

GRAND CHAPTER

OF

Royal Arch Masons

OF CANADA.

Report on Foreign Correspondence

BEING AN

APPENDIX TO THE PROCEEDINGS

FOR THE YEAR A. L. 5878.

1878.

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FOREIGN

*To the Most Excellent
Royal Arch Masons*

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REPORT ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE. FOR 1878.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., and the Grand Chapter of
Royal Arch Masons of Canada:—

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submit the
following as their Annual Report for 1878. The Proceed-
ings of forty Grand Chapters have been received, namely:—

Alabama.....1877	Mississippi.....1878
Arkansas.....1877	Missouri.....1877
California.....1877	Nebraska.....1876-7
Colorado.....1877	New Hampshire.....1877
Connecticut.....1876-7-8	New Jersey.....1877
Delaware.....1878	New York.....1878
Dist. Columbia.....1877	North Carolina.....1876-7
Florida.....1877-8	Nova Scotia.....1876-7
Georgia.....1877	Ohio.....1876-7
Illinois.....1877	Oregon.....1876-7
Indiana.....1877	Quebec.....1876
Iowa.....1877	Rhode Island.....1877
Kansas.....1877	South Carolina.....1878
Kentucky.....1877	Tennessee.....1875-6-7
Louisiana.....1878	Texas.....1877
Maine.....1876-7	Vermont.....1876-7
Maryland.....1877	Virginia.....1875-6-7
Massachusetts.....1877	West Virginia.....1877
Michigan.....1878	Wisconsin.....1877-8
Minnesota.....1877	General Grand Chapter.....1877

We rejoice at so full and complete a representation, as it
will enable us to give tidings from all parts of the North
American Continent. The above list comprises all the
Grand Chapters with whom we are in correspondence, ex-
cept Pennsylvania, whose Proceedings for 1877 are not yet
published.

There is a Grand Chapter in Nevada, organized in 1878,
but they have never sent us any notice of their formation.

nor any of their Proceedings. It appears that they have treated all the other Grand Chapters in the same way, so we presume they desire to be left alone. We have written to the Grand Secretary, Comp. S. W. Chubbuck (Gold Hill), but have received no reply.

The proceedings before us are contained in 55 pamphlets, many of them bulky enough to be called volumes. This is a larger number than we have ever had before, and nearly twice as many as last year; so that our labor, and the length of this report will be correspondingly increased. We will, however, endeavor to be as brief as possible.

It might be advisable for Grand Chapter to give an intimation as to the proper (or improper) length of these reports, as we may possibly be unwittingly over-doing this business. But we are "roasted" so much about what some of our Companions were pleased to term the "*patent condenser*," we were supposed to use a few years ago, that we concluded that our readers would prefer to have a somewhat more extended notice of the various subjects and transactions of sister Grand Chapters.

Besides the above, we are glad to be able to give a short notice of the Grand Chapter of

IRELAND.

Through the kindness of Comp. James H. Neilson, of Dublin, the eminent Masonic Archaeologist, we have been favored with a copy of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and several pamphlets, from which we obtain the following information:—

The Principal Grand Officers for 1878, are:

Hon. Judge Townshend, LL.D., King.

Chas. C. Macnamara, Deputy.

Chas. A. Cameron, High Priest.

John F. Goodman, Chief Scribe.

S. B. Oldham (Dublin), Registrar.

The Grand Chapter meets in Stated Convocations four times in each year, in the months of February, May, July

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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and November. The Board of General Purposes meets on the Friday preceding each quarterly Convocation.

They have also a Grand Chapter of Instruction, which meets six times in the year; and a Grand Committee of Inspection, meeting monthly. With all these meetings they should be kept in good order, as no doubt they are; but as they do not publish their Proceedings, we are left in the dark about many things which we would like to know.

The receipts for 1877 were £587.3.0. Among the items we notice, Fees of Officers, £99.7.0; Certificates and Registry, £278.6.8; and Fines, £85.12.0. The expenses were £386.1.8; besides appropriations of £150 each, to the Masonic Female Orphan School, and the Masonic Orphan Boys' School, and the purchase of £800 worth of India 4 per cent. stock.

Three new Warrants were issued in 1877; one for a chapter in Bermuda, and the other two in Ireland. Six chapters surrendered their Warrants, one in Constantinople, two in Australia and three in Ireland.

From the Constitution, we learn that the chief officers in the chapter are, King, High Priest and Chief Scribe. The Grand Master, if a Past King, is the Grand King, otherwise one is elected.

No Chapter can be opened or remain open, unless six Companions are present, one of whom must be a King or Past King. There are six subordinate officers, viz.: Captain of the Host, Superintendent of the Tabernacle, Royal Arch Captain, and three Captains of Veils.

All candidates for exaltation in Dublin must be approved of by the Committee of Inspection. This Committee consists of all the Grand Officers, and the King of every Dublin Chapter. Their duties appear to be solely to decide upon the admissibility of candidates, and they do not consider any case, until after the candidate has been balloted for and approved in the Chapter he proposes to join. This furnishes an additional safeguard against the admission of unworthy members, but it would not suit in this country at all.

IV.

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

The Mark Degree is worked under the Chapter, but not the Past Master nor Most Excellent Master.

ALABAMA.

Held at Montgomery, December 4th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. James E. Cobb, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 37; represented, 29; exalted, 47; members, 1,059; receipts, \$1,260.75. Annual Convocation, 51st.

The address of the Grand High Priest intimates a more favorable condition than obtained last year. Better days for the Craft in Alabama nearer at hand, and it is hoped that their long depression is now passing away. Comp. Cobb reports the revival of one Chapter, and says:—

"It gratifies me to state that, from intercourse with Companions, official and otherwise, I deem the prospects of the Order, in this jurisdiction, at least encouraging.

"I am informed that steps are being taken to have restored to their places on our roll, Chapters whose charters were forfeited under the pressure of financial embarrassments, and the demoralization of disturbed political and social relations. Individual Companions, too, under the influence of that more healthful tone pervading society everywhere, are experiencing a rekindling of their Masonic zeal, which the unrelenting necessities of poverty, and the forebodings of a future which seemed to hold a "still lower deep," repressed.

"These are omens of cheer. But much remains to be done. There is still laxity in discipline to be corrected; remissness and neglect of duty to be rebuked; and reviving hopes to be encouraged and strengthened; and it behooves you, assembled in Grand Convocation, to determine what may be done to the attainment of these desired ends."

Another Chapter, not represented since 1873, and one whose charter had been forfeited, were reinstated by the Grand Chapter.

Quebec was recognized.

Comp. P. J. Pillans reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1876 and 1877.

M. E. Comp. James E. Cobb (Tuskegee), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Daniel Sayre (Montgomery), Grand Secretary.

ARKANSAS.

Held at Little Rock, October 4th, 1877.

R. E. Comp. J. W. Rison, Deputy (Acting) Grand High Priest.

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Number of Cl members, 1,458; 28th.

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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Number of Chapters, 40; represented, 19; exalted, 67; members, 1,458; receipts, \$550.00. Annual Convocation, 28th.

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. E. R. DuVal, was unavoidably absent, being detained by his duties as a physician. His address was read, in which we find the following remarks on the condition of the Craft:—

"In pride, with gratitude, we have heard from the veteran workers of the North, the South, the East, the West, these words of cheer: The night has passed away, the sun has risen, and the clouds have drifted afar; gloom has ended in sunlight. The royal Craft are reanimated; their banners are raised aloft, and never again will they droop, or their zealous defenders grow cold or indifferent to friendship, union, fervency and purity.

"United, disciplined, and martialled like the tribe of Israel, under the leadership of the Great Law-Giver, in moral warfare they expect to put to flight all who oppose. An outlook so much more promising for Capitular Masonry in our jurisdiction than when the year began, is a just cause for congratulation, not alone to ourselves, but likewise to many in sister States, as I can safely aver from personal intercourse with such, recently, in the city of Buffalo, N.Y."

He issued one dispensation for a new Chapter, and reports that, with a few exceptions, the Chapters that were in default last year, are again in full fellowship.

The Committee on Education presented a report on St. John's College, in which they hope that the benevolent designs of its founders may yet be crowned with success. They recommend the usual appropriation of \$800.00, on condition that the Grand Lodge also make a suitable donation.

A committee was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, to consider the propriety of transferring the Council degrees from the Councils to the Chapters, and to report at the next Annual Convocation.

A petition for a new Chapter was denied, as it was not recommended by any chartered Chapter.

The work was exemplified by Comp. E. H. English, P. G. H. P.

Comp. John R. Eakin reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1876.

M. E. Comp. J. W. Jordan (Hot Springs), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. L. E. Barber (Little Rock), Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

Held at San Francisco, April 10th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Alex. G. Abell, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters in the jurisdiction, 48; represented in Grand Chapter, 45; number of exaltations, 248, members, 2,888; receipts during the year, \$4,100.00. Annual Convocation, 23rd.

The Grand High Priest reports harmony prevailing among the Chapters, and that they are in a good and prosperous condition. On the proficiency of candidates, he says:—

"I suggest that there seems to be too great a latitude of rapidity with which candidates in our Order are advanced from one degree to another. In the Lodges of our State they are required to exhibit their proficiency in one degree before they can be advanced to another, and, as the intention of that regulation is that every candidate shall show a thorough knowledge of that which he has already been taught before being instructed further, I see no reason why the same useful course should not be pursued in the preparation and instruction of candidates in the several degrees conferred in our Chapters. As it is, they are hurried through at a rate of speed only limited by their own desires, and, too generally, when they have received their last degree, are almost as ignorant of our work and teachings as when they entered upon the threshold of the first. They have become Royal Arch Masons in name, but not in knowledge. Would it not be well, therefore, to adopt a regulation prescribing that no candidate shall be advanced to a higher degree until, in open Chapter, after strict examination, he shall have shown himself thoroughly acquainted with all that he has been taught in the one next preceding? And would it not be well, also, inasmuch as there is no inquest in the Lodges concerning proficiency in the third degree, that, before receiving in our bodies the degree of Mark Master, the candidate should be required, in the same manner, to show that he possesses the proper requirements of a Master Mason?"

He mentions the death of Comp. Charles Marsh, P.G.H.P., one of their best known and best beloved members.

The Grand Lecturer spent eight full months of the year and travelled many hundred miles in the performance of his arduous duties. He aims at securing perfect uniformity. In his report he says:—

"My reception everywhere was most cordial at all times, and the strictest attention was given to the correction of errors, where any

were found to exist. I can truly say that well rendered in all however—which is that is too often ind of reception in the I so interesting and in sions for fun or the of California are laci that they do not full vealed that causes t nicious custom and men. The consequ stead of being intere Masons only in nam so capable of inspiri correct this evil, but attended with the s fore, by this Grand (good to the Royal Ch

On the subject of the Chapter, the Mississippi, and

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"Resolved, That a Chapter comply with Grand Chapter at its the carrying into eff

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were found to exist, and to the acquiring of the true work generally. I can truly say that the work and lectures are not only creditably but well rendered in all the Chapters visited. There is one practice, however—which is frowned upon by intelligent Masons everywhere—that is too often indulged in: a disposition to convert the ceremonies of reception in the R. A., and the symbolic journey from Babylon—so interesting and instructive when properly understood—into occasions for fun or the playing of jokes. It is not that the Companions of California are lacking in their appreciation of the lessons taught, or that they do not fully comprehend the sacredness of the truths revealed that causes this indulgence, but it is the result of a most pernicious custom and a desire to "get even" that is so natural in all men. The consequence is that many are sickened and repelled, instead of being interested and instructed, and to-day are Royal Arch Masons only in name, without appreciation, without love for a degree so capable of inspiring both. I have in every instance endeavored to correct this evil, but am sorry to say that my efforts have not been attended with the success they merited. Some definite action therefore, by this Grand Chapter I can but think would result in lasting good to the Royal Craft.

On the subject of the transfer of the Council degrees to the Chapter, the Grand Chapter approved of the action of Mississippi, and passed the following resolutions:—

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter approves the general plan adopted by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Mississippi, having for its object the transfer of the degrees of Royal and Select Master to the Royal Arch Chapter.

"Resolved, That a special committee be appointed by the Grand High Priest, whose duty it shall be (acting conjointly with a committee to be appointed by the Most Puissant Grand Council) to petition the General Grand Chapter, for the necessary permission to accomplish the desired transfer.

"Resolved, That said committee be required (if the General Grand Chapter comply with the prayer of the petitioners), to present to this Grand Chapter at its next Annual Convocation, a detailed plan for the carrying into effect of the proposed transfer."

The Grand Chapter of Quebec was recognized.

Comp. Charles Louis Wiggin reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1876. We make two extracts, shewing their practice in these matters to be different from ours, and from most of the other jurisdictions:—

"We are well aware that it was an 'ancient regulation,' and embodied in the 'Ancient Charges' that no brother could be a Master until he had served as a Warden, but it was not considered one of the 'Ancient Landmarks' which was to be preserved inviolate. Many of the 'Ancient Regulations' are not now in force, and we believe we are correct in saying that in many jurisdictions in this country this particular 'Ancient' is ignored. We will name, positively, but one,

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because we cannot now call to mind those who we believe are in accord with us upon this question. In California it is not required that to be a Master, a brother must have served as a Warden. It is certainly seldom the case that a Master is elected who has not filled the Warden's chair, but there is nothing to prevent a Lodge from electing as its Master any brother from the floor, so that, in case either of the Wardens should not be well qualified to sit in the East, some intelligent brother may be chosen who will be a credit to the Lodge and to the Fraternity."

"In California, a Companion who remains non-affiliated for more than six months, or who does not pay to some Lodge a sum equivalent to its monthly dues for all the time he remains unaffiliated after the six months has expired, is excluded from the Chapter; should he, however, present his petition to a Lodge for affiliation and be rejected, the fact of the presentation of his petition is regarded as an effort on his part to do his duty as a Mason, and this act places him in good standing for six months thereafter. The object of this is to encourage affiliation with the Lodge, that being recognized as the foundation upon which the capular degrees are based."

M. E. Comp. Henry H. Knapp (Napa), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Charles L. Wiggin (San Francisco), Grand Secretary.

COLORADO.

Held at Denver, September 20th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Irving W. Stanton, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 7; represented, 7; exalted, 90; members, 359; receipts, \$349.08. Annual Convocation, 3rd.

The Grand High Priest says that the business depression has affected the increase of membership; that it is prudent to guard well the outer courts, and to require a high standard of moral worth as a necessary qualification for admission.

He mentions the meeting of the committee on work, at which a system was agreed upon, which was afterwards adopted by Grand Chapter. Comp. A. G. Mackey was present at the committee, and rendered valuable assistance.

Quebec was recognized.

The dues to Grand Chapter were increased from fifty cents to one dollar per member.

M. E. Comp. Owen H. Henry (Golden), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Ed. C. Parmelee (Georgetown), Grand Secretary.

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CONNECTICUT.

Held at Hartford, May 9th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Edmund Tweedy, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 35; represented, 85; exalted, 177; members, 3,687; receipts, \$816.00. Annual Convocation, 78th.

The Grand High Priest delivered a good address. He deprecates the practice of naming Chapters after living men. He does not believe in the Representative system, and declined to make any appointments. He thinks a tax on the membership is preferable to a tax on the exaltations. He reports one decision, which is in accord with our views:—

"That the relation of a Royal Arch Mason to his Chapter is not affected by his being stricken from the roll of membership in his Lodge for non-payment of his dues."

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"Resolved, That at the next Annual Convocation there be required and paid to this Grand Chapter from each subordinate within its jurisdiction, the sum of twenty cents for each member upon its roll; provided, however, that in estimating its number, for the proposed taxation, all members may be deducted who have left its jurisdiction, and have not been heard from for the five preceding years."

"Resolved, That in future the names of the members of subordinate Chapters be published with the proceedings of the Grand Chapter once in five years, commencing with the year 1890."

Comp. John N. Lewis reports on correspondence, in his usual able and entertaining manner. We regret to learn that he now retires from the ranks of the Reporters.

M. E. Comp. H. W. Coye (Rockville), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Jos. K. Wheeler (Hartford), Grand Secretary.

Held at New Haven, May 8th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. H. W. Coye, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 35; represented, 82; exalted, 122; members, 3,837; receipts, \$793.80. Annual Convocation, 79th.

