

Cryptic Masonry is plain, viz., *expenses saved, and a more general diffusion of the knowledge of the Royal Art.* The fact is that Royal Arch Companions as a rule are eager to enter the Preceptory, and as our Great Priory, like the Grand Encampment of the United States, does not make these degrees a pre-requisite to candidates seeking admission to the Temple, they are at present too frequently passed by, and although we have not the statistics at hand, we are not afraid to say, that not one Royal Arch Mason out of every eighteen or twenty is in possession of the secrets of the Cryptic Rite, which are really so *essential* to the full understanding of the mysteries of the Royal Arch.

Such being the case, then "the Grand Councils of Mississippi, Virginia, West Virginia, Iowa, and Kentucky have already made the transfer, and now confer the degrees in Councils attached to the Chapters or in Councils specially convened for the time being." Rt. Ill. Comp. E. T. Shultz in his admirable report on foreign Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, after stating the above, thus summarizes:

"The Grand Chapter of Arkansas appointed a committee to confer with a similar committee from the Grand Council.

"The Grand Chapter of California deferred action till the next convocation.

"The Grand Chapter of the district of Columbia appointed a committee of conference.

"The Grand Chapter of North Carolina appointed a Committee of Conference.

"The Grand Chapter of Oregon appointed a Committee of Conference.

"The Grand Chapter of Nebraska favors the transfer and referred the subject to the subordinate Chapters.

"The Grand Chapter of Tennessee appointed a Committee of Conference.

"The Grand Chapter of Wisconsin appointed a Committee of Conference with power to act.

"The Grand Chapter of Missouri appointed a Committee with power to make the transfer.

"The Grand Chapter of Nevada endorses and favors the plan.

"The Grand Chapter of South Carolina appointed a committee to confer with the Grand Council and report at next Annual Convocation."

The above clearly proves that Cryptic Freemasonry is doomed as an Independent Rite, and it is advisable that it should be. The expense attendant upon keeping up a Grand Council is well exemplified in the *Masonic Review* for this month. The Grand Council of Ohio at its recent session passed the following resolution:—"Resolved,—That the Grand Recorder be directed to forward to each subordinate Council in this State a circular requiring each Council to give an expression to their wishes relative to such consolidation; and said subordinates are hereby required to set forth in their next annual returns, the number who favor the consolidation of the Council and Chapter, and the number opposed to such action."

The *Review* comments as follows: "The good sense of the Grand Council is manifested in this reference to the members at large on the question of consolidation, and it cannot fail to be the hope of every impartial friend of the degrees that the subordinate Councils will exhibit an equal share of wisdom in giving the resolution an affirmative vote. The action is timely, as the proceedings of the Grand Council attest, for aside from the usual routine business of reading reports and electing officers. *The above resolution was the only question which came before the Assembly.* The officers and representatives were paid for mileage, and *per diem* alone \$941.04 and what is there to show for it? The other expenses of the session, printing reports, salary of Grand Recorder, &c., will increase the years expense to nearly two thousand dollars." Comment is unnecessary. Two thousand