

## SOUTH DAKOTA.

Fourteenth Conclave, Mitchell, June 11, 1897.

James J. Casselman, G. C.

He visited all the Commanderies and reports peace and prosperity. He decided that it is not necessary that a candidate should be an affiliate in Lodge and Chapter. He concludes as follows:—

The Christmas exercises and Easter services were generally observed throughout this Jurisdiction. The circular for the Christmas observance was not issued in the form of an order, and was without any special injunctions, as I think the manner of observing Christmas Day ought to be left to each Sir Knight to decide for himself. I know that many prefer to spend the day with their families and friends, and the Templar exercises ought to be merely permissive, and no Sir Knight should be required to attend who prefers to spend the time otherwise.

During my visits to the Commanderies this year, I have noticed the absence of wine from the banquet tables. Sir Knights, if this was in deference to my wishes in this matter, I thank you. If, on the other hand, it shows a change in the sentiment in regard to the use of wine at our banquets, then we have reason to rejoice. I am pleased to see the stand that has been taken by a large number of Commanderies throughout the United States in regard to the use and the sale of intoxicating liquors by Knights Templar.

The business transacted was local in interest.

Frazer Samuel H. Jumper again reports on Correspondence and reviews our Proceedings of 1896 with several extracts and approving remarks. We quote his opening and conclusion:—

We commence our Second Annual Report in midwinter. The old year, freighted with its joys and sorrows, its hopes and disappointments, has journeyed into the dim past, and we can hear but the faint rumble of its rolling wheels as it goes out of sight forever.

Outside of our comfortable home the snow covers the prairies to a depth never before known. Drifts are larger and wider and deeper than a church. In many places houses are buried so deep, tunnels through the hard, white snow have been excavated from door and window for egress and light.

In our snow-bound home, the drear monotony will be pleasantly broken as we receive the reports from New England seasoned with the salt spray of the dear old Atlantic; from the South, laden with the perfume of the magnolia and the palm; from the West, with the sweet breath of the Pacific breezes; and for a while we shall forget the cold and the snow and the angry blizzard.