The Grand High Priest refused two applications for leave to petition and ballot for a candidate at the same meeting. He thinks greater care is being taken in the inspection of the material presented, than is sometimes the

case in more prosperous times; and that the Chapters are more careful in the selection of their officers.

Quebec was recognized.

The following proposed Permanent Regulations were referred to the Committee on Revision of Grand Chapter Regulations:—

"Resolved, That the several Chapters in this jurisdiction be and they are hereby authorized and empowered, at any stated Convocation, upon good cause shown, and upon such terms as may be just, by a majority vote, to rescind the resolution striking a member from the roll for non-payment of dues, upon the application of such member in writing, at any time within two years thereafter; provided such member shall not, in the meanwhile, have become a member of another Chapter. This resolution shall apply to all members heretofore stricken from the roll, whether the period above limited in which such application can be made has expired or not.

"Resolved, that no Royal Arch Mason in this jurisdiction, of twenty-one years' good and regular standing, shall be subject to discipline for non-payment of dues."

The following was postponed till next meeting:—

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter no candidate for exaltation to the Capitular degrees of Masonry should be subjected to a second ballot, after a ballot has once been declared clear and the candidate declared elected, and so recorded in the records of any subordinate Chapter, unless the Companion who may object to the advancement of any candidate to any of the degrees of Capitular Masonry shall do so on the ground of newly discovered evidence against the Masonic character of the candidate since the ballot which elected him was taken."

M. E. Comp. H. W. Coye (Hartford), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. K. Wheeler (Hartford), Grand Secretary.

Held at Hartford, May 7th, 1878.

M. E. Comp. Henry W. Coye, Grand High Priest.

Numbers of Chapters, 96; represented, 88; exalted, 102; members, 8,846; receipts, \$788.80. Annual Convocation, 80th.

The duties of the Grand High Priest had been unusually light and unimportant. He reports one new Chapter, and says:—

"No question requiring a decision from me has been asked during the year; but, contrary to my hopes and expectations, from the repeated expressions of disapproval of such a course, made by this Grand Chapter, and by my predecessors in office, I have, in two or three instances, been asked for a dispensation to shorten the time

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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specified by the By-laws in which a ballot might be taken, which requests, of course, I refused. It is devoutly hoped that the time will quickly come when the officers and members of all our subordinate Chapters will realize the fact that the Grand High Priest should support and maintain the laws, rules, and regulations of our Institution, and not break them, or set them aside at will, to accommodate any and every so-called case of emergency."

A revised Constitution was adopted, and a resolution passed forbidding Chapters to return to their members any dues paid in.

Comp. John H. Barber, (a lineal descendant of the celebrated "Billy"), makes his *debut* as a Reporter. His review comprises thirty-seven Grand Chapters (including Canada for 1876), which necessitated the reading of 5,000 pages. In his notice of New York, he says:—

"The report of the Grand Secretary shows a decrease of the affiliated members of three hundred and twenty-four, caused by the large number suspended for non-payment of dues, which he says may reasonably be accounted for by the inability of many Companions to pay their dues in consequence of protracted and general depression of business. Such being the fact would not a little Masonic charity have saved many valuable members which are now cast off? We should regret to have the name of any Companion from Connecticut stricken from the roll of his Chapter (we do not suspend them) whose only offense, if you call it an offense, is inability to pay. Remember, honest poverty is no disgrace though many times quite inconvenient."

Which are just our sentiments exactly.

We can find nothing to "pitch into" him about this time. His report is ably written, and with good judgment, and we give him a hearty welcome into the ranks, and hope to hear from him often. In his conclusion he has some further remarks on suspensions for non-payment of dues, which are worthy of note:

"Among the few disputed points, in which there seems great diversity of opinion, we would notice: striking from the roll, and suspension for non-payment of dues. In most jurisdictions the penalty is suspension, not only from Lodge membership, but from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, which severs their connection with or causes the Chapter to refuse them admission when suspended by their Lodge for non-payment of dues.

"Thus, during the past year, 3,456 have been cast out and sent forth as non-affiliated, which has become a name of reproach. Without entering into a discussion as to the justice or expediency of this mode of discipline, it forcibly admonishes us that in the past we have made Masonry too cheap. The theory put forth, that once a Mason always a Mason, at a time when most Lodges and Chapters did not

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have dues, has, we think, caused many to enter our fraternity with little thought as to the burdens and responsibilities imposed upon them. With our present almost universal system of dues, if the initiate is, as he should be, informed as to his duties and obligations in respect to Lodge membership, those who are admitted, be the number ever so small, will be Masons in deed as well as in name; and if no recruits are furnished, the present race of drones will, in time, become extinct."

M. E. Comp. Dwight Waugh (Stamford), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. K. Wheeler (Hartford), Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.

Held at Wilmington, January 16th, 1878.

R. E. Comp. Paynter Frame, D.G.H.P., presiding.

Number of Chapters, 6; represented, 5; exalted, 26; members, 820; receipts, \$288.75. Annual Convocation, 10th.

The Grand High Priest, Comp. J. F. Mynich, was absent through illness. His address was read; from which we learn that the working Chapters are advancing in prosperity. On decisions he says:—

"I have made but one decision upon Masonic Law during the year. Upon the occasion of one of my visits to St. John's Chapter, there was considerable discussion upon what constituted obedience to a summons. The High Priest being of the opinion that all that was required was for the party summoned to send his dues to the Chapter; upon being appealed to, I could not help placing the seal of reprobation upon such pernicious teaching, and ordered the Secretary to record as my decision "That the only way that a summons could be answered was by actual attendance to the Convocation to which the Companion had been summoned, that while the Companion might ask the High Priest or the Chapter to excuse him, actual presence in the body of the Chapter is the only way whereby a summons can be answered and obeyed."

He attended the General Grand Chapter, and does not think much of its legislation; too much time being occupied with banquets and excursions. He urges the necessity of a new Constitution.

Quebec was recognized.

The following were adopted:—

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Grand Chapter that a member indefinitely suspended may be restored to membership at any regular Convocation of the Chapter which suspended him, by a motion which may be adopted by a concurring vote by a ballot of two-thirds of the members present.

"Resolved, That Priest, who shall Constitution, who and report thereof Chapter."

There is no re Proceedings is a M. E. Comp. R. E. Comp. tary.

Held at Wash M. E. Comp. Number of members, 1,091 tion, 11th.

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"From this corr this Grand Chapte Representative wa ber, and several d tary informing the Since the date of t S. McCoy has been Grand Chapter, an happy termination jurisdictions."

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

XIII.

"Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed by the Grand High Priest, who shall be known as the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, whose duty it shall be to revise the Constitution and report thereon at the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter."

There is no report on correspondence. The receipt of our Proceedings is acknowledged.

M. E. Comp. A. G. Cox (Middletown), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. P. Allmond (Wilmington), Grand Secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Held at Washington, December 12th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. G. L. Johnson, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 8; represented, 8; exalted, 71; members, 1,091; receipts, \$942.00. Annual Communication, 11th.

The Grand High Priest reports a zeal for the institution that is highly commendable, and has crowned their labors with prosperity. He made the usual visits to the Chapters, at which addresses and lectures were delivered by eminent Companions. On relations with Canada, he gives the subsequent correspondence, and says:—

"From this correspondence it will be seen that the first intimation this Grand Chapter had of Companion Mason's resignation as Grand Representative was subsequent to your action of the 13th of December, and several days after the date of the letter of our Grand Secretary informing the Grand Chapter of Canada of your determination. Since the date of the correspondence referred to, R. E. Comp. Joseph S. McCoy has been appointed the representative of Canada near this Grand Chapter, and I have no doubt you will gladly welcome the happy termination of the protracted controversy between the two jurisdictions."

He mentions the request by the Grand Chapter of Maryland for a Record Book, which has recently been discovered in Washington, and thinks it should be granted. This book is the Record Book of a "Royal Arch Encampment," held in Washington in the years 1795 to 1799. It establishes the date of the original organization of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and it is the only known evidence of that fact.

Grand Chapter granted the request, and appointed a com-

mittee to present the Records to the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

The Grand Visitor and Lecturer reports as follows:—

"I would respectfully report that during the year that has just closed the several Chapters in this jurisdiction have been working in great harmony, and although there has not yet been as many exaltations as we have seen in other years, yet I think we have great cause of congratulation, for, on the whole, a good average amount of work has been done, and, as far as I can judge, the material used seems to be of good quality, and the workmanship generally of the most exquisite character."

Quebec was recognized.

A Chapter of Sorrow was held in June, on the death of Comp. J. E. F. Holmead, P.G.H.P.

At the semi-annual meeting, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That this Grand Chapter will adhere to the rule not to appoint or receive any Companion as Representative unless he shall have attained the rank of High Priest, or is a member of his respective Grand Chapter."

Comp. Joseph S. McCoy was duly received and acknowledged as the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada. He was afterwards elected Grand High Priest. We offer him our cordial congratulations upon his elevation to that most honorable office. We are sure that his many friends in this jurisdiction, will rejoice that his valuable services to the cause of Capitular Masonry have been rewarded by his Companions at home.

Comp. Noble D. Larnier reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1877. For a first attempt this report is very creditable to the author. His extracts are good, and his comments in the main are judicious, and show that he is well informed on the matters discussed. On the "objection" question, we hail him as another ally on the right side. He says:—

"A companion should not sit in a Chapter and fail to exercise his right when the ballot is presented to him, and then, without receiving any additional light on the fitness of the candidate, attempt to place such candidate in a position different from that in which he would have been had the Companion discharged his duty, as he should have done, by exercising the right he possessed. We go further, and take the ground, that if a Companion sits quietly in the

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Chapter, and lets the ballot pass without exercising his right, he should not be allowed to interfere with the action taken unless, at some future time, he be put in possession of facts of which he was not aware at the time of balloting, and which, if known to him at that time, would have justified him in preventing favorable action."

Under the head of "Colorado," he has the following sensible remarks in support of their practice as to electing the presiding officer, which is the same as ours, and which we have had some arguments about in former reports:—

"He does not agree with our rule which prohibits a Companion being elected High Priest who has not served either as King or Scribe. Of course Comp. P. has a right to dissent, but we think that if he would reconsider the question and look at it from our standpoint, which we think is the right one, he would agree with us on the question. We hold that diligence and attention to duty on the part of a Companion who has been promoted to the responsible position of King or Scribe, should be rewarded, and that he should not be 'jumped' by one who has never given any attention to the duties of the chair. Allow Companion Parmelee's view to prevail, and you leave no incentive to the Companions to work and prepare themselves in the various duties that devolve upon a High Priest before reaching that position. Let the other rule prevail, and our Companions when placed in position will feel as if they had something to work for, and in this way our Chapter can always have good officers. This is our rule, and the results have been all we could wish for. We have good officers and good work, while with the opposite course we would be liable to have bad officers and bad work. Let our young sister try this rule for a short time and see what good effect it will have in her Chapters."

Under "New Jersey," he says:—

"He cautions the Companions against soliciting candidates for the degrees, believing as he does, that it is contrary to the principles of Capitalar Masonry, and that every brother should be left to apply of his own free will. The principle we admit applies to the Lodge, but we are ignorant of any rule in Capitalar Masonry which prohibits a R. A. Mason from soliciting a brother to join the Chapter. On the contrary, we think the rule the reverse of that, and that every brother who has proved himself in the Lodge to be worthy, should not only be solicited but urged to complete his Masonic edifice by taking the Chapter degrees, for without which we all know he has received 'light in Masonry but partially.' Holding these views, we were glad to see, when we had gotten nearly through the proceedings, that the Grand Chapter coincides in our view of the case, as the position assumed by the Grand High Priest was not concurred in by it."

M. E. Comp. Joseph S. McCoy (No. 1705, G. Street, N. W., Washington), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Chas. W. Hancock (No. 1443, Corcoran Street, N. W., Washington), Grand Secretary.

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:—

We copy part of

"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

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

XVII.

"The Grand Secretary's certificate, in the absence of record evidence, may be based upon the following:—1st. The written statement of a former High Priest or Secretary as to his standing at that time. 2nd. The written statement of a Royal Arch Mason, in good standing, who states the same of his own knowledge. 3rd. The applicant's own statement, which should be received only with great care."

The proceedings are very brief, and call for no special comment.

R. E. Comp. Samuel Pasco (Chairman), was unavoidably prevented from preparing the report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. E. Comp. J. S. Driggs (Jacksonville), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. D. C. Dawkins (Jacksonville), Grand Secretary.

Held at Jacksonville, January 8th, 1878.

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

Number of Chapters, 14; represented, 6; exalted, 13; members, 192; receipts, \$267.00. Annual Convocation, 32nd.

The Grand High Priest reports cheering prospects of some improvement in their condition. The spirit of reform is at work, and renewed zeal is manifested in several places. He mentions the death of Past Grand High Priest David Jones.

From the report of the Grand Secretary as to the subordinate Chapters, we learn that six numbers are vacant; five Chapters may possibly survive, and five others will probably survive, leaving eight in good working order.

We copy part of the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence:—

"The actions of the M. E. Grand High Priest, in granting dispensations authorizing the Lake Butler, Providence and Madison Chapters, to elect new sets of officers and resume work, need no further comment or evidence of their correctness and good results than the fact that the said Chapters, heretofore so long practically dormant, have credibly reported to, and are represented at, this Grand Convocation. They are, therefore, approved with cheering congratulations to the Grand Chapter, and especially to the Companions of their Chapters, who clearly manifest a renewal of that fervency and zeal which should ever characterize all Royal Arch Masons, and we earnestly commend their noble examples to other Chapters, still remaining, ap-

parently, in thoughtless or careless indifference, and that the latter may be encouraged to do likewise."

Quebec was recognized;

M. E. Comp. Enos Wasgate (Jacksonville), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. D. C. Dawkins (Jacksonville), Grand Secretary.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of a copy of a reprint of the Proceedings of the organization of the Grand Chapter of Florida, and the first and second Annual Conventions, held in 1847 and 1848.

GEORGIA.

Held at Macon, April 25th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Luther J. Glenn, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 48; represented, 88; exalted, 58; members, 1,724; receipts, \$2,118.00. Annual Convocation, 55th.

We copy the conclusion of the address of the Grand High Priest:—

"In conclusion, Companions, it gives me pleasure to report that peace and harmony, with the exception noted, continue with the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction. While our returns do not show so great an increase of membership as in years gone by, and may exhibit in some of the Subordinate Chapters, languor and even torpor, they are, on the whole, satisfactory; and the work done will stand the test of the overseer's square.

"In this and other Southern jurisdictions, Royal Arch Masonry, for years past, in common with sister institutions, could but feel, and has felt, the disastrous influences attending the foot-steps of war, our loss of capital, the disorganization of labor, and the paralysis of trade and enterprise consequent upon an uncertain political future.

"These things considered, we have, I think, reason to congratulate ourselves that we have been able to hold our own so well; and to feel unabated if not greater confidence in the eternal principles that underlie our institution.

"We have now entered upon the first year of the second century of our country's existence. With it, thank God, comes the dawn of a brighter day. The clouds and gloom that o'cast the setting of our first centennial sun have been dissipated and scattered. Our own loved and lovely South, relieved from the rule of the bayonet, is again clothed in the habiliments of local self-government. The bow of peace and union, and Fraternity again arches our national sky. Hope, long deferred, resumes her sway, and bids us press forward in the paths of peace and industry to the relief of our own stricken section, and

through it to the relief through its parts, and truth that it requires whole.

"Welcome! three times more united, pros- ner will be seen floatin blessings of Heaven, di restored union of our F

The following res Lawrence, Chairman

"Resolved, That to le Masons, or to transact the Chapter must be pu

"Resolved, That on a companion, known to be in to cast a ballot.

"Resolved, That we Quebec among our Cor welcome and greeting, i prosperity."

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members, 10,690; r tion, 28th.

With so large a m that troubles and di but during the year the general harmony formed, which results

through it to the relief of the whole country. The whole has suffered through its parts, and the nation has just awakened to the pregnant truth that it requires the health of all its parts to make a perfect whole.

"Welcome! three times three, welcome! the day when, among a once more united, prosperous and happy people, the Royal Arch banner will be seen floating in the breeze; and the Royal Craft, under the blessings of Heaven, dispensing light and knowledge throughout the restored union of our Fathers."

The following resolutions were proposed by Comp. Samuel Lawrence, Chairman of Foreign Correspondence:—

"Resolved, That to legally open and close a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or to transact business, or do work therein, nine members of the Chapter must be present.

