

FLORIDA.

Held at Jacksonville, January 9th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. John S. Driggs, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 16; represented, 4; exalted, 7; members, 280; receipts, \$259. Annual Convocation, 31st.

There is no great improvement as yet in the condition of the Craft, but they live in hopes of better prospects. We will all rejoice when these hopes are realized, as they must be in the course of time. In his address the Grand High Priest says:—

"I can offer you no assurance of the present or immediate prospective prosperity of the Royal Art in this jurisdiction, but will say the cause is not in the apathy, indifference, or lack of zeal or ability of the officers and members of the several Subordinate Chapters, as I can learn, but is the result of the general stagnation in the various branches of industry, the great scarcity of money, the increasing demand made upon the time, talents and ability of every one to provide for the cause and sustenance of those around and dependant upon him. This want of means, I apprehend, will operate to prevent a general representation of the Subordinate Chapters at this Annual Convocation, as well as delay in payment of their dues to the Grand Chapter.

"In consideration of the small number of Subordinate Chapters, the long distance they are located from this Grand Chapter, the heavy expense attendant upon representatives coming therefrom, I would recommend to the consideration of the Grand Chapter a change of the law regulating representation.

"Without recommending any particular course, I would call attention to needed action of a positive nature relative to the return of a charter when forfeited for cause, as chapters lying dormant, I find, exert an influence adverse to the prosperity and growth of our noble craft.

"And now, my Companions, while to all appearances the present condition of the Royal Craft is not gratifying or cheering, let us each one, as sensible of our wants, our needs and desires, when we go hence in these bright days of the New Year, buckle on the armor of endeavor, with the determination that no steps backward shall be taken, but that, if spared in health till our next Grand Convocation, we will meet, each with a report of improvement, and promise of *continued prosperity*."

In the matter of the *status* of members of Chapters whose charters have been forfeited, the following edict was adopted:—

"Petitions for membership must be accompanied by the best evidences of Masonic character, of which the following are proper classifications:—1st. A dimity. 2nd. The certificate of the Grand Secretary, with Grand Chapter seal, that the petitioner was a member in good standing in a Chapter when it became dormant.

"The Grand Secretary may be based upon former High Priest. The written statement states the same of statement, which is

The proceeding comment.

R. E. Comp. J. prevented from pendency.

M. E. Comp. Priest.

R. E. Comp. Secretary.

Held at Jacksonville, M. E. Comp. J. Number of Chapters, 192; 32nd.

The Grand High improvement in the work, and renews mentions the death

From the report of Subordinate Chapters, Chapters may possibly survive, leaving evidence:—

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"The actions of the nations authorizing them, to elect new secretaries, to comment or evidence fact that the said Chapter have credibly reported. They are, then, to the Grand Chapters, who clearly manifest should ever characterize commend their noble