

#### STRICT OBSERVANCE LODGE, NO. 27.

W. Bro. J. M. Meakins, W. M. (re-elected.)  
 " R. L. Gunn, P.M.  
 " S. E. Townsend, S.W.  
 " C. H. Foster, J.W.  
 " R. R. G. Sutherland, Chap. (re-elected.)  
 " Alex. Turner, Treas.  
 " F. F. Dalley, Sec.  
 " B. J. Morgan, S.D.  
 " O. S. Hillman, J.D.  
 " W. R. Stuart, I.G.  
 " R. J. Duggan, Dir. of Cer.  
 " W. J. Gilmour, Organist.  
 " W. C. Merton, }  
 " John Poole, } Stewards.  
 " D. Tompson }  
 " W. W. Summers, Tyler.  
 R. W. " J. J. Mason, }  
 V. W. " R. A. Hutchison, } Auditors.  
 Sick Committee.—Bros. A. C. Towns<sup>nd</sup>. (Chairman), A. Sutherland, James Johnston, Geo. S. Fisher, R. Raw, jun., and Joseph Rayner.

#### ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 40.

W. Bro. H. Pain, W.M.  
 " John Malloy, P.M.  
 " W. G. Reid, S.W.  
 " J. B. Bishop, J.W.  
 " H. Torrance, Chap.  
 " John Moodie, Treas.  
 " James A. Malcolm, Sec'y.  
 " John Dickson, S.D.