

BROTHER WILLIAM B. MELISH, 33°

M. E. GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES.

This earnest and enthusiastic Brother was born in Wilmington, Ohio, on July 28, 1852. On arriving at age, he united with the Masonic Fraternity, being initiated in Milford Lodge, No. 54, Milford, Ohio, on October 21, 1873.

He was made a Royal Arch Mason in Milford Chapter, No. 35, Milford, Ohio, on April 15, 1875; a Royal and Select Master in Kilwinning Council, No. 52, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 27, 1877; a Knight Templar in Hanselmann Commandery, No. 16, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 15, 1877; received the Ineffable Grades in Gibulum L. of P., Cincinnati, Ohio, March 26, 1874; the A. T. G. in Dalcho Council, P. of J., Cincinnati, Ohio, April 30, 1874; the P. and D. G. in Cincinnati Chapter of Rose Croix, H-R-D-M, May 7, 1874; the M. H. and C. G., in Ohio Consistory S. P. R. S., thirty-second degree, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 30, 1874, and was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (thirty-third degree), September 16, 1885, at Boston, Massachusetts.

Bro. Melish affiliated with La Fayette Lodge, No. 81, F. and A. M. in 1881, and became its W. M. in 1886-87. The same year, 1881, he affiliated with Willis Chapter, No. 131, R. A. M., and became its High Priest in 1886-87. In 1882-3 he held the position of Thrice Ill. Master of Kilwinning Council, No. 52, R. and S. M. In 1883-84 he became Eminent Commander of Hanselmann Commandery, No. 16, K. T., and in 1887, on the organization of Trinity Commandery, No. 44, K. T., of Cincinnati, he served as its first Eminent Commander. In 1890-91 he was elected and served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio. In 1892 he was appointed G. S. B. of the Grand Encampment of K. T. of the United States, in session at Denver, Colorado. In 1895, at Boston, he was elected "Grand Junior Warden," and has advanced each triennial term until he has now attained the highest office in the Order, "*Most Eminent Grand Master*" of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States, with its membership of two hundred thousand Sir Knights.

He was also called to official prominence soon after uniting with the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Indeed, it is probable that there are few men of his years who can say that they have worked in so many important positions in Masonic bodies. From 1876 to 1883 he was Deputy Grand Master of Gibulum Lodge of Perfection, fourteenth degree; from 1880 to 1891 Sov. Master of Dalcho Council, P. of J., sixteenth degree; during the years 1880-81, Master of Ceremonies of Cincinnati Chapter Rose Croix, eighteenth degree; and from 1881 to 1895 Master of Ceremonies of Ohio Consistory S. P. R. S., thirty-second degree. For fifteen years, 1895 to 1909, he was "Commander-in-Chief" of Ohio Consistory, and the head of the Scottish Rite in Southern Ohio. Brother Melish is recognized as the worthy successor in Freemasonry in Ohio of that beloved member of the Craft, Enoch T. Carson.

As a writer, speaker and active worker, his name and reputation have secured national recognition and appreciation not only with American Masons, but with even those across the seas. He is an Honorary member of many Masonic bodies in the United States, Canada and in England.

Bro. Melish has a charming wife, a lovely daughter and a bright, intellectual son to constitute his family circle, and resides in Clifton, a beautiful suburb of Cincinnati.