"Resolved, That on a petition for the Degrees, any visiting Companion, known to be in good and regular standing, shall be privileged to cast a ballot.

"Resolved, That we enroll with pleasure the Grand Chapter of Quebec among our Corresponding Grand Chapters, and, with hearty welcome and greeting, send her our best wishes for her success and prosperity."

After considerable discussion, the first and second were withdrawn and the third adopted.

An amendment to the Constitution was offered, and lies over for one year, to the effect that meetings of the Grand Chapter be held alternately at Macon and Atlanta.

Comp. Samuel Lawrence has a good report on Foreign Correspondence, in which our Proceedings for 1876 receive kindly mention.

M. E. Comp. L. J. Glenn (Atlanta), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. E. Blackshear (Macon), Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS.

Held at Chicago, October 25th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Arthur R. H. Atkins, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 167; represented, 150; exalted, 549; members, 10,690; receipts, \$5,522.06. Annual Convocation, 28th.

With so large a membership, the Grand High Priest says that troubles and dissensions might be expected to arise; but during the year only two exceptions have appeared in the general harmony prevailing. No new Chapters were formed, which results from the financial stringency and from

the expression of the Grand Chapter at its last Convocation against the organization of any more Chapters. We quote his decisions:—

"LENA CHAPTER, No. 105.—A Companion is notified to be present at a certain regular Convocation and pay dues; a notice is sent by mail to the Companion's last address and not returned; at the specified Convocation the Secretary makes a verbal statement of above facts; a Companion moves the delinquent Companion be suspended; it is put to vote and declared carried by a show of hands.

"Decision.—No written charges having been preferred, the action of the Chapter was void. The Companion is not legally suspended.

"No. 2.—Can a High Priest, after his retirement from the chair, be tried in his Chapter for any official act of his when he was High Priest?

"Decision.—No. He can only be tried by the Grand Chapter.

"No. 3.—Champaign Chapter, No. 50, at the request of Mt. Carmel Chapter, No. 159, gives permission to said Chapter to confer the M. E. and R. A. degrees upon a P. M. of Champaign Chapter without reservation,—where is his membership, and to which Chapter does the fee belong?

"Decision.—On signing the By-laws of Mt. Carmel Chapter he becomes a member of it, and said Chapter is alone entitled to the fee.

"No. 4.—Can an honorary member be legally elected to an office of a Chapter of which he is such a member?

"Decision.—No. An honorary membership entitles him to a seat in the Chapter, but with no further rights.

"No. 5.—Can a Companion vote when in arrears for dues over one year, the By-laws of his Chapter specifying such arrearage of dues as depriving him of that right?

"Decision.—Yes. No Companion can be deprived of the right to vote until charges are preferred against him. Such a By-law, being unconstitutional, is void.

"No. 6.—Can a ballot on a petition be withheld after it is received by a Chapter, a Companion having objected to the ballot being taken?

"Decision.—No. The petition being in the possession of the Chapter, a ballot must be taken and the candidate elected before objections can be made and entertained by the High Priest.

"No. 7.—A Chapter member is suspended by his Lodge. He appeals to the Grand Lodge, and is reinstated. Is he liable to the Chapter for dues during the time of his suspension by his Lodge?

"Decision.—No. He is not liable for dues from the date of his suspension by his Lodge to the time of his reinstatement by the Grand Lodge. (See section 48, Grand Chapter By-laws.)"

He recommends immediate and additional legislation on the financial position of the Grand Chapter, as for a number of years the expenses have exceeded the receipts. On the question of the consolidation of the Council degrees with the Chapter degrees, he has the following:—

"I shall now ask your earnest attention to a matter which I consider of vital interest to Royal Arch Masonry. Many who are present

know the importance of the Royal Arch degrees, the Royal and Select of the Royal Arch Chapter to and were conferred Grand Chapter claim 1853, the General Grand Council to the Grand Council beautiful degrees he dition, except in the Grand Chapters.

"The Grand Chapter ready consolidated Texas is moving to life or death with the Grand Council of these beautiful degrees. Com. H. W. Walter that Cryptic and Chapter. In this taken the Capitular the Cryptic. By taken upon all Royal Arch and belonged to the General Grand Chapter Capitular Masonry honors and titles to ter Walter, of Mississippi the crying evil in the Council and Grand Chapter I would yield the properly belongs, as Excellent Master with Master with the Royal and giving to it its Chapters that would

"I would, therefore consisting of five meet a similar com draft articles of con

On this subject Council of Royal and referred to the officers:—

"M. E. SMITH.—The Council of Royal Arch memorialize the Grand of jurisdiction and sent that, in order to izations, and at the proper dissemination their opinion a plan

know the importance of the Cryptic degrees, and that without them the Royal Arch degree is short of much of its beauty; that, in fact, the Royal and Select Masters' degrees are the key to and explanation of the Royal Arch degree. The Cryptic degrees originally belonged to and were conferred in the Chapter, and up to 1829 the General Grand Chapter claimed jurisdiction over these degrees. Finally, in 1853, the General Grand Chapter, by its action, surrendered its claim to the Grand Councils of the different States. Since that time these beautiful degrees have lost ground, and are now in a languishing condition, except in those States that have them under the control of the Grand Chapters.

"The Grand Chapters of Mississippi and North Carolina have already consolidated with the Grand Councils of those States, and Texas is moving toward the same end. It has become a matter of life or death with Cryptic Masonry throughout the country, and now the Grand Council of Illinois asks this Grand Chapter to take charge of these beautiful degrees, and confer them in our Chapters. M. E. Com. H. W. Walter, Grand High Priest of Mississippi, informed me that Cryptic and Capitalar Masonry in his State has the same membership. In this State, where there are over 11,000 Masons who have taken the Capitalar degrees, there are less than 3,000 who have taken the Cryptic. By taking charge of these degrees, and conferring them upon all Royal Arch Masons, we only take back what was our own, and belonged to Royal Arch Masonry up to 1829 (see report of the General Grand Chapter of that year), and which was taken from Capitalar Masonry to increase the number of Grand Bodies, giving honors and titles to a favored few. I heartily agree with Grand Master Walter, of Mississippi, and say with him, that 'In my opinion, the crying evil in our Order is the splitting of degrees and the multiplication of Grand Bodies. Had I the power, I would blot out every Council and Grand Council in existence, as independent organizations. I would yield the Past Master's degree to the Grand Lodge, where it properly belongs, as an honorary degree, and would blend the Most Excellent Master with the Mark Master's, and the Royal and Select Master with the Royal Arch, making it the Royal Degree it should be, and giving to it its ancient form and beauty. I would create Grand Chapters that would work this and the Mark degree alone.'

"I would, therefore, recommend that a committee of conference, consisting of five members of this Grand Chapter, be appointed to meet a similar committee from the Grand Council, with power to draft articles of consolidation between the two Grand Bodies."

On this subject the following memorial from the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Illinois, was received and referred to the Committee on "Doings of Grand Officers:"—

"M. E. Sir,—The undersigned committee, appointed by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Illinois to memorialize the Grand Chapter over which you preside, on the matter of jurisdiction and control of the Council degrees, respectfully represent that, in order to avoid the labor incident to two separate organizations, and at the same time provide for the safe keeping and proper dissemination of the degrees now conferred in the Council, in their opinion a plan of organization is practicable whereby these ob-

jects can be accomplished. We, therefore, in accordance with our instructions, respectfully ask, through you, that the Grand Chapter, if in its wisdom it seem best, appoint a committee of conference to act with us in an endeavor to perfect such a plan, and submit the same for the approval of both Grand Chapter and Grand Council."

The committee reported as under, and their report was adopted:—

"Your committee most heartily approve of the recommendation of the M. E. Grand High Priest in regard to the consolidation of the Cryptic degrees with the Royal Arch Chapter, and recommend the appointment of a committee to confer with a like committee from the Grand Council for that purpose."

In the report of the Committee on Chartered Chapters, we find that twenty-nine Chapters return no work, and the committee say,—

"In making this note of the inactivity of the Chapters who return no work, if it has been done on the part of the members from a desire to receive and pass nothing but good material, we should say unto them, 'Well done good and faithful,' it is better to do no work than to do bad work."

The same committee also say:—

"The returns of your Subordinates show a decrease this year in membership of (129) one hundred and twenty-nine, which may be attributed to several causes: the most prominent, and that which strikes all Royal Arch Masons as most worthy of our indorsement, is chiefly in the fact that Chapters are now zealous to produce "good work, square work," and are oblivious to "much work," unless the work is such as is wanted for the building of the Temple. While the financial condition of the country is depressed, and may probably have some influence on the additions to Royal Arch Masonry, and possibly with so many Chapters one may conflict with another, however, the aggregate should show the usual average of work. But, as we have remarked, the disposition to weed out the unworthy is not only a subject of remark, but should also be a matter of special commendation."

A plan was adopted for the division of the State into Districts for visitation by the Grand Officers, which we think would be likely to produce good results, besides giving the Grand Officers something to do. There is no doubt but that a visit from a Grand Officer will often do a great deal of service in stimulating members to take a more lively interest in the work. We have known cases where such visits were of the greatest service. The plan adopted is as follows:—

"The committee appointed at the last Annual Convocation to

divide the State into districts, and would have the jurisdiction of each district, as matters, viz:

"Dep. Grand High Priest, Grand Master, and one district they be required to report when called be paid by the Chapter of such office at least two weeks Chapter."

Quebec was re-

The following the Council de-

"Your Special Council of Royal Arch Chapter, your committee at this State, held a joint committee of the Royal and the Royal Arch Chapter committee are of Select Masters should union, and would so amend their Constitution to be enabled to agree of this Grand Chapter to appoint a committee to him a full and and to put the same

From this it the action of M to exist, and the Chapter system. weakness of the bership is small promising. It will become gene

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divide the State into districts, have had the same under considera-
tion, and would recommend that the Grand High Priest subdivide
the jurisdiction of Illinois into nine districts for visitation, and assign
each district, as may be most convenient, to the following Grand Offi-
cers, viz:

"Dep. Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Cap-
tain Host, Grand Principal-Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain,
and one district to each of the Grand Masters of the Veils; and that
they be required to visit any of the Chapters in their respective dis-
tricts when called upon for that purpose; the expenses of visitation to
be paid by the Chapters so visited; and that each Grand Officer shall
report of such official visitation, in writing, to the Grand High Priest,
at least two weeks preceding each Annual Convocation of the Grand
Chapter."

Quebec was recognized.

The following is the report of the Special Committee on
the Council degrees:—

"Your Special Committee to consider the memorial from the Grand
Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Illinois to this
Grand Chapter, would respectfully report that at a joint meeting of
your committee and a similar committee from the Grand Council of
this State, held last evening, it was the unanimous opinion of the
joint committee that there was no constitutional objection to a union
of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees with those conferred in the
Royal Arch Chapters, and that such a union is practicable; and your
committee are of the opinion that the Grand Council of Royal and
Select Masters should take the preparatory steps to bring about said
union, and would further recommend that if said Grand Council shall
so amend their Constitution, at their present Grand Assembly, as to
be enabled to agree to said union, that the M. E. Grand High Priest
of this Grand Chapter be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested
to appoint a commission whose duty it shall be to prepare and submit
to him a full and detailed plan for the consummation of such union,
and to put the same in full operation."

From this it will be seen that Illinois is likely to follow
the action of Mississippi. Their Grand Council will cease
to exist, and the degrees will be conferred as a part of the
Chapter system. The reason for this action seems to be the
weakness of the Councils and Grand Councils. Their mem-
bership is small, and the outlook for their vitality not very
promising. It remains to be seen whether this movement
will become general.

Comp. James H. Miles reports on correspondence, and
notices Canada for 1877. We regret to see that he now re-
quires from the ranks.

XXIV. GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

M. E. Comp. Jas. C. McMurtry (Henderson), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Jas. H. Miles (Chicago), Grand Secretary.

INDIANA.

Held at Indianapolis, October 17th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Reuben Peden, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 91; represented, 78; exalted, 187; members, 4,875; receipts, \$2,442.18. Annual Convocation, 32nd.

The address of the Grand High Priest treats chiefly of local affairs, and the meeting of the General Grand Chapter. No important questions were submitted to him for decision during the year, nor any applications for new Chapters.

Quebec was recognized. The rest of the transactions refer to local business.

After a rest of eleven years, Comp. William Hacker again resumes the reportorial pen, and he appears to have lost none of his old fire and spirit. He furnishes the most interesting and spicy report we have seen for some time.

Comp. Hacker commenced writing those reports in 1854, twenty-four years ago, and continued for twelve years. In his report he starts off with a virtuous intention to be brief, but before he gets through he finds it impossible to do justice to the subject in less than 116 pages.

Canada for 1876 receives due notice. He says we have a most satisfactory showing, and he infers from the genial tone throughout our proceedings, that we are well satisfied with things as they now stand.

In his notice of Delaware, he has the following comments, on the action of their Grand High Priest in suspending a by-law:—

"This suspending the provisions of by-laws we have heard of before, but never did believe in it. We have not a copy of the laws of this Grand Chapter at hand, and can not, therefore, say whether the Grand High Priest possesses the right to do so or not; but we will venture the largest and sweetest peach that grows in Delaware this year that he don't. We never yet saw one who did possess the right to suspend, or render for a time null and void any provision of law, and we very much doubt if that election for trustees, thus held after the suspen-

sion of the law by the High Priest of ter had held the el if our companions not raise an object their election wot moment in any cou Grand High Priest then during the su subject, and of cou

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sion of the law by the Grand High Priest, was any more legal than if the High Priest of the Chapter had suspended it himself, or the Chapter had held the election without regard to the law at all. But, then, if our companions of Delaware are satisfied with it, of course we shall not raise an objection as to the legality of those trustees. In Indiana their election would not be worth a snap, and would not stand a moment in any court in the State. We look at it in this way: If a Grand High Priest has the right to suspend the by-laws of a Chapter, then during the suspension of the law the Chapter has no law on the subject, and of course the election must be void."

Under "Illinois," on the motion to dispense with the reading of the last minutes, he says:—

"Well, we never could see what one Masonic Grand Body had to do with the proceedings of a previous one so as to call for a reading of them. Does one legislative or judicial body read the proceedings of a previous session? We guess the vote on that motion was a work of supererogation and altogether useless. Nevertheless, if our companions of Illinois see proper to pursue that course, we shall not complain."

He thinks that Chapters do not require any permission to work in the German language, or any other language, and that that element should not be taken into consideration at all, in organizing new Chapters. It is contrary to our "boasted universality," that Masonry should be taught in the Anglo-Saxon tongue alone.

On the question of "color," he says:—

"Now, according to our view—and we think it also strictly according to 'the everlasting principles of the Order'—we say let the colored gentleman get out of the 'wood pile,' abandon his clandestine organization, then apply for admission to the Order at the same door that the white man has to, and we'll venture that the question will be settled at once, the color line destroyed, and the wood pile so obliterated that the colored gentleman will never find it again to hide himself in."

On the origin of Royal Arch Masonry, Comp. Hacker thus replies to Comp. Henderson of Kentucky:—

"We regret, however, to see he has marred his historical sketch of Royal Arch Masonry in Kentucky by prefacing it with what he denominates the 'Origin of Royal Arch Masonry.' He starts out in this wise:

"It is universally conceded that Ancient Craft Masonry originally consisted of three degrees, and the *teachings* of what now is known as the Royal Art was formerly a section of the Master's degree.

"And so he goes on through his first chapter, noting down what Dr. Oliver says, and what Dr. Mitchell says, etc., to the end of the chapter, and perhaps not one word of truth in regard to the origin of the Chapter or Council Degrees in the whole of it. We regret this, as it

tends to throw doubt upon his history of Royal Arch Masonry in Kentucky.

"This is not the time or place, we are well aware, to discuss this matter. But we here take occasion to say that so far from its being 'universally conceded,' there is not one line, word, syllable, letter, or character essential to Royal Arch Masonry that ever was any part of the Master's Degree, and we challenge proof to the contrary. And we further assert that the Master's Degree stands to-day complete and perfect, without any loss or dismemberment whatever, as it did on the 24th day of June, 1717, when the present Grand Lodge of England was formed. We further say, that we do not care to take as evidence what Dr. A. or Dr. B. has to say in his or their speculations on the subject. We demand facts that are reliable. Give us these and we can draw our own conclusions and make our own speculations.

