

it was moved on notice given at the session of 1871 to "extend such recognition so as to include the degrees of the A. and A. Rite, Royal order of Scotland, Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Royal Ark Mariner, and also the degrees of Cryptic Masonry; but it was deemed expedient to "refer the propriety of such recognition of all or any of the degrees as recited to the executive committee," who from want of time were unable to report. I have been requested to ask Grand Chapter to keep the matter in view. The possession of many of these grades, especially that of the A. & A. Rite, on the continent of Europe, is deemed almost indispensable to the travelling mason, and the fact that my worthy predecessor, so zealous a guardian of the purity of masonry, is the Grand Representative of this rite, will have weight in the consideration. The degree of Royal Ark Mariner is an appendant degree to the Royal Arch in Scotland, and in England its government has been recently amalgamated in that of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, R. E. Comp. Col. McLeod Moore, the Grand Prior of the Temple in Canada, is at the head of this order as introduced into Canada, as well as of the knightly order of Rome and Constantine, which is highly thought of in England and the United States. The Cryptic degrees were for a time presided over by M. E. Comp. Harrington, P. G. Z., and now by R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry, the present Grand Superintendent of Toronto District, as G. M. The question of the Royal Arch forming a prerequisite for admission into all or any of these orders should perhaps be considered in viewing the question of recognition.

MEETING OF GRAND CHAPTER.

I would offer the suggestion to Grand Chapter whether a change might not be made in the interest of the order as to the time of holding our annual convocation. Held, as it is at present, at the interval of hardly a month from the annual communication of Grand Lodge, it is perhaps almost too much to expect that many who, being members of both Grand Bodies, have barely returned from a Grand Lodge meeting, may be able to find time, and it may be inclination, for a second journey and absence during the heat of midsummer, to attend Grand Chapter. It occurs to my mind, that a return to the month of February, when our annual convocations were originally held, would better and far more conveniently equalize the appropriation of time, while its being the occasion of the semi-annual meeting of the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge, offers another inducement, not formerly existing, in its favor; the majority of those attending the conference of that important board are members of Grand Chapter, and in addition to the question of personal convenience in attending, to which I have already alluded, there would be, so to speak, a freshness of thought wherewith to enter on our deliberations, if they were not so soon to follow, as they do at present, those of Grand Lodge. I would invite Grand Chapter to give the subject consideration, again reminding you that any change can only become law on being introduced at next session, after notice now given. To place the matter fairly before Grand Chapter, I have collated and add a summary of the previous action on this head, and the changes that have been made and proposed from time to time. See annual proceedings, as follows:

1857..	Grand Chapter organized,			
1859..	Page 21..	Constitutions, Art. X.....	Third Wednesday in February.....	Adopted.
1861..	" 106..	Notice by R. E. Comp. W. B. Simpson.....	To alter the time of Meeting.....	Proposed.
1862..	" 164..	Motion do do.....	Tuesday preceding second Wednesday in July.....	Negated.
" "	" "	Amendment, R. E. Comp. J. Seymour.....	Second Tuesday in August.....	Adopted.
1865..	" 320..	Constitutions revised, Art. IX.....	do do do.....	Adopted.
1867..	" 116..	Notice, R. E. Comp. A. A. Stevenson.....	Monday preceding the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in July.....	Proposed.
1868..	" 254..	Motion, do do.....	Do do do.....	Negated.
" "	" 255..	Amendment, R. E. Comp. H. Robertson.....	Second Wednesday for Second Tuesday in August.....	Negated.
" "	" "	Notice, R. E. Comp. L. H. Henderson.....	Second Wednesday in Sept.....	Proposed.
" "	" "	Notice, R. E. Comp. F. Mudge.....	Second Wednesday for Second Tuesday in August.....	Proposed.
1869..	" 366..	Motion, do do.....	Do do do.....	Adopted.
" "	" 12..	Constitution reprinted, Art. IX.....	Second Wednesday in August.....	Adopted.

CONCLUSION.

Companions, I linger to pen this final clause, and convey to you the regretted resolution I have had to come to, that I cannot be a candidate for re-appointment. In justice to so high an office, and in justice to himself, the occupant has fairly to consider whether he can give that time which is requisite to its honorable discharge, in the way of personal intercourse, visitation, and communication, as well as of official administration; and having, in my case, other official demands on my time, which are as imperative as they are arduous, I feel I am not left a choice in the matter of a further endeavor to sever the portion required to be devoted in justice, as I have said