

Templar unlawfully,' 'the skull to be laid open and all the brains to be exposed to the scorching rays of the sun,' with several other familiar expressions which every Royal Arch Mason will readily recognize as appropriately wrought into Webb's Royal Arch degree."

Companion Hacker was of the opinion (and I concur) that it was Webb's idea that the Order should be conferred as a part of the ceremonies of installation of a High Priest. That this was the practice for some time and is now to a certain extent is certain, yet the spirit of progress or innovation, whichever expression may be chosen, has led to its severance from those ceremonies and the erection of independent organizations within which it is propagated. These organizations generally go under the name of Councils of High Priests, and as their records have been published the growth and present status of the Order may be easily learned. A proper inquiry, however, is, When and where was the departure referred to above taken? but for want of records we are left to conjecture.

The earliest minutes of a Council of High Priests in the West, of which I have knowledge, are those of a meeting held in Columbus, this State, on January 15, 1828.

As to where the companions composing this Council received the Order we are left to conjecture. But as Comp. John Snow, the President of the Convention, bore close relations both in a Masonic way and in business to Companion Webb, the inference that he received it from him is not strained. Though advertised to meet in Worthington in 1829, no meeting appears to have been held. The minutes of the meeting of 1828 were, however, reprinted with the Grand Chapter proceedings for 1829, and to them was added the following note:

"Such Companions as are entitled to the above Order of Priesthood can receive the same at the next meeting of the Grand Chapter, in 1830. The same officers as specified above are

continued until the ensuing Grand Chapter.

"BELA LATHAM,
"Sec. of the Order of High Priesthood."

If any other meetings of this body were held I fail to find their minutes. That the Order was conferred or communicated in some way is evident from the language found in a resolution adopted in Grand Chapter, in 1838, which reads as follows:

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the High Priests and Past High Priests, in the State, to establish a Council of High Priests, for the more uniform regulation of the Order of Priesthood."

Following this action of the Grand Chapter the present Council of High Priests of Ohio was organized, the proceedings of which are in the hands of its members.

SHRINE CHARITY.

The Imperial Potentate has forwarded a letter to the potentate of each Temple of the Order asking him to bring before the Shrine in his Oasis some special work of charity. Illustrious Noble Mellich says:—"I beg to address the Nobles of your Temple and to ask their consideration of some special work during the coming winter in promoting the universal brotherhood of man by kindly encouragement of reasonable charity to those who need a helping hand.

It has been the custom of some of the Temples to annually distribute provisions among the poor, or to make a visit to some worthy charitable institution in their oasis. One Temple supplied the poor children in two mission Kindergartens in their city with a substantial meal every day during the three coldest winter months last year, and propose doing it again.

Another Temple distributed four hundred baskets of provisions on Christmas day among the worthy protestant poor, selected by ministers of churches in the poorest parts of the city. Still another Temple paid a visit on