

with a splendid Gold Jewel, manufactured by Messrs. Lash & Co., in appreciation of his many valuable services rendered to the Chapter during his year of office, accompanied with an eloquent address. R. Ex. Comp. Nixon thanked the members in feeling terms for the testimonial presented to him.

The members of the Chapter then proceeded to the Walker House, where about 60 Companions sat down to the annual dinner. The chair was filled by Ex. Comp. James Norris, Z., supported on the right by R. Ex. Comps. W. H. Porter, James B. Nixon, Thomas Sargeant, James Adams, A. T. Houel, and Ex. Comp. George Watson, and on his left by R. Ex. Comps. R. P. Stephens, Daniel Spry, and Ex. Comps. John Patterson, A. M. Munro, C. W. Brown, J. G. Burns, J. O'Donnel, and J. F. Lash. After grace the inner man was amply satisfied from an excellent bill of fare by the host. The Chairman then rose and gave the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft,"—song, God save the Queen, by Comp. J. C. Cameron; "The Grand First Principal and the Grand Chapter of Canada," was given by the Chairman, and eloquently responded to by Grand Scribes Stephens and Nixon; "The Grand Superintendent of the District of Toronto" was received with great applause, and ably responded to by R. Ex. Comp. W. H. Porter in an eloquent speech; "The Past Grand Superintendents" was the next toast, which was duly honored and responded to; "Our Visiting Companions" was given, and eloquently responded to by V. Ex. Comp. John Patterson, and Ex. Comps. R. J. Hovenden and C. W. Brown, on behalf of St. Andrew's and St. John's Chapters, Toronto, R. Ex. Comp. Dennistoun and Ex. Comp. J. O'Donnell of Corinthian Chapter, Peterboro', and Comp. McArthur, York Chapter, Eglington; "The Newly Installed Officers" was then given by the Past First Principal, and responded to by the several officers entering upon their duties. Several songs enlivened the proceedings of the evening, which were brought to a conclusion at 11.50 o'clock, p. m., all being highly pleased with the repast provided by Companion David Walker.

PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND BODIES.

THE Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Michigan, held their annual meeting in Detroit, on the 19th January. A large amount of business was transacted and several new charters granted. The following officers were elected for 1875: M. I. Grand Master, M. Mansfield; D. G. M., George Hill; G. P. C. of Work, J. H. Everard; G. Treasurer, E. S. Elliott; G. Recorder, G. B. Noble; G. Chaplain, B. F. Doughty; G. C. of G., C. B. Reynolds; G. Sentinel, W. V. Griffith. Cryptic Masonry is very flourishing in this jurisdiction.

GRAND COUNCIL OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD.—It is well known that this body is composed of those only who have been H. P. of subordinate Chapters. The Grand Council was organized in 1861, and has now over 250 members. Twelve candidates were introduced, installed, set apart, and solemnly consecrated to the order of H. P. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: J. A. Shingledecker, G. President; T. S. Green, G. Vice-President; B. F. Doughty, G. Chaplain; G. B. Noble, G. Treas.; D. Burnham Tracy, G. Rec.

THE Grand Chapter held its 29th annual session on the 19th and 20th January. 95 Chapters were represented, and a large amount of business transacted. A number of charters were granted and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: J. L. Mitchell, G. H. P.; Wm. Brown, D. G. H. P.; O. L. Spalding, G. R.; C. J. Kruger, G. S.; R. W. Lundon, G. Treasurer; W. P. Innes, G. Secretary; B. F. Doughty, G. Lecturer.—*Detroit Correspondence.*

PROBLEM OF THE ORIGIN OF MASONRY.

COULD we survey the whole field of Masonic literature; could we carefully examine the writings of men like Moreau and Story, and Clavel, and De Bonneville, and Nicolai, and Dr. Anderson, and Rebold, and Lenoir, and Firdel, and Krause, and Boderich, and Heldman, together with the works of our great American writers upon Masonic history, we should still be forced to acknowledge our inability to solve the problem of the date of the origin of Freemasonry; or might, perhaps, place it among the mysteries of antiquity. But going one step further, I apprehend that it is a matter of but little practical importance to the speculative or philosophic Mason of to-day, whether Freemasonry in its present form had its origin at one period of the world's history or another; whether, as some writers have foolishly asserted, that Masonry extended back to the Paradise of Eden; whether the Archangel Michael was the Grand Master of the first lodge held after the death of Abel; whether Noah was the founder of the Order; whether it originated on the plains of Shinar, at the construction of the tower