"This is no new position assumed by us. In making up our report to the Grand Lodge of Indiana, as Grand Master for 1865, in reply to Most Worshipful John McJilton, Grand Master of Maryland, who in his address to his Grand Lodge, had taken the same position, on the subject, as is here taken by Companion Henderson, we then said:

"Against this assumption we desire to enter our solemn protest. While it is true "that the Master's Degree, in its present form, from the many additions that have been made to it in modern times," is not what it was in the earlier period of Masonic History; it is *not true* that it has lost any of its essential features whatever; it is *not true* that there is in the Royal Arch Degree one essential feature that is now nor ever was a part of the Master's Degree of the York Rite since the days of King Solomon.

"There is now lying before me, as I write, documentary evidence showing most conclusively what the Master's Degree contained at the beginning of the eighteenth century. And from scraps of history that have come down to us well authenticated, we can trace it back prior to the middle of the sixteenth century, at least two hundred years prior to the origin of the Royal Arch, showing most unequivocally that while the Master's Degree is now fully four fold what it was then, it has neither lost nor changed one single essential feature it then contained."

"This is what we said twelve years ago. We challenged proof to the contrary then, and now here comes our companion of Kentucky with the often refuted assertion that 'it is universally conceded.'

"Well, Companion Henderson, you know now that it is *not* 'universally conceded;' and, if you have any evidence of what you say to give, let us have it. We called for it twelve years ago, and we now call for it again."

We are glad to see the following excellent remarks on the doctrine of "eternal" jurisdiction:—

"We are pleased to note that this report of the committee so ably presented was concurred in by the Grand Chapter. This modern doctrine, coming into vogue and so energetically seized upon and promulgated as the true rule of government by several of our Grand Masonic Bodies, and thereby cutting off all means or room for repentance, out-Calvins old John Calvin himself, for we believe that that good old saint did admit under the system of his eternal decrees there was still left a little room for repentance. Now, we hold this to be the only safe and judicious rule to adopt on the subject of jurisdiction.

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A person residing within the local jurisdiction of a Masonic body must necessarily apply to that body for admission to the Order. He does so and is rejected. Now, while he may renew his application to that body as often as he may see proper, he can not apply to any other body, without the unanimous consent of the first, while he continues to reside within its local jurisdiction. Of course not. And no officer or set of officers can take the right of determining that question from the body itself. We care not what law or rule to the contrary may be enacted by the Grand Body. This we hold to be one of the inalienable rights that never has been and never can be delegated away. Now the applicant changes his residence to some other part of the country, where, after residing a reasonable time—we say one year—he gains a residence; he is now under the jurisdiction of the Masonic body nearest his residence. The first has lost all jurisdiction over him; the second has gained it, and has the sole and entire jurisdiction of his case, without any regard whatever to what may have been the result of his application in the first instance. Such is our rule on the subject, and we hold it to be right."

Under "Wisconsin," on the rule requiring all High Priests to read the Constitution and Proceedings of Grand Chapter in the Subordinate Chapters, Comp. Hacker says:—

"We once had a regulation of that kind in this jurisdiction, and on a certain occasion, while serving as High Priest, we undertook to carry out the law. First announcing to the Chapter what the law required, we went at it, and thought we were putting in our best licks, when our attention was called to a companion who wished to retire; looking up and counting noses, we found with the guard barely a quorum present, and six of that number sound asleep. Realizing the situation, we laid the document aside, and requested the companion to remain and assist in closing the Chapter. This he cheerfully consented to do; the Chapter was regularly closed, and we have never attempted to read that document to our Chapter since, and do not intend to until requested so to do by the Chapter. That is our experience in the matter; others may try it that chose to. Fortunately for us we have no such regulation in force at this time."

We regret that the late date at which we received these Proceedings, prevents us from making any remarks on the above subjects.

M. E. Comp. S. S. Johnson (Jeffersonville), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. M. Bramwell (Indianapolis), Grand Secretary.

IOWA.

Held at Davenport, October 2nd, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Horace S. Winslow, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 82; receipts, 62; exalted, 858;

members, 4,258; receipts, \$8,282.00. Annual Convocation, 24th.

The Grand High Priest reports three new Chapters, and on this subject he says:—

"While the list of new Chapters that have been organized under dispensation does not cut a large figure among the numerals, it is not for this reason to be taken for granted that, therefore, there is a lack of interest in or a diminution of the numbers of membership, nor that the increase of former years has been suspended. An examination of the returns from the various subordinates within the jurisdiction demonstrates that in this respect we have not lowered our standard, and also that a healthy increase is not dependent upon the creation of new Chapters.

"Some of the oldest organized have for several years past, hardly kept their roster good, and the work done has not been sufficient to beget or keep alive any enthusiasm or interest, and these in many instances, have received a baptism of new life and renewed activity, resulting in large accessions to the several bodies. This is as it should be. We want strong and well-supported organizations. Nothing will be lost if we cease forming new companies, but keep on recruiting for the old. Let us become solidified and compact, and we may do much. Where the entire resources are necessarily devoted to the defraying of current expenses, but little good can reasonably be looked for. A weakly, sickly Chapter, one that lives dying and dies living, is a sorry Masonic spectacle."

He appointed M. E. Comp. James Seymour as Representative near Canada, and hopes we may be united in closer fraternal relations.

The Grand Secretary reports good progress in their Library. He is very enthusiastic in this matter, and labors diligently in procuring all the Books and Proceedings it is possible to obtain.

A special committee was appointed on the subject of the session of the Council degrades to the control of the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Secretary continues his publication of biographical sketches of their eminent members, and other historical matters. These sketches are accompanied by handsome portraits of their distinguished companions; and form a very pleasing and interesting addition to the proceedings. We are always extra glad to receive "Iowa," as these biographical notices give a personal interest in their doings, by bringing us face to face, as it were, with the

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principal actors, and so tend to relieve the monotony which sometimes prevails in the transactions of the various Grand Bodies. We quote his introductory remarks:—

"BIOGRAPHICAL.

"At its last Annual Convocation the Grand Chapter instructed the Grand Secretary—

"To bind the Transactions of this year with those of 1873 and subsequent years, as volume III., and that he be directed to prepare a general index for the volume 1873-'77, and be authorized to print with the volume such biographical sketches and historical matter as he has prepared or collected since the publication of volume II.; and that he be authorized to distribute the volume."

"Following these instructions, that officer presents the following pages. In their preparation he has, so far as possible, availed himself of the assistance of friends more or less intimate with the Companions whose biographies are sketched; where he had not the good fortune to find such assistance he has endeavored to supply the deficiency by doing the work himself. The name of each writer, in the former cases, he has given. For those not thus credited he must himself be held responsible, with the regret that some abler hand did not hold the pen; and that his knowledge and ability have not equalled his desire to do justice to the 'lives' he has 'taken'."

"More than one of the Companions among the 'press of knights' who so delight to couch their lances in the 'gentle tourney' of correspondence reports, has fiercely scouted what he has been pleased to term 'the Iowa and Massachusetts fashion of publishing ante-mortem obituaries.' If any answer were needed to these criticisms, it would be sufficient to say that as the fashion suits Iowa and Massachusetts, it is therefore right, and also, that for these critics we have neither prepared nor procured them. Our object has been less their satisfaction and applause than to 'observe and preserve' such items of personal history as might be obtainable for the satisfaction and enlightenment of future generations, collecting and preserving them as we do photographs and portraits, 'seizing the shadow ere the substance fades.' There are few books more interesting than personal ones, and no Masonic book which is so satisfactory in many respects as the 'Revelations of a Square,' apocryphal though many of its stories are supposed to be, and this interest lies greatly in its personal character. To preserve the lineaments of our Companions we engrave their portraits; for the same reason we collect the attainable facts of their personal history and 'bury them here.' Nor do we think it necessary, as we speak only truth of them, to wait until they are dead, or until those who know them are gone, to do this, and we are only ashamed to publish to the world the history of those whose lives are unworthy of public record."

"Without sympathy for prudery or mock-modesty, and asking a suspension of the judgment that would 'alay to the uttermost' for giving these glimpses of personal history to the world, we submit these brief and imperfect sketches, only sorry that they are not fuller, and sure that we shall all be soon enough forgotten, in spite of our own best works and of the most earnest efforts of our friends to preserve the memory of our lives."

"THE GRAND SECRETARY."

Comp. J. M. Shaffer has an excellent report on correspondence, covering 118 pages, and dealing with matters and things in general in a very able manner. In his notice of Canada for 1876, he says:—

“‘Ordered to be read in all Chapters and preserved.’ This line is printed in small capitals on the title page. We protest that this method of dispensing Masonic light and knowledge will not accomplish its object. Companions do not attend meetings to have details of proceedings read to them. They go there for work and for duty. Send each Companion a copy to read for himself. If you have a first-class reader, he has not very exciting material upon which to expend his elocutionary powers. If you have an ordinary reader, he can bring about a state of somnolency upon his hearers which would rival the best and highest efforts of the poppy plant and all its wondrous extracts as developed by chemistry and other arts.”

On our system of Grand Superintendents of Districts, he says:—

“We are greatly pleased with this system, and would be glad to see it adopted here. We do not know whether these Superintendents receive any compensation for their work, or how they pay expenses, or whether the position is entirely honorary. We find no appropriation of funds in this direction.”

We may inform Comp. Shaffer that the position of Grand Superintendent is, with us, considered one of very high honor. They rank next to the Grand Council. They are elected, each one, by the representatives of the Chapters in each district, and are clothed with powers second only to the Grand Z. (G. H. P.) They may hear and determine any Masonic complaint, and may proceed to admonition or suspension, subject to appeal to the Grand Z., or Grand Chapter. All petitions for new Chapters must be recommended by them, and they have power to issue dispensations for public processions. They receive no compensation for their work, as the honor of the office is considered ample reward. They visit the Chapters and pay their own expenses. We are happily in possession of Companions of ability, who willingly devote their time and services in these arduous labors with no hope for reward save in the approval of their brethren, and in the consciousness of performance of duty in aiding the prosperity of our beloved Fraternity.

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

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M. E. Comp. Abel W. Daugherty (Dubuque), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. B. Langridge (Muscatine), Grand Secretary.

KANSAS.

Held at Topeka, October 16th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Dwight Byington, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 32; represented, 29; exalted, 80; members, 1,149; receipts, \$765.85. Annual Convocation, 18th.

The Grand High Priest states that they have met under truly favorable auspices, with peace and harmony prevailing and a fair degree of prosperity throughout the State. He reports one new Chapter. He was not called upon to hear or determine any matters of grievance, and his decisions were but of slight importance. He mentions the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, and closes his address by calling attention to the imperfect manner of making out the reports by some of the Secretaries of Subordinate Chapters.

Nevada was recognized.

A committee was appointed to devise means for the erection of a suitable monument for the grave of the late Comp. R. R. Reese, their first Grand High Priest.

Comp. E. T. Carr reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1876.

M. E. Comp. Moses S. Adams (Wichita), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. E. T. Carr (Leavenworth), Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

Held at Louisville, October 15th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. James W. Staton, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 105; represented, 80; exalted, 160; members, 3,509; receipts, \$3,901.00. Annual Convocation, 62nd.

The Grand High Priest delivered an excellent address. On new Chapters, he says:—

"I have not received a single application for a dispensation to organ-

ize a new Chapter during my term of office. This is considered by some as rather an unhealthy state of the Order, but I am not disposed to regard it in that light. We have more Chapters now than are necessary. On examination of the rolls I find several Chapters of some years' standing that have less than twenty members. These are a tax on the Grand Chapter, paying a less amount in the treasury than they draw out. Some of them may be so far removed from other Chapters that this expense of keeping them up may be justifiable, but I know of instances where Chapters are not needed, and they only exist for the accommodation of a few Companions who do not want to be put to the trouble to ride a few miles to attend Chapter meetings, but prefer to hold on to a weak and sickly organization rather than give their support to a more prosperous Chapter in close proximity to them."

He decided that the Companions of Tompkinsville could not borrow members from Tennessee in order to form a new Chapter. Quite right.

Also, that an application for affiliation could not be admitted.

"A member of a Chapter in this jurisdiction on mere documentary evidence; but must be properly vouched for by some one who knew him to be a R. A. Mason, or possessed of enough of the means of recognition to satisfy the Chapter of his genuineness as a Royal Arch Mason, and if he was not so possessed or vouched for, his election to membership was void."

Probably this is also right, as a matter of strict law, but we think it is well to encourage affiliation by every possible means. We would have been inclined to admit this applicant, on his proving his identity—that he was the party named in the documentary evidence, if that evidence was found satisfactory.

Comp. Staton recommends a reprint of their Proceedings, and that \$200 should be appropriated each year for that purpose, and have them printed in parts, according to the funds

Comp. Rob. Morris was present, and delivered an address on the Holy Land, with special reference to the Mark degree.

The recommendation of the Grand High Priest, as to the reprint, was adopted by the Grand Chapter; and Comp. Staton was appointed to edit and superintend the work.

Comp. H. A. M. Henderson reports on correspondence. In his opening remarks he says:—

"We have never as of Royal Arch Masons personally acquainted with of ideas that was a year after year has a sentiments until, to- lectual and facetious superiority of the v very apparent to o appendices.

"The Grand High the few bits of broke a new pattern every triteisms, moral cant service, no matter w. ment and of the mer mentary material. } gives us a diorama of by the reviewers as of wealth and domini are the true gold—was from the worthless masters, giving the n ing it into the wor scription.

"In no field have a tempered with good pondence. Like the a terrible earnestness is flowing, but, behin Knights, hearts are be that holds the mimic whom he wages harr John Falstaff, fond of 'But for these vile g when they essay a cri with giant Knights. sulphurous smell of l mien, a dread Apollyo pleased as when, with of his vulcan-forged j and modest Doctor, a scarred veteran, hung painted him to be. If you will find him toyi a rose in aromatic pal terrors of the battle-fi cupine nature we eve petard,' and no longer compose our Mutual

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"We have never seen anything develop so rapidly as the literature of Royal Arch Masonry. Ten years ago, when we first became personally acquainted with this department of letters, there was a paucity of ideas that was positively distressing to a thought-searcher. But year after year has added to the stock of jurisprudence, homilies, and sentiments until, to-day, it is a decided pleasure to read up the intellectual and facetious deliverance of the Reportorial Corps. And the superiority of the veteran reviewers to the Grand High Priests is very apparent to one who annually reads the addresses and the appendices.

"The Grand High Priests remind us of a penny kaleidoscope. As the few bits of broken glass, colored beads, and artificial flowers yield a new pattern every time the instrument is turned over, so the same triteisms, moral cant, and hackneyed phrases are made to do annual service, no matter who reflects them. There is a change of arrangement and of the mental angles of reflection, but the same old fragmentary material. Now and then, "like angel's visits," etc., some one gives us a diorama of new and pleasing views, and such men are hailed by the reviewers as the discoverer of continents, by Kings avaricious of wealth and dominion. The Committees on Foreign Correspondence are the true gold-washers of Masonry—separating the shining particles from the worthless talc and sand. Some of them, too, are mint-masters, giving the mental gold new coinage and currency and sending it into the world stamped with their own image and superscription.

"In no field have we ever found more sharp, active, keen invective, tempered with good humor, than in the Reports on Foreign Correspondence. Like the sham duels and battles of the stage there is such a terrible earnestness as to make one think that blood instead of carmine is flowing, but, behind the gilded, pasteboard shields of these doughty Knights, hearts are beating with such fraternal kindness that the hand that holds the mimic sword would not hurt a hair of the brother with whom he wages harmless war. Most of them, so valiant, are like Sir John Falstaff, fond of the parade and pomp of war enough to exclaim: 'But for these vile guns I would myself have been a soldier,' and when they essay a crusade its more a charge on wind-mills than a tilt with giant Knights. There's good old Dr. Corson! now, one, from the sulphurous smell of his writings, would expect to see one of Satanic mien, a dread Apollyon brandishing his fearful dart, and never so well pleased as when, with sardonic grin, he contemplates some fell victim of his vulcan-forged javelin. But, when you see him, he is a meek and modest Doctor, a veritable hero of *pill-age*, but not the battle-scarred veteran, hung round with trophy scalps, that a deluded fancy painted him to be. Instead of finding him plotting the death of others, you will find him toying with the muses, and far more ready 'to die of a rose in aromatic pain' than clotted with gore amid the tumults and terrors of the battle-field. And so with others. The only really porcupine nature we ever had in our guild has been 'hoist by his own petard,' and no longer lets fly his ugly quills at the amiable coterie who compose our Mutual Admiration Society."

Under the head of "Illinois," he has the following:—

"A committee was appointed to inquire into the expediency, and if deemed advisable, to report a plan for establishing Chapters to work in the German language. We do not approve of such a scheme. It

practically excludes Americans, because they know not the language. It has a tendency to perpetuate the prejudices of nationality, which is contrary to the spirit of Masonry and the genius of American institutions. All Germans in this country understand our language, and no arrangements ought to be made which tend to retard their knowledge of the nation's leading language. A homogeneous people is the great desideratum of this country.

"In Philadelphia they have a Lodge, we understand (Mozart), composed of musicians. Is the right of any citizen of good repute to make application for initiation or affiliation to any Lodge within whose jurisdiction he may reside.

"Is it Masonic to black-ball a man because he don't know the diatonic scale? The special features are contrary to the design of our Institution and detrimental to the interests of American society. We want to associate with our German brethren, and if they are to set up for themselves and perform their work in their native language we will be denied this privilege."

On the practice of giving the names of living men to Masonic bodies, he gives some new arguments in its favor, which are well worthy of attention:—

"And yet there is another side to this question. When a Lodge or Chapter bears the name of a living Brother or Companion, it is a powerful incentive for him to adhere to the right lest he should dishonor those who sought to compliment his worth. There is no more powerful conservator of good morals and correct deportment than public confidence. And when a man reaches that conviction which extorts from his abandoned spirit the bitter wail, 'No man careth for my soul,' he is then the easy prey of passion, and the willing servant of sin. But let him feel that he is surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, who hold him in full survey, and that while there are those amid the throng who would exult over his fall, there are others who will shout over his successes, and he is apt to be braced with virtuous resolutions and to meet the fondest expectations of those who pride in his triumph. Then it is no mean prompter to virtuous ambition to know that if duties are well done, organizations will feel honored by wearing the name of the duty-doer. We do not think it well to prohibit such nomenclature by statute. Leave it to the inclination and taste of those immediately concerned. There should be as little legislative abridgment of Masonic liberty as the nature of our Order will admit."

He also has some sensible remarks on processions and public installations of officers. We do not believe in public installations. They are not allowed in this jurisdiction, as the ceremony is considered a part of our secret work, and we would no more think of performing that ceremony in the presence of profanes than we would think of conferring the degrees in public. We agree with Comp. Henderson in deprecating the too frequent appearance of Masons in public.

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Our Fraternity is not for show; it does its noble work of beneficence without any parade, and it has no occasion to seek the "*popularis aura*." We hope, however, that his picture of a Masonic procession is a little overdrawn, otherwise we would strongly advocate total prohibition in that quarter, until the brethren were able to make a respectable appearance and reflect some credit on the Craft.

"Our opinion is, that frequent public installations do not promote the interests of Masonry. There is too much public parade. The more a secret Order keeps itself out of the popular gaze, the more awe it will inspire. When the High Priest entered within the Holy of Holies profound reverence was inspired in the minds of the people of Israel, because he went only once a year, and because a veil shut the divine Shekinah from the vulgar gaze. Frequent processions and public installations have the effect to make common our Institution. Then, a false idea is conveyed by these public installations. The ceremony, none too impressive when well rendered, is generally read in an indifferent manner, and before it is through with degenerates into a first-class bore, creating the impression that the Masonic Ritual, as practiced in secret, is of like character, and producing a repulsion rather than an attraction to our Order.

"On an occasion lately, although a splendid elocutionist was present, and would gladly have rendered the installation service with artistic effect, a conceited *frater* mouthed the ceremony, chewed the words, and spit them out in such a manner as to make every person present wish that he was free from the persecution. Nothing is such a torture to the nerves of a person of culture as to hear a rude and conceited boor tax a bad voice to slander rhetoric, and exhibit by his self-complacent expression and infinite composure, that he is thoroughly filled with the idea that he is scoring high on 'the bead-roll of fame.'

"A Masonic procession is, generally speaking, a farce. No more motley parade was ever seen than a Masonic turn-out in a country town. Every variety of dress, of hats, of regalia, and no regularity of distance or step, here and there an umbrella, the Tyler with an old half-moon sword, faded ribbons on the rods, an ill-shaped and stained banner—a hundred sad-looking men blundering along—thus, is the spectacle as we have often seen it. Add two or three fiddles, a flute and a big bass drum, a bevy of saucy boys and negroes flanking the line, with here and there a mangy dog running the gauntlet of the legs of the files, and the picture is complete. Now, when Masons turn out to lay the corner-stone of a *Masonic* edifice, or to bury a brother, there is no impropriety in the march, even though it lack the imposing elements of a street parade, but when the purpose is to make a show, it degenerates into a miserable caricature, only equaled in its ridiculousness by a battalion of boys marching to make battle with the geese in a neighboring barn-yard.

"We don't say that a public installation may not be made impressive, but if so, the officers must study their parts, and give them dramatic effect, and but few are willing to take the time to memorize the ceremony."

XXXVI. GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

We take leave of this excellent report by quoting his remarks on the ladies:—

"Well, if woman isn't the Eastern Star she is the star of human destiny:

'The star that shines with brightest ray
Wher'er our footsteps roam;
The only sovereign we obey.
The angel of our home.'

"In the very nature of our Institution woman cannot be a member. Our Order originated with a Craft of practical builders. Woman's delicate organization shows that she was never designed by the Great Creator to quarry stones, to wield the shaping chisel and setting maul, and lift the ponderous ashlar to their places in the buttressed walls. Who would see the velvet of her hand turned into horn, her fair cheek bronzed by the sun, her beautiful tresses whitened with stone dust? The speculative Craft is in imitation of this practical guild. The whole symbolry of the Order proceeds upon the traditions of the temple construction. Think of calling her an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft, a Master Mason! etc.

"The ancient charges say: 'The persons admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true *men*, free-born, and of mature and discreet age, no bondmen, no *women*, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report.' This indubitably sets forth the fact that only males can be made Masons. And without violating a landmark we cannot change the rule. 'It is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry.'

"But woman's exclusion from our retreats is the living compliment of Masonry to her exalted worth. One great reason why we do not admit her to our Order is she is too good to require the rigorous restraints of Masonry. Man is prone to evil as the sparks fly upward. He needs to be bound in the stronger than adamant chains of obligation. Woman cherishes the principles, and performs the deeds of virtue and charity as the flowers bud and blow and fill the air with sweetest fragrance. The light that shines on woman's soul breaks not out in the Masonic East, but pours down upon her in sheets of shining splendor from the face of the Sun of Righteousness. When we attempt to dress the lily in a surplice of white and ordain it priest of the flowers by canonical forms; when we attempt to brighten the sunbeam with the brazier's art; when, with artificial odors, we essay to sweeten the aroma of the rose; when we attempt a flight to the sun on wings of wax, on the foolish errand of ornamenting its golden face by tying ribbons to its shining disc—then will we attempt to improve woman by the arts of Freemasonry.

"If, in a stretch of gallantry, we were to admit ladies, we could have no assurance that Miss Susan Smith, in less than a month after being raised, wouldn't become Mrs. John Jones, and, if it be true, that when a man and woman marry they twain become one flesh, then every time a brother Mason married a sister Mason we would lose a member. At any rate the change of names would cause confusion in calling the roll of the *workmen*. Then if we admitted the ladies to our Lodge-rooms we would become so engaged with their charms that we would forget our work.

'The light that lies
In woman's eyes'

would eclipse the musical voice so transfix the heart to Masonic duties may know that action, and that our defend them from

"And we would do not become M we do not serious mothers, wives, d forms, and rules, for works of cha should be known, that this is not M guile the fair will serve sharp rebu requires that a m that the ladies sh consanguinity, an upon is that the of her Order, so t from asserting in Mason."

M. E. Comp.
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R. E. Comp
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Held at New
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would eclipse the great lights that burn about our altar, and her musical voice so charm the sense, entrance the soul, and thrill and transfix the heart, that we would be deaf to the Master's coarse call to Masonic duties. And, so, while the ladies may not join us, they may know that about our altars we plight their chastity and protection, and that our gallant hearts and strong arms will ever be ready to defend them from all that can harm or hurt.

"And we would not have the ladies deceived by Adoptive Masonry. It is not in any sense the ancient rite, and in taking these degrees they do not become Masons except in a very accommodated sense. Now, we do not seriously object to an association of Masons with their mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts, under certain rites, forms, and rules, for the purpose of cementing friendships and uniting for works of charity, as has been done in the Eastern Star, but it should be known, and no attempt should be made to disguise the fact, that this is not Masonry. It is androgynous. Those who seek to beguile the fair with the idea that they are or can be made Masons deserve sharp rebuke. The Eastern Star, like the Knights Templar, requires that a man should be a Mason in order to be a member, and that the ladies should be related to a Master Mason by some bond of consanguinity, and all this may pass without protest. All we insist upon is that the 'Star Sister' should be informed of the true nature of her Order, so that she shall be protected from deception and saved from asserting in company, with an amusing simplicity, that she is a Mason."

M. E. Comp. James B. Blue (Morganfield), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Joseph H. Branham (Louisville), Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

Held at New Orleans, February 12th, 1878.

M. E. Comp. Jos. H. DeGrange, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 28; represented, 19; exalted, 32; members, 1,424; receipts, \$1,198.00. Annual Convocation, 31st.

The Grand High Priest reports the Craft in a peaceful condition, but with a decrease in the membership, which he attributes to the depressed financial condition of the community. We quote one of his decisions:—

"Query 2.—A Companion was summoned to a Convocation of his Chapter, but, being unable to attend, sent a respectful note (which was read to the Chapter), asking to be excused for non-attendance, but giving no reason of the cause of his absence. Should a reason have been given?

"Answer.—No. No specific reason is necessary, nor should any be required. The fact of sending a respectful note excusing himself from attendance was, in reality, answering the summons, and was an ac-

XXXVIII. GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

knowledge of the authority of the Chapter, fully showing no intention of disrespect to the Body."

There were no appeals or grievances, and no important business was transacted, except the adoption of a number of amendments to the Constitution, and the passage of the following resolutions:—

"Whereas, on the 12th day of December, 1876, the M. E. Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec was regularly established in and for the Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, and the same having met the approbation and recognition of the Mother Grand Chapter of Canada; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the M. E. Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Louisiana, extends to the said M. E. General Chapter of Quebec, fraternal recognition, and hearty welcome to the family of Grand Chapters; and that the Grand Secretary be and is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the M. E. Grand Chapter of Quebec, with our best wishes for its future welfare and success.

"Whereas, in 1839, there was established in New Orleans, a so-called Supreme Council 33d, and that the said S. C. was declared illegal and spurious by the Supreme Councils, northern and southern, of the United States of America, and the S. C. of France, and the S. C. of the G. O. of France; and, the fact of its illegality becoming incontestably proven to the said so-called S. C., itself, it, of its own volition, in 1855, closed the Supreme Council, *sine die*, turned over its paraphernalia to, and acknowledged the jurisdiction of the S. C. for the southern jurisdiction of the United States of America, sitting at Charleston, South Carolina; and, whereas, one James Foulhouse, a 33d of the G. O. of France, and the former head of the above-mentioned illegal S. C., at New Orleans, was directed by the G. O. of France, to disband his illegal and spurious bodies, and to pay allegiance to the constituted Masonic authorities of the State of Louisiana, and on his refusal or neglect to do so, had cited him to trial before that body, and had at its sitting of February 4th, 1859, expelled him, erased his name from its Book of Gold, and declared his patent of S. G. I. G. void and of no effect, and directed the bodies of its obedience 'to refuse admission into their temples of all Masons bearing diplomas issued by the self-styled power of which James Foulhouse calls himself the chief,' and the same was promulgated to the Masonic bodies of the world—(a translation of which decree will be found in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana for 1860, page 75.) With a full knowledge of all these facts before it, the G. O. of France, in 1868, did officially recognize, as legal, a pretended resuscitation of this so-called S. C. at N. O., and entered into friendly relations with it. This caused the Grand Masonic Bodies of Louisiana to refuse to recognize the Masons of the G. O. of France in this jurisdiction. Further, it becoming notorious that the said G. O., during the year 1877, did, by solemn decree, remove from its Constitution, the acknowledgment of the existence of God and the belief of immortality of the soul, directing its rituals to be changed to accord with said decree (thereby making an unwarrantable change in the body of Masonry). Thereby, in the opinion of your committee, have, by this violation of the body of Masonry (in the removal of this landmark and dogma), violated the laws and usages of the ancient Craft, and thereby forfeited to itself the

right to claim to be recognized by

"Resolved, That we, the Grand Chapter of Quebec, refuse to acknowledge and interdict all communication thereto, or to this Royal Arch Chapter."

The Grand Chapter of Quebec, having been in existence for three years, and having been in Canada for 1876, the degree of I

"This pseudo recognition can be ascertained, or can ascertain, We had occasion to visit the Grand Lodge, and have been struck by the anomalous, and the degree in Masonry a misnomer, who have and confusion of opinions expressed it seems to have a degree, is, on its intention to make the Chair of the annoyance party might apply the requirement: conforable upon the

"This style, title of the Lodge), as the is, that it qualifies of all claims ever with its propriety Virginia in 1816-1818 the celebrated in that jurisdiction M. and Wardens of

"This was submitted to the most popular Masonic body of it (the Past Master) elect to preside over its antiquity Preston, viz:

"A private examination of every office

"A private examination of the Warrant of the

"If the above premises of the Grand Lodge, or claim the belonging to the 1

right to claim to be any part or parcel of Ancient Craft Masonry, or to be recognized by the bodies thereof as such; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the G. C. of R. A. Masons of the State of Louisiana, refuse to acknowledge the G. Orient of France as a Masonic body, and interdict all Masonic communication with it, the bodies subordinate thereto, or with the Masons of its obedience, by the Masons of this Royal Arch jurisdiction."

The Grand Secretary reports on correspondence, reviewing three years' accumulation of Proceedings. He notices Canada for 1875, 1876 and 1877, and has the following on the degree of Past Master:—

"This pseudo DEGREE is peculiarly American, and, so far as we know or can ascertain, is *not worked* as a degree by any other jurisdiction. We had occasion to examine into this 'degree' in 1846, in our then Grand Lodge, and the conclusions ultimately arrived at, have only been strengthened by reading and observation since, viz: That it is anomalous, and has no proper or rightful claim to be considered a degree in Masonry whatever; that it is not only worthless as such, but a misnomer, whose only mission seems to have been to create annoyance and confusion, which, judging from the various and contradictory opinions expressed by American Masonic bodies, writers and officials, it seems to have accomplished fully. The first we hear of it as a 'degree' is, on its introduction by Webb into the Chapter series, evidently to make the Chapters independent of the Grand Master, and get rid of the annoyance or trouble of asking his permission to 'pass the chair in the Lodge,' that thus, becoming a Past Master (virtual), the party might apply for the Royal Arch—this necessity growing out of the requirement in the constitution (O. B.) that the Royal Arch is conferable upon none but Past Masters.

"This style, title or nomenclature being copied, what was known as the 'secrets of the chair,' became known, and for the first time (in the Lodge), as the Past Master's degree, and, the most objectionable of all claims ever made for, or in favor of, it, was successfully made, viz, that it qualified the W. M. elect to preside. In Cross's visit to Virginia in 1816-17, he so thoroughly indoctrinated that jurisdiction with its propriety and necessity (see Dove's History), that it passed in 1818 the celebrated law relative to installation, and which is maintained in that jurisdiction to this day, that before installation, the W. M. and Wardens elect must be invested with the Past Master's degree.

"This was subsequently advocated and sustained by one of the most popular Masonic writers and Ritualists of the day, who, in support of it (the Past Master's degree), maintained that it qualifies the W. M. elect to preside; and in support of this argument (and to maintain its antiquity as a degree), garbles the following quotation from Preston, viz:

"A private examination is always understood to precede the installation of every officer," which he renders thus:

"A private examination is understood to precede the installation of the Worshipful Master." See Monitors, etc.

"If the above assertion were true, it would do away with the supremacy of the Grand Lodge, from the fact that it does not acknowledge, or claim the control of the Past Master's degree, or claim it as belonging to the Lodge series, and is therefore dependent upon the

assent or concurrence of the convocation of an organization which it does not recognize, and who do control it, for the qualifying of the W. M. elect, to enable him to preside over the Lodge, created by the Grand Lodge, which thus virtually would be acknowledging its lack of supremacy, and its dependency upon the will and pleasure of an outside body or organization, of which it has no official knowledge or control.

"There is no Masonic author of any importance, that we are aware of, except Mackey, who claims that the Past Master's 'degree,' as such, existed before 1795, when it was introduced into the American Capitular system, by Webb, Richards, Fowler, and others. But, in 1798, the Hartford convention accepted it, and from this time, so far as the American Chapter was concerned, it became a *de facto*, whether *de jure* or not.

"Chase, in his Digest, says:

"It certainly is not older than the last part of the last century."

"In its origin, 'the Holy Royal Arch' of Dermot, was evidently intended for a select degree, and a very exclusive one, from the fact that it was to be confined to Past Masters only.

"Now, who, or what was a Past Master then?—one who had been elected to preside over a just and legally constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and had served his time (or term), and this is the law of that jurisdiction to this day.

"The Royal Arch degree, or, as it was then called, 'the completion of the Master's part,' became popular, and many wished to obtain it, who were not, and who never expected to become a W. Master of a Lodge; but, as only Past Masters could obtain it, what was to be done?—call on the inherent powers of the Grand Master (of course), who, by his dispensation, permitted them to 'pass the chair.' Thus, by equivocation, 'whipping the d—l around the stump,' they become 'virtual Past Masters,' and obtain the 'degree' (as now termed), but, in reality, pass the chair in the Lodge.

"Now, Webb & Co. had no more right, authority or justification to introduce the ceremony of the 'secrets of the chair' as a 'degree' into the Chapter, than Dermot had to introduce the Royal Arch; yet, both succeeded. Most of the writers of the present day, who have examined the history of this so-called degree, would like to, or are at least willing to get rid of it, if they could, admitting it to be a misnomer, and placed without due authority; but they do not know how. Some are for kicking it out, 'sans ceremonie'; some one thing, some another. Drummond is willing to be rid of it, 'did that not' break up our system, as it came down from the *Fathers*.

"Now, W. Brother, the argument in your last report of 1877, is a strong argument in favor of the 'Antient Ways,' and unless the 'might now be supposed to be a tremendous innovation,' is made to be, more 'than a might be supposed,' and a literal fact. Then, it is of no force whatever; for age, or length of time, cannot be claimed to be the philosopher's stone that will change error into right, or that will prove the Past Master's degree to be the precise same thing as the ceremonies of the chair, in the installation of a W. Master of a Lodge; and, unless you show that the P. M. degree is older, even than R. A. Chapters, you must admit that the said degree is not a supposed, but an actual departure from the 'Antient Ways,' and unquestionable innovation, whether tremendous or not; and if the 'Fathers' have been guilty of error, then we had better try the more 'Antient Ways' of

the Grand Father, & the innovation of it.

"The fact that it exercising the right coming apparent to like Patrick—" that faith, he'd just like it is not a bit more elect; if they do in who has been but a chair at all.

"Installed Master veys the information on the completion or termed plain 'hors stump,' passing th and calling him Pas the O. B., than the 'scalawag' in posse hard to oust. We c comes of him, if you side.' God bless th tion; it will need it, where they of right public obligation of tender into the Valle

M. E. Comp. W Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. retary.

Held at Portlan
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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

XLI.

the Grand Father, and go back to the 'Antient Ways' that preceded the innovation of the Past Master's Degree.

"The fact that the mere calling it 'the Past Master's degree,' and exercising the right to confer it, does not make a Past Master, is becoming apparent to the most superficial, and some of them think, like Patrick—that if calling him a horse would make him one, then faith, he'd just like to be called an Alexander and Orsena combined.' It is not a bit more ridiculous to make Past Master's of the Wardens elect (as they do in Virginia), than to call a Brother a Past Master, who has been but a moment in the chair, or has never been in the chair at all.

"Installed Master is plain English, and easily understood, and conveys the information that he is one, who will become a Past Master, on the completion of his term of office. This, if not English, may be termed plain 'horse sense.' Now, 'whipping the d—l round the stump,' 'passing the chair,' by the conferring of a pretended degree, and calling him Past Master, is, and would be no less an infraction of the O. B., than the doing away with it altogether; but its being a 'scalawag' in possession, having the nine points of the law, he'll be hard to oust. We care but little for his impudence, or even what becomes of him, if you'll not say: He qualifies the W. M. elect, to preside.' God bless the lodge whose W. Master has no better qualification; it will need it. Why not the lodge put the secrets of the chair where they of right belong in the ceremony of installation, after the public obligation of the W. M. elect, and the Chapter throw the pretender into the Valley of Jehoshaphat?"

M. E. Comp. William Robson (Shreveport), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. C. Batchelor (New Orleans), Grand Secretary.

MAINE.

Held at Portland, May 2nd, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Henry L. Paine, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 42; represented, 33; exalted, 231; members, 3,994; receipts, \$1,129.80. Annual Convocation, 51st.

The Grand High Priest reports three new Chapters but a decrease in the amount of work done. He gives one decision, as under, which is only applicable in jurisdictions where a ballot is required for each degree:—

"Question. 'A candidate has received the Mark, Past, and M. E. degrees; night is appointed for exaltation; a member objects to his further progress; states objections in open Chapter; Chapter by vote sustains them. After several months, many Companions concluding objections groundless, desire test to be made in Chapter. Must candidate again petition for R. A. Degree? Will one black-ball cause rejection?'

"Answer. The Chapter sustaining the objections, the candidate is

rejected from further advancement. If he desires further progress, he must make application to the Chapter for advancement; his application must take the usual course, and when acted upon, the ballot must be unanimous. Six months, at least, must intervene between date of his rejection and date of application for advancement."

The Committee on the History of Royal Arch Masonry in Maine, report that nine Chapters have prepared their histories, and twelve others have theirs in progress. This is an example worthy of imitation. The report was accepted, and the following resolutions adopted:—

"*Resolved*, That Chapters printing Histories be requested to deposit ten copies in Grand Lodge Library, for its use and exchange.

"*And*, That they be also requested to make their printed Histories conform in size to the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter."

From the report on Grievances, we learn that *their* general rules expel a brother who has been expelled from the Lodge, is also expelled from other Masonic bodies, and that it is unnecessary to try him in the Chapter.

Comp. J. H. Drummond reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1875.

Held at Portland, May 1st, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Henry L. Paine, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 42; represented, 40; exalted, 158; members, 4,189; receipts, \$1,088.59. Annual Convocation, 52nd.

From the address of the Grand High Priest we take the following:—

"Assembled within these unfamiliar walls, we are reminded of the loss the Fraternity of this city has sustained by the fire which occurred Dec. 22, 1876, in the Portland Savings Bank building, where their spacious and elegant apartments were located.

"Once and again within about ten years have the devastating flames left them homeless, by a nearly total destruction of all their working tools and paraphernalia; and when you are informed that fourteen distinct organizations of our Order were in occupancy, and conferring the various degrees and orders appertaining thereto, some idea may be formed of the serious inconveniences resulting therefrom. The property of this Grand Chapter, consisting of collars, jewels and aprons, were subject to the like fate of other perishable things. The collars and aprons, except those in the possession of members of the Grand Council, were totally destroyed; sixteen of the jewels were recovered from the ruins in a damaged condition.

"Within our jurisdiction, I am gratified to be able to report a gen-

eral good condition within our sanctuaries. Our Chapters, I have degree of proficiency commended.

"The depressed condition has had its legitimate turns of work indicating truism, and oft repeated higher the tide, the lower this time, so far as regards

He made a large effort that their sympathy duty of Grand Officer made no new decision information:—

"*Question*. Is there halls?

"*Answer*. There are halls, but there is an pret from the teaching not discourage social hall should not be use with no distinct object bounds which we shall homes, for however if amusements may be would maintain the o

In his conclusion

"Companions, the care and vigilance if you lived up to, and its full feel that personal integrity. Yes, my Companions. It is no excuse from active participation giving to the institution portance demands of your time and abilities. You by accepting you a chapter with which to living exponent of the its rightful due, the at where.

"If these are plain is too often made with ing to a limited amount. The remedy is in a direct and are expected vocation, Companions the work, perfect your

desires further progress, or advancement; his application acted upon, the ballot must intervene between for advancement."

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eral good condition of the Royal Arch. Harmony and peace dwell within our sanctuaries to a large extent, and the working abilities of our Chapters, I hazard nothing in saying, were never better; and a degree of proficiency and uniformity in ritual exists, which is to be commended.

"The depressed condition of the business interest of the country has had its legitimate effect upon our material prospects, as the returns of work indicate a large decrease from previous years. It is a truism, and oft repeated by those who dwell by the sea, that 'the higher the tide, the lower will be the ebb.' This is especially true at this time, so far as regards our material growth."

He made a large number of official visits, and is fully satisfied that their system of visitation, now prescribed as the duty of Grand Officers, is productive of salutary results. He made no new decisions and selects the following for general information:—

"*Question.* Is there any masonic law regulating the use of masonic halls?"

"*Answer.* There is no masonic law regulating the use of masonic halls, but there is an unwritten law which we, as masons, can interpret from the teachings of our Order. 'Tis certain our professions do not discourage social intercourse and improvement, but a masonic hall *should not* be used as a public place for indiscriminate gatherings with no distinct object in view but amusement. There are rational bounds which we should not overstep in the use of our masonic homes, for however innocent in the opinion of many a certain class of amusements may be, the opinions and prejudices of others, who would maintain the opposite, must be considered."

In his conclusion, he gives some excellent advice:—

"Companions, the welfare of our Order requires of you constant care and vigilance if you would see its honor maintained, its privileges lived up to, and its future prosperity assured. We must each and all feel that personal interest and responsibility which is its only safeguard. Yes, my Companions, *personal responsibility* is what we must assume. It is no excuse for you that others hold themselves aloof from active participation in the vital interests of our order. Are you *giving* to the institution that countenance and support which its importance demands of all its members? The institution has honored you by accepting you as a member; will you honor it by devoting of your time and abilities a contribution upon its altar, or weave some chaplet with which to adorn the Royal Arch? If not, you are not a living exponent of the true principles of our Order, which claims, as its rightful due, the aid and support of the good and true mason everywhere.

"If these are plain words, my excuse is the complaint which of late is too often made within our sanctuaries, of a lack of attendance, owing to a limited amount of work being done, and asking a remedy. The remedy is in a large measure with *you*, the officers, who guide, direct and are expected to furnish instruction. At your stated Convocation, Companions, after your routine business is done, rehearse the work, perfect your officers, yea, your members, in the ritual, and

aspire to do it better than ever before. There is a fund of masonic literature, the reading of which should draw your members together and thereby instruct and educate the mind. I have only hinted at what might be done, Companions, and it is for you to make the application."

Quebec was recognized.

The report of the Proceedings, which was commenced last year, was ordered to be continued under the direction of the Finance Committee and the Grand Treasurer.

Comp. Drummond reports on correspondence in his usual able manner. He favors the recognition of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and says:—

"It is sufficient to say that if our organization is regular, that of the Grand Mark Lodge is regular, and it has, to say the least, as good authority to govern the degree as the General Grand Chapter or any Grand Chapter has in this country.

"It has been recognized by the following Grand Chapters, not constituents of the General Grand Chapter, viz: Canada, Ireland and Pennsylvania. The Grand Chapter of England has not recognized and can not recognize the Grand Mark Lodge, for the simple reason that it does not recognize the Mark Master's degree.

"It now has two hundred lodges on its roll, located in England, Australia, New South Wales, New Zealand, Jamaica, Gibraltar, Madras, Burmah, Bengal, Bombay, Malta, Calcutta, Punjab and Mauritius, with an aggregate membership of nearly 10,000. It has contributed sufficient to the masonic charities to have seventeen votes in the 'Royal Masonic Institution for Boys,' and ten in the Institution for Girls, and ten in the 'Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons.'

"One of its lodges is said to have 'minutes' from 1782, and another from 1797—a continuous record older than we have of this degree in this country, at least save in a few instances in connection with a Master's Lodge."

In his notice of Canada for 1876, he gives several extracts from our report of that year, and says:—

"We are surprised to find that he agrees with Comp. Gossip, of Nova Scotia, that suspension or expulsion by a Blue Lodge does not necessarily carry the same result in the Chapter. We desire to ask Comp. R. if a person who is not a Master Mason can be a Royal Arch Mason. A person suspended from all his masonic rights, is not, during his suspension, and one expelled is not in any sense, a Master Mason: how, then, can he be a Royal Arch Mason? It seems to us that the second or higher story of a house can stand in its place after the first story has been taken away from under it, as well as a man can be a Royal Arch Mason after he has ceased to be a Master Mason."

To which we reply, that of course a man who is not a Master Mason cannot be a Royal Arch Mason, that is, he cannot be made a Royal Arch Mason. But one who has re-

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gived the third degree is eligible for the Chapter degrees,
and we cannot agree with the conclusions that Comp. Drum-
mond draws from the admitted premises. No amount of
suspensions or expulsions can take away the fact that a
Master Mason has received the third degree, and although
he is liable to suspension or expulsion by the Chapter, the
action of the Lodge does not, *ipso facto*, carry the same
result in so far as the Chapter is concerned. The two bodies
are separate and distinct organizations. Although none but
Master Masons are eligible for admission to the Chapter, it
is not requisite that candidates should be members of any
Lodge. We admit non-affiliated Master Masons, if found
worthy, and confer the degrees on them, regardless of their
Lodge membership. And we insist upon the right of Chap-
ters to discipline their own members, irrespective of the ac-
tion of any other body. We preserve to our members the
right to a fair trial, and we do not suspend or expel a mem-
ber without summoning him to show cause, and giving him
every opportunity to defend himself. We do not take it for
granted that the proceedings in the Lodge are conclusive as
to the guilt of the accused. In the Chapter we think we are
quite capable to judge of that matter, and although in most
cases the result would probably be the same in both bodies,
yet there might be cases where it would be different; and all
we claim is, that our members shall have the same rights
that members of other bodies have, and that Chapters shall
have the same powers as to the discipline of their members
that Lodges have.

To this end, and to guard against possible injustice, we
require that a Royal Arch Mason shall have a fair trial in
his Chapter, or in Grand Chapter, before he is suspend-
ed or expelled from it. Otherwise, we might as well allow
the Lodges to say who shall be, and who shall not be mem-
bers of the Chapter.

M. E. Comp. A. B. Marston (Bangor), Grand High Priest.
R. E. Comp. Ira Berry (Portland), Grand Secretary.

MARYLAND.

Held at Baltimore, November 18th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Chas. F. Achey, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 13; represented, 11; exalted, 45; members, 1,258; receipts, \$1,255.75. Annual Convocation, 80th.

The Grand High Priest reports one charter surrendered. He has settled the question as to the date of the formation of the Grand Chapter, and submits facts and evidence which establish beyond reasonable doubt that it was organized June 24th, 1797, instead of in the year 1814, as heretofore supposed.

The Grand Lecturer reports the Chapters as working harmoniously, although not with the amount of enthusiasm that he would like to see.

Resolutions were adopted as follows:—

"Resolved, That fraternal recognition is cheerfully accorded to our young sister, the Grand Chapter of Quebec."

"Resolved, That in accordance with the action of the General Grand Chapter, nine members of a Chapter are necessary to transact business, other than opening and closing and conferring degrees."

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to have the date on the seal of this Grand Chapter changed from 1814 to 1797."

Com. E. T. Schultz reports on correspondence (167 pages), in a very pleasant manner, and his remarks evince considerable knowledge of the subjects treated on. He has a good notice of our Proceedings for 1876, and on the question of allowing visitors to vote, he says:—

"We would ask Companion Robertson—is it not possible that a visitor might know a candidate better than any member? We could tell of a recent case in this jurisdiction when the interests of the fraternity really demanded that visitors should have had the privilege of voting. A candidate was elected in a Lodge; (six members only present), a number of visitors who were present would have used the black ball had the opportunity been given them, and with great propriety."

It is possible that a visitor might know a candidate better than any member, but such cases will be rare exceptions to the general state of things. The evils that would ensue from allowing visitors to vote, would, in our opinion, far

more than outweigh the advantages which might prove a

He also asks, if the Past Master's certificate is between "actual" and "yes," for reasons

Comp. Schultz is in opposition for non-payment of dues, which affects the Company also with us on other points, had some argument

"We are pleased to be in the Lodge, in order to believe the payment of dues, and a majority vote shall be taken. We contend, that by the action of the rolls, which is not further acted upon.

M. E. Comp. J.

Priest.

R. E. Comp. Wm.

Held at Boston,

M. E. Comp. S.

Number of Chapters, 9,287; receipts, 77th.

The Grand High Priest reports on action of the Chapters on action of the Chapters on action. He recommends that the Company be advised by Comp. Alfred F.

Comp. Chapman reports on action of the Grand Orient of France.

"WHEREAS, a belief in the divine origin of the universe, has been regarded in candidates for the degree of initiation, and preference to religious dogma of France has eliminated and has altered its character."

more than outweigh any occasional cases where such a practice might prove a benefit.

He also asks, if we would still favor the re-conferring of the Past Master's degree, supposing there was no difference between "actual" and "virtual" Past Masters. We answer "yes," for reasons that we can hardly publish here.

Comp. Schultz is on the right side in agreeing that suspension for non-payment of dues by the Lodge does not affect the Companion's membership in the Chapter. He is also with us on other points (as under), about which we have had some arguments before:—

"We are pleased to see that he is opposed to 'forced' membership in the Lodge, in order to retain it in the Chapter, and also, that he believes the payment of the dues, by one suspended for non-payment, and a majority vote should restore; this is a little farther than we go. We contend, that by the payment, the cause for suspension (or dropping from the rolls, which term we prefer), the cause has been removed, and no further action is necessary."

M. E. Comp. John S. Tyson (Baltimore), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Wm. A. Wentz (Baltimore), Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Held at Boston, December 11th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. S. B. Harrington, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 68; represented, 58; exalted, 387; members, 9,287; receipts, \$9,257.68. Annual Convocation, 77th.

The Grand High Priest reports but little work in some of the Chapters on account of the business depression. There is a manifest desire to maintain uniformity in the ritual. He recommends *The Liberal Freemason*, published in Boston, by Comp. Alfred F. Chapman.

Comp. Chapman offered the following in relation to the Grand Orient of France, which was adopted:—

"WHEREAS, a belief in God, as the Supreme Architect of the Universe, has been regarded in all time past as a necessary qualification in candidates for the degrees in Freemasonry, without any further reference to religious dogmas or creeds,—and *whereas* the Grand Orient of France has eliminated this fundamental principle in Freemasonry, and has altered its Constitution to the following tenor:—

"It holds as principles—absolute freedom of conscience and human solidarity," and

"It considers liberty of conscience as a right belonging to every man and excludes no one for his creed," and has declared that for its device it has 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.'

"Be it therefore by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts,

Resolved, That this Grand Chapter considers a belief in God to be an absolute principle in Freemasonry, and equally pre-requisite in all candidates for the degrees conferred therein; and that it cannot consent to any weakening of this Ancient Regulation, nor to any concession to Atheism, however plausible it may be made to appear.

Resolved, That as the Grand Orient of France has thus violated the first duty of a Mason, and yet claims to have jurisdiction of the degrees from the first to the eighteenth and upwards; this Grand Chapter declines to hold any Masonic intercourse with that Body, or with any organizations or Masons of its obedience,—and all Subordinates and Companions of obedience to this Grand Chapter are hereby ordered to observe with equal fidelity the terms of this Resolution."

Comp. James Kimball was received and acknowledged as Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

On the subject of the Council degrees, the following report was adopted:—

"The Committee to whom was referred the several communications in regard to connecting the degrees in Cryptic Masonry with those of the Capitular Rite, including that from Mississippi, have conversed with many of the Companions of both grades, they have also considered the various opinions expressed upon the subject, and while they feel the utmost kindness toward all jurisdictions interested in the matter, and earnestly hope that each may find the wisest way of disposing of it, beg leave to report that it is inexpedient for the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, at present at least, to make any recommendations in reference thereto, or to make any change in the practice and government of these Bodies."

Quebec was recognized.

Comp. John W. Dadmun presented one of his high class reports on correspondence. He reviews forty-one Grand Chapters in one hundred and fourteen pages, including Canada for 1877. Under the head of "Indiana," he says:—

"We call attention to it at this time, not because it is new and uncommon in the addresses of Grand High Priests, but because the first great lesson we are taught in Masonry, is to put our trust in God. We think we have discovered a disposition on the part of some to speak lightly of this sameness of opening in the Annual Addresses of our Grand Officers. But who, in the wide universe of God, should be more constant in recognizing the divine Providence, than those who are taught to reverence the Great and Sacred Name. We see indications across the water that we shall be called upon to stand by our guns, and defend our beloved Institution from French infidelity. We do not believe that Masonry is a religious institution in a denomina-

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Under "Maine port, he says:—

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We were rather prided ourselves and we began to vince him that I generally so "levi on reaching his with us entirely o that a Companion ed or expelled fro Chapter, and an says:—

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tional or sectarian sense, but it *does* teach the profoundest reverence for the great I AM, and the practice of every moral and social virtue; and no atheist can legally or honorably be made a Mason. The religion that Masonry teaches is as broad as the universe, as deep as man's innate aspirations for immortality, and as high as the ineffable glories of the Eternal World."

Under "Maine," in speaking of Comp. Drummond's report, he says:—

"He is surprised that Comp. Robertson should agree with Comp. Gossip, that suspension or expulsion by a Blue Lodge does not necessarily carry the same results in the Chapter. Unquestionably Comp. Drummond has the law and almost universal practice on his side."

We were rather astonished at reading the above, as we prided ourselves on being in accord with Comp. Dadmun; and we began to be afraid that we would be obliged to convince him that he was wrong for once. And his head is generally so "level" that the task might prove difficult. But on reaching his notice of Nova Scotia, we find that he is with us entirely on this question. He thinks just as we do, that a Companion Royal Arch Mason should not be suspended or expelled from his Arch functions, without trial in the Chapter, and an opportunity there to defend himself. He says:—

"This question is susceptible of a division, in order that there may be no confusion in the argument.

"Suspension, or expulsion from *membership* in a Lodge, should not—and does not in Massachusetts—*ipso facto*, carry with it suspension or expulsion from the Chapter. So far we fully agree with Comp. Gossip.

"As it regards the suspension or expulsion of a member—in a Blue Lodge—from *all the rights and benefits of Masonry*, general Masonic usage has been to strike the accused from the rolls of all the higher grades. But is it just to do this without any investigation into the proceedings of the primary body? Ought not the Chapter, for example, to so regard the rights of its own members, as to inquire into the proceedings, and give a Companion an opportunity to answer for himself? This striking from the Chapter roll without trial, or due inquiry into the transactions of the lower court, is what—as we understand it—Com. Gossip objects to; and we think he has common sense—which is good common law—on his side.

"We know that a Chapter cannot reverse the decisions of a Grand Lodge; but as its organization is entirely independent of all other Masonic Bodies, it should proceed charitably, as well as legally, in depriving a member of his rights and privileges. The paramount law is, that no member can be deprived of his rights without due trial."

The question of "objections after ballot," is not by any

means exhausted yet. Converts are becoming more plentiful, and we hope ere long to see the views so ably advocated by Comps. Dadmun, Corson, and others, generally accepted. In reply to Bro. Drummond, we find the following:—

"The statement we criticised last year, is this: 'We are sorry to find that almost all the arguments *against the right* of objection, also apply equally against the secret ballot.' He now says: 'He insists that our statement that almost all the arguments *against giving an objection*, etc. We have not argued *against giving an objection*, and we don't know of a reporter who has; therefore, the premises being false, the 'parallel' he draws, is inappropriate and fallacious.

"A member of a Chapter, or Lodge, having the undoubted right to ballot on the application of a candidate, may cast a black-ball if he chooses, *but he has no right to disclose his ballot, even to the High Priest of the Chapter*—it must be absolutely secret. But an objection, in the nature of the case, must be disclosed in some way, and to some one, at least, it is not a ballot, but virtually a protest against the legal decision of the Chapter.

"We, too, are 'surprised' at the following statement of our learned Companion:—

"He assumes that the objection is not secret; he is in error: it is given secretly to the High Priest, and he *must* keep it secret and sacred."

"But where is the law that 'an objection is given secretly to the High Priest, and he *must* keep it secret and sacred'? We have always supposed that any member might arise in his seat in open Chapter, and, at any time before the candidate is admitted, object to his receiving the degrees. Then again, can a High Priest keep a secret any better than a judicious committee appointed by himself? A committee can meet an objector privately, and investigate the validity of an objection, and report to the Chapter, without disclosing the name of the objector, if necessary.

"But now we come to the interesting fact, that Companion Drummond does not differ with us so much after all. He now says,—

"The rule in the Grand Encampment is that an objection, at any stage, is equivalent to a rejection; but we think that after the candidate has received the first of the degrees, to which he has been elected, he is a *quasi* member, and objections to his advancement should be passed upon by the body in which he has been received."

"This is meeting us more than half way, and we will be generous. Then, 'an objection, after the candidate has received the first degree, should be passed upon by the body in which he has been received.' But why then, and not always? Simply because, says Comp. Drummond, 'he is a *quasi* member; that is, in a certain degree, a member. Is not this drawing it a little fine? Suppose—as is the case in some jurisdictions—that a vote must be taken on a *lvancement* in each degree; then a member may object on the first without being questioned, but on the second, third and fourth, 'the objection should be passed upon,' etc. Ergo, when a candidate is elected to receive one-fourth of a *quasi*-membership, an objection must not be questioned, but when elected to receive two-fourths, the validity of the objection

should be investigated difference?

"Now look at the professional secret. the right of objection is taken, he says:—

"The objection each brother, and I challenge. In reply to lawyer or physician which have become give, because that as if he gave the re professional capacity could make such a come to his knowledge to say, in another capacity."

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should be investigated. Is not this a distinction with a *very* slight difference?

"Now look at the bearing of his position on the question of a 'professional secret.' In reply to Comp. Ogden, who believes in limiting the right of objection to those members not present when the ballot is taken, he says:—

"The objection, like the adverse ballot, is left to the conscience of each brother, and both are rights which he can exercise without challenge. In reply to Comp. Corson, Comp. Ogden, well says, that a lawyer or physician cannot say to this Chapter, I object for reasons which have become known to me professionally and which I cannot give, because that would be equally in violation of his professional duty as if he gave the reasons, and revealed secrets entrusted to him in his professional capacity. No honorable man, as Comp. Ogden well says, could make such a statement. But a statement that the reasons had come to his knowledge since the election of the candidate would often be to say, in another form, that they came to him in his professional capacity."

"Will it be any more 'honorable' for a lawyer or a physician to give his reasons for objecting to advancement in the second, third and fourth degrees, than on the first? If a professional man can give reasons at one stage of the proceedings, he can with equal propriety, at any other." *Quasi*-membership, which is Comp. Drummond's ground for investigating an objection after the reception of the first degree, does not help the 'professional man' one scintilla.

"The fact is, when an application for the degrees has been received and referred to a committee, and due notice has been given to all the members to appear and ballot on the application; and if on the ballot being taken, the candidate is declared elected, he becomes the property of the body electing him; and no member should be allowed to take him out of their hands without good and sufficient reasons being given."

On the same subject he answers Comp. Schultz, of Maryland, in the most complete and convincing manner. We predict that Comp. Schultz will be the next convert. We greet him as such in advance.

"In his notice of Comp. Robertson, he makes an assertion which is utterly subversive of the very ground-work of Masonry.

"The whole paragraph is as follows:—

"He does not favor objections after ballot, unless good cause be shown. We believe that a member of a Lodge or Chapter, has the undoubted right to keep out any one, although elected to receive the degrees, and for any cause whatever; and no one has a right to question his motives. It is a matter for him and his conscience alone."

"Then again in his review of Ohio:—

"We are surprised that our M. E. Comps. Dadman, Corson, and Robertson, should insist that an objector to advancement should be compelled to state reasons or prefer charges. We think to do so would be in violation of the whole spirit of our institution, the inviolate secrecy of the ballot."

"The italics are our own. Now let us reason together and see who violates the spirit of our Institution."

"First. A Mason is bound to assist, protect and defend a brother,

under all circumstances, consistent with his obligations; and there is no obligation in one branch of Masonry inconsistent with that of any other. Then, of course, when a M. M. applies for the degrees in a Chapter, it is the *duty* of every member to see that he does not suffer under any false imputation.

"Second. No Mason has a right to allow his religious or political principles—Atheists are already excluded—to influence him in deciding upon the merit of a candidate, so long as he is loyal to the government.

"Third. When an application is received, and referred to a committee for investigation, every member is bound in honor, and in justice to the Chapter, and to the candidate, to support the report of the committee, unless he personally knows something against the candidate that disqualifies him to receive the degrees.

"Now what has an objection to do with the 'involute secrecy of the ballot?' The ballot has passed, the candidate has been elected; and the objection is virtually a protest against the unanimous ballot, legally and constitutionally expressed and declared. Who is mistaken? The Chapter who pronounced the candidate worthy, or the objector? Ascertain this, by referring the objection to a committee, and then the 'involute' honor of Masonry will be vindicated.

He also has some additional arguments in reply to Comp. Buechner, of Ohio:—

"Now, all this ado about the injustice of obliging a Companion to reveal a professional secret, if required to give a reason for an objection, is the greatest bug-bear imaginable. 'It is,' as Comp. Chapman has well said, 'an exceptional case'—an emergency—and yet easily disposed of, among Masons. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the professional man could use the secret ballot instead of the right of objection. In fact stopping a candidate by objection should in all cases be exceptional.

But suppose a case, where a professional Companion was necessarily absent at the time of balloting, or that new facts had come to light adverse to the candidate, after a clear ballot,—either of which, by the way, might not necessarily occur once in a lifetime—Doctor B., or Lawyer D., could enter his objection and say to the High Priest, 'my professional honor will not allow me to give particulars.' No Chapter would proceed to confer the degrees, in the face of such a declaration; neither could such a statement be construed as revealing a professional secret. If Comp. Buechner thinks otherwise, we firmly believe that nineteen-twentieths of his brethren differ from him.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has been in existence for more than a century, and her law, on this subject has never met with a protest from a professional brother—and we think we have had our full share of the professions to deal with. One thing more. Within the past three years, two cases have occurred where objections have been entered after a clear ballot, and, on investigation, both have been pronounced trivial and unmasonic. 'Facts are stubborn things.'

Under "Mississippi," on the Cryptic degrees, Comp. Dadmun says:—

"As it regards the P. M. Degree, it must be retained in some form, or we must essentially revise the history and work of the grade. The

Grand Lodge already too; and we do not by the addition of 1 Comp. Walter, if it could not be accomplished half century. The 1 to the Chapters, we the whole series, were red only by obligating them out forever, full and complete e

The typographer Massachusetts is somewhat good, and the of the "art press M. E. Comp. f Boston), Grand 1 R. E. Comp. 2 ton), Grand Sec

Held at Detroit M. E. Comp. C Number of Ch members, 7,885; 29th.

The Grand High address. He gives copy and approve

"A Master Mason grees. Since being the knee, but has a most people, and considerable difficulty. Does the Chapter Degrees?

"Answer—Yes. I now be made one. erable objections to 1 He is a craftsman w and honors of the advanced to higher incapacitated for the him.

"At our last regular our Chapter funds, to them in procuring a question has been r

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panion was neces- w facts had come to t,—either of which, lifetime—Doctor B., to the High Priest, ve particulars.' No e face of such a declar- ed as revealing a pro- wise, we firmly be- fer from him:

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degrees, Comp.

ained in some form, of the grade. The

Grand Lodge already has it in its possession, and all they want of it, too; and we do not believe that Capitular Masonry will be benefited by the addition of the Royal and Select Degrees. The suggestions of Comp. Walter, if carried out, would require a radical change which could not be accomplished, harmoniously and effectively, for the next half century. The result of transferring the Royal and Select Degrees to the Chapters, would be to embarrass the officers, and unpopularize the whole series, that is, if they are to be conferred in full; if conferred only by obligation, or 'communication,' it would be better to blot them out forever, for no one can comprehend these degrees without a full and complete exemplification of them."

The typographical excellence of these Proceedings of Massachusetts is something to be commended. The paper is extra good, and the general "get-up" would delight all lovers of the "art preservative."

M. E. Comp. S. B. Harrington (387 Washington Street, Boston), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Z. H. Thomas, Jr. (44 Hanover Street, Boston), Grand Secretary.

MICHIGAN.

Held at Detroit, January 15th, 1878.

M. E. Comp. Oliver L. Spaulding, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 100; represented, 99; exalted, 415; members, 7,885; receipts, \$4195.75 Annual Convocation, 29th.

The Grand High Priest delivered an excellent practical address. He gives a number of decisions, two of which we copy and approve:—

"A Master Mason, in good standing, applies for the Chapter Degrees. Since being made a Mason, he has lost one of his legs, below the knee, but has a cork leg, with which he gets about as readily as most people, and continues his business as railroad engineer, without difficulty. Does the loss of his leg disqualify him from receiving the Chapter Degrees?

"Answer—Yes. It is true he is a Master Mason, but he could not now be made one. He cannot be made a R. A. M. if there are insuperable objections to his being made a M. M., were he not already one. He is a craftsman worn out in the service, entitled to all the benefits and honors of the rank to which he has attained, but cannot be advanced to higher duties and responsibilities, when he has become incapacitated for the performance of those already imposed upon him.

"At our last regular Convocation, a motion was made to donate from our Chapter funds, twenty-five dollars (\$25), to a cornet band, to assist them in procuring uniforms; and carried by a vote of 23 to 2. The question has been raised, as to the legality of this donation, as it is

claimed the Chapter has no right to donate money, to any but a Masonic organization. Will you please give us your opinion, and also inform us if the Chapter can hire the band and pay them in advance?

"Answer—I find no warrant for such an application of the funds of the Chapter. They are for Masonic purposes, and should be sacredly held as such. The Chapter has as much right to donate money to a railroad company, or a horse association, as to the proposed object. It is, of course, competent to pay the band for services rendered in Masonic occasions, but I doubt the propriety of paying in advance for possible future services. It is quite time enough to pay when the services have been actually rendered."

He reports one new Chapter, and requests for two others refused. He has the following sensible remarks and good advice:—

"The tendency of late has been rather to make new than to take care of old Chapters. Companions, in their zeal, have sought Chapters that soon became straitened both in good material and in money. Under such circumstances, the temptation is great, and I fear, not always resisted, of taking indifferent material to keep out of debt. Such material will ruin a Chapter, and debt is death to Chapters as well as churches.

"It was demonstrated, some thousands of years ago, that brick could not be made without straw; and there is excellent authority that men do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles. Do no work, unless good work. By all means surrender your charter, before running in debt or taking in bad men. Do not let your necessities nor your extremities induce the lowering of the standard of Royal Arch Masonry.

"Use the black ball on all proper occasions. It has been sometimes abused, to keep good men out; I fear, oftener to get bad men in. In saying this, I simply urge a just and conscientious use of it.

"The Candidate should be well known—his character and fitness established. In a word, he should be a man to receive your suffrages—not perfect; for then he would be more than man; but he should have positive, good qualities. He should be a man striving to go up; not a man actively or passively going down. If a man so commend himself, take him, be he rich or poor, high or low. Even though you and he may have personal differences, put them behind you. Reject no man because you and he do not agree. He may be right and you wrong. If you believe he would make a good Mason, you have no right to consult your little preferences or petty dislikes. Conquer yourself. You will be a better man and a better Mason. Remember that he who does this is greater than he who takes a city.

"Again, don't seek members. If Masonry is worth while, it will attract good men. It always has. Members will come fast enough. It is a voluntary institution—does not want and will not tolerate proselytism. Neither engage in public or private discussion in defense of Masonry. It has taken care of itself so far, and will continue to do so, so long as Masons are true to the great underlying principles of the Order. If they lose sight of these Landmarks and let go of their time-honored wise conservatism, they are at once without chart or compass.

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In the report of a case, where the non-payment of the Chapter, and exp instead. The foundation on this subject:—

"It is ordered, that for the Masonic of forthwith inflict the may deem proper; inflict such penalty the Chapter refused

We think the a scintilla of merit the non-payment It is no crime to And yet, because punish him the crimes. And we Chapter, who know his non-payment over poverty circumstances will not

We do not allow suspend from membership himself at any time the Chapter, or requisite. The initiation takes place gained. So that the ability or the re-established.

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"There are among us some who seek to make innovations in the
body of Masonry. Have nothing to do with them, except to get rid
of them. Young America must keep his hands off our religion and
Masonry."

In the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence we find
a case, where the penalty of reprimand only, was inflicted for
non-payment of dues. This sentence was set aside by Grand
Chapter, and expulsion or indefinite suspension was ordered
instead. The following was then adopted as a standing edict
on this subject:—

"It is ordered, that when a Companion has been tried and convicted,
for the Masonic offense of non-payment of dues, the Chapter shall
forthwith inflict the penalty of expulsion or indefinite suspension, as it
may deem proper; and, in case the Chapter shall neglect or refuse to
inflict such penalty, the Grand High Priest shall arrest the Charter of
the Chapter refusing to execute this Edict."

We think the above is entirely too arbitrary. There is not
a scintilla of mercy or charity about it. We object to placing
the non-payment of dues in the category of Masonic crimes.
It is no crime to be poor, although it is very uncomfortable.
And yet, because a Companion is too poor to pay dues, you
punish him the same as if he was guilty of the greatest
crimes. And worse than all, you will not allow his own
Chapter, who know all the circumstances and all the reasons for
his non-payment, to say what shall be his punishment. If
ever poverty comes to be our lot, we hope the force of circum-
stances will not compel us to live in Michigan.

We do not allow expulsions for non-payment of dues. We
suspend from membership, and the delinquent can restore
himself at any time, by paying up his arrears. No vote of
the Chapter, or ballot or any other action is necessary or
requisite. The moment the arrears are paid up, the restor-
ation takes place by that act, and the former standing is re-
gained. So that the door for return is always open, when
the ability or the desire to again contribute to the funds is
re-established.

On the action of Mississippi, as to the Council degrees, the
following report was adopted:—

"Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand High Priest's address as relates to the action of Mississippi, beg leave to report, that they do not find that Cryptic Masonry was ever attached to Capitular Masonry, and that the action of Mississippi, in assuming possession of those Degrees, conflicts with the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter.

"We, therefore, cannot approve of their action."

Com. Wm. P. Innes has an extensive and elaborate report on correspondence, of 212 pages. Canada for 1877 receives a good notice.

M. E. Comp. Chas. J. Kruger (Grand Rapids), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. William P. Innes (Grand Rapids), Grand Secretary.

MINNESOTA.

Held at St. Paul, October 9th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Richard J. Marvin, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 31; represented, 18; exalted, 106; members, 1,628; receipts, \$1,370.75. Annual Convocation, 16th.

The Grand High Priest reports a marked change for the better in their condition since their last meeting. Two new Chapters were organized. He recommends as follows:—

"First.—That the powers and prerogatives of Chapters U. D. be more clearly defined as regards their members and acts.

"Second.—The propriety of adopting a regulation of limitation, where in the case of an applicant who having been elected to receive the degrees shall neglect or refuse to present himself, the time shall be fixed which shall limit any right he may have acquired by virtue of such election and work a forfeiture."

We also copy part of his conclusion:—

"I cannot close, however, without a few words in another direction, which it seems to me are worthy of a thought and of practical value in the sum of those actions which make up a human life, and which exercise an influence upon the whole. I allude to the influence we may exert upon the world at large as citizens of this commonwealth and of this great nation. We may not, as *Masons*, take an active part in the many questions of the day, yet as citizens we should ever be found acting in favor of the right, the just, the true. You know what is right, you know what is just and good; you are not ignorant of the true in principle. Could the fundamental principles of the great body of Masonry throughout the world be brought to bear unitedly upon the evils, the stupendous evils of society as at present constituted, we should hope that the time was not far distant when wars and bloodshed would cease, rapacity and dishonesty, intemperance and

impurity be replaced by peace and order reign. It should be our end to assist in the right direction but among those who assist in lessening it everywhere."

By the adoption of prudence, it was a ballot, by a member accompanied by his sons to be given and their sufficiency also say:—

"Your Committee in a Chapter, it has a right to object objection should be out his giving his re

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Comp. A. T. C. gives our Proceed M. E. Comp. R R. E. Comp. A.

Held at Grenad R. E. Comp. E. Priest.

Number of Chapters members, 1,930; r 30th.

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impurity be replaced by humanity, integrity, purity and friendship; peace and order reign supreme among nations and communities alike. It should be our endeavor always to exert what influence we may possess in the right direction, not only upon our brethren and companions, but among those with whom we daily associate, and in that manner assist in lessening the evils that surround us, the misery which exists everywhere."

By the adoption of the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, it was decided that an objection made after a clear ballot, by a member who was present at the ballot, must be accompanied by his reasons for such objection. Such reasons to be given to the High Priest (privately, if necessary,) and their sufficiency determined by him. The committee also say:—

"Your Committee believe that a Royal Arch Mason in good standing in a Chapter, in case he could not be present to cast his ballot, has a right to object to the advancement of a candidate, and that his objection should be respected by the High Priest, and that, too, without his giving his reasons why he objects."

The following was adopted:—

"Resolved, That in case a candidate neglects or refuses to present himself to receive the degrees conferred in the Chapter within six months after he is notified of election, his right to receive the same shall be deemed to be forfeited."

Comp. A. T. C. Pierson reports on Correspondence, and gives our Proceedings for 1876 a good notice.

M. E. Comp. R. J. Marvin (Hastings), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. A. T. C. Pierson (St. Paul), Grand Secretary.

MISSISSIPPI.

Held at Grenada, February 5th, 1878.

R. E. Comp. E. G. DeLap, Deputy (Acting) Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 73; represented, 43; exalted, 87; members, 1,930; receipts, \$2,785.48. Annual Convocation, 30th.

The Grand High Priest, Comp. H. W. Walter, was prevented by imperative duty from being present. His address was read by the Grand Secretary. It is chiefly taken up with the fusion of the Council degrees with those of the

Chapter, and as this is rather an important matter, we copy his remarks in full:—

"Soon after your last Convocation, the following order, written by Com. W. G. Paxton, M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of this State; and heartily endorsed by me, was issued by him and myself, officially, to the several Chapters and Councils of this State, viz:

"1. All Councils of Royal and Select Masters cease to exist.

"2. The degrees of 'Royal Master' and 'Select Master' will hereafter be conferred, or communicated, in the several Royal Arch Chapters and upon *Royal Arch Masons* only, and as follows: The Chapters being opened in the Royal Arch degree, a Council of Royal and Select Masters will then be opened in these degrees, respectively. After completing its work, the Council will be closed with all due forms and ceremonies, and the business of the Chapter resumed, or closed, as occasion may require, in the Royal Arch degree.

"3. Royal Arch Masons who have not received the degrees of Royal and Select Master may have them conferred, or communicated, without fee, in open Council. But in all cases the Chapter must be regularly convened and a Council formally opened.

"4. Companions hereafter receiving the Royal Arch Chapter degree, will be advanced to the Royal Master's, and afterwards to the Select Master's degree—the Chapter being first opened and then the Council, as before directed.

"5. In Chapters where there are not a sufficient number of Royal and Select Masters, and when a sufficient number cannot conveniently be assembled from neighboring Chapters to complete the Council, the degrees of Royal and Select Master may be communicated by any competent Companion to a sufficient number of Companions of the Royal Arch, to open a Council, preferably to the officers of the Chapter, if there be any such who have not received these degrees. The intention being to *communicate the degrees only in cases of absolute necessity*, it being expected that the officers of each Chapter will, at the earliest practicable date, qualify themselves to *work* the Council degrees, the same as the degrees of the Chapter are required to be worked; and after they have so qualified themselves, in no case will the Council degrees be communicated.

"6. It is recommended that the T. I. M. of each Council cause its members to assemble at the earliest convenient day, and provide for the disposition of its property and effects, by transferring the same to the Chapter within whose jurisdiction the Council has hitherto been held, and where a preponderance of its members hold their membership. In cases where the membership is divided between two or more Chapters, it is suggested that the property be divided between them or donated to the Chapter having the least ability to provide itself with the necessary paraphernalia of the Council degrees. In cases where Councils are in debt, the assets should be sold to some Chapter, and the proceeds applied to settlement of outstanding obligations. It is particularly to be hoped that the cause of Masonry will not be disgraced by the neglect or failure of any Council to provide for the payment of its debts. A small contribution from its members will generally suffice to enable the poorest Council to dissolve honorably, and without leaving a stain upon the Masonic name and character. The surplus funds of Councils may be disposed of at their

pleasure, but does not when the Councils have

"7. The Charters of each Council be sealed by the Grand Recorder.

"8. Presiding officer to be elected to the Grand Council.

"9. A copy of this Grand Secretary, Council of Royal and otherwise provide."

"The following are

"COMPANIONS.—I. Paxton, M. I. G. M. the State. It expresses Royal and Select Master addition necessary. alled, a Council must degrees immediately

"DEAR SIR AND CO certain Companions i

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"I answer that th they must do so, and Companions Royal A ters in possession of practicable. The me be in accordance with M. E. Grand High Pri ruary, ultimo. The do with the matter, authority to confer th Arch, the former befo other words, the 'acti ordinate Councils cea are the property of nevertheless, as essen other degrees of that reasons, not necessar Priests of the several grees of Royal and Se bers of their Chapter not already in possess through Comp. R. P. l of the Edict."

"In August last, C P. G. Council of Miss sentative could not be attended the Trienni the United States, an Council in reference to

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pleasure, but dues to the Grand Council must, in all cases, be paid, when the Councils have the ability to do so.

"7. The Charters of all Subordinate Councils will be returned to the Grand Recorder. And it is recommended that the records and seals of each Council be deposited with that officer for preservation.

"8. Presiding officers of Councils will, in all cases, report their action to the Grand Recorder.

"9. A copy of this Edict will be duly certified to each Chapter by the Grand Secretary, and the same will be its sufficient warrant as a Council of Royal and Select Masters, until the Grand Chapter shall otherwise provide."

"The following circular, issued soon after, explains itself fully, viz:

"COMPANIONS.—I append below a circular issued by Com. W. G. Paxton, M. I. G. M. of the Grand Council of R. and S. Masters of the State. It expresses so fully and clearly your duties as to the Royal and Select Master's degrees, that I do not deem one word in addition necessary. I may say, however, that whenever a class is exalted, a Council *must* be opened in the Chapter, and Royal and Select degrees immediately conferred."

"DEAR SIR AND COMPANION.—I have through you, the inquiry of certain Companions in substance following:

"Can Royal Arch Masons receive the Council degrees now, or must they await the approval by the General Grand Chapter of the recent action of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of this State, by which the latter body is merged into the former?"

"I answer that they *can* not only receive the degrees now, but that they *must* do so, and that it is the duty of the High Priest to put all Companions Royal Arch Masons who are not Royal and Select Masters in possession of the last named degrees at once, or as soon as practicable. The mode and manner of conferring these degrees will be in accordance with the joint edict of the M. Ill. Grand Master and M. E. Grand High Priest, issued from your office on the 24th of February, ultimo. The General Grand Chapter has nothing whatever to do with the matter, the request made of that Grand Body being for authority to confer the Royal and Select degrees as *part* of the Royal Arch, the former before the Royal Arch, and the latter after it. In other words, the 'action of merger' is final and conclusive. All Subordinate Councils ceased to exist, and the Royal and Select degrees are the property of the Chapters—side degrees, if you will, but, nevertheless, as essential to be conferred as the Mark, Royal Arch, or other degrees of that branch of Masonry. For these, as well as other reasons, not necessary to be repeated, I request that the M. E. High Priests of the several Chapters will at once take charge of the degrees of Royal and Select Master, and confer the same upon all members of their Chapters who have not received them. High Priests not already in possession of the Council work will be able to obtain it through Comp. R. P. Bowen, Grand Lecturer, or under the provisions of the Edict."

"In August last, Comp. J. M. Howry, as Representative of the M. P. G. Council of Mississippi, (than whom an abler or better Representative could not have been selected), and myself as your Delegate, attended the Triennial Convention of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and presented your action and that of the Grand Council in reference to its degrees.

"I cannot better express the result of our mission, than the same is expressed by the circular issued by me soon after my return home. It is as follows:—

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MISSISSIPPI.

"OFFICE OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST,

"HOLLY SPRING, MISS., Sept. 8, 1877.

"To the Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, and the Royal and Select Masons of Mississippi:

"In February last, the Grand Council and Grand Chapter of this State made an agreement by which the officers and members of each Chapter should open in the bosom of the Chapter, after its close, a Council and confer the Royal and Select Degrees.

"