

## PENNSYLVANIA.—1888.

PENNSYLVANIA'S volume of Proceedings for 1888 is embellished with steel engravings of Past Grand Masters Samuel C. Perkins and Samuel B. Dick. The frontispiece consists, as usual, of a handsome view of the magnificent Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

The Committee of Past Grand Masters, to which was referred the question of the legitimacy of the Cerneau Rite, presented an elaborate report, which was unanimously adopted. From this report we republish the following conclusions :—

This Grand Lodge believes in the largest liberty on the part of Freemasons in attaching themselves to societies other than our own, so far as the exercise of that liberty is not inconsistent with our vows, or puts in peril our peace and harmony. It is a recognition of the high character of our Fraternity when any association of men requires for membership the intelligence, the integrity, the trustworthiness, which is presumed from membership in a Masonic Lodge. We cannot object to this. With this we can have nothing to do, unless it is inimical or tends to our hurt. Then it is the duty of the Grand Lodge to speak with no uncertain voice in warning our Brethren of their danger, and, if need be, taking such measures as shall be requisite for self-protection.

Your Committee submit the following :

*Resolved*,—That if, as alleged, the organization known as the Consistory of the Cerneau Rite claims the power, or authority, or right to confer the three Degrees of Ancient Freemasonry, it is not consistent with the duty of members of Lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge to seek or retain membership in that organization.

*Resolved*,—That the permission by a subordinate Lodge for the use of its place of meeting for the practice of the Cerneau Rite, or for any other purpose than the one recognized as Masonic, is unauthorized and improper.

*Resolved*,—That this Grand Lodge expressly declines to enter upon any discussion of the history, use, or legitimacy of any Body claiming to confer what is known as the high Degrees in Freemasonry, or to be committed to the recognition of any such Body as being Masonic, or as identified with a part of Ancient Craft Masonry.

We recognize the hand, the intelligence and the Masonic conservatism of our esteemed Brother, Past Grand Master Richard Vaux, in the language and sentiments of the above report. Reverently and trustfully, the Committee inform us in their Report, have

Master.  
K,  
Secretary.