

nate Bodies when full and complete details are furnished you, and although the Rite has not been extended by the addition of new Bodies, I think it will be found to have materially advanced in the way of a more perfect exemplification of the work and a large and steady addition to its membership and its property.

ATTENDANCE.

As our Council is but small in numbers, it becomes necessary that every member, both active and honorary, should be in his place, and I cannot refrain from noticing the absence of some of those who have been so highly honored in receiving this degree, but who have not yet appeared in any session since the degree was conferred upon them.

Brethren, the time has arrived for me to hand you back the Sceptre entrusted to my hands three years ago, and the Constitution proclaims this as the year for the election of officers.

The years I have been privileged to preside over this Council have been fraught with much pleasure. I have felt highly honored at being the head of a body composed of the Eminent Masons who make up the membership of this Council, and though I have endeavored to do my duty to the best of my ability, I fear I have fallen sometimes short of expectations formed and of opportunities afforded. I am conscious of many shortcomings in my administration of the affairs of this Council, but I have done what I could. And now my Brethren may the Great Architect of the Universe bless our present gathering and may our deliberations be for the best interests of our beloved Rite.

JOHN W. MURTON, 33°

October 23, 1895.

*Grand Commander.*

The Lodge of Perfection was then closed, and all brethren below the Thirty-third degree having retired, the Supreme Council resumed labor in general session.

On motion that portion of the Grand Commander's address recommending that a message expressing our sincere wishes for the prosperity of the Southern Supreme Council now in session was adopted, and the balance of the address referred to a committee to report during the session.

The Grand Commander appointed Ill. Bros.: ELLIS, MACKAY and NELSON on the Committee.

Letters and telegrams of excuse for non-attendance were read from the following members :