

V. E. Sir Kt. H. B. Stoddard, the Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Encampment, was announced and greeted with all the honors.

Ten pages in the Grand Commander's address are devoted to "In Memoriam" of departed fratres of the Temple, including our own beloved, the late Grand Chancellor. A page is also set apart in the proceedings to his memory, for which we tender Canada's deep gratitude and thanks for the kindly courtesy.

The report covers 49 pages and is filled with copies of correspondence and orders which if read in full to the Conclave, must have wearied the Knights by its length of detail.

A proposition to appoint an official Drill Master was not adopted. An Historical Committee previously appointed was continued and the sum of \$500 voted towards a history of Knights Templar of Texas.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Kt. R. M. Elgin, Past Grand Commander.

Canada for 1897 receives courteous notice.

Under Iowa we find the following:

The only dispensation not approved by the Committee on Grand Officer's Report was one authorizing the members to appear in uniform at a charity ball given by the Commandery and given under its sole supervision. The committee say, without criticism, that the Grand Commandery has decided that a ball is not a "Masonic occasion."

It is not always easy to decide what is a Masonic occasion. In another year we will have been a Mason for a half century and arrived at that age in which men are prone to look back and wish for the good old times of the past. To regard that only as proper which was the custom "when I was made a Mason." When I was a young Mason we never had a public installation of officers, a St. John's-day celebration or a meeting of the Grand Lodge that we did not have a "Masonic Ball." And remembering how they were enjoyed, the pleasure with which they were anticipated and the sweet recollections that followed them, the writer cannot say that he would not have done as Grand Commander Ercanbrack did. Perhaps if they had called it by another name, although the same company assembled, the same topics discussed, the same ends attained, it would have been otherwise.

We imagine that our fratres of the United States have been so prone to put on their uniform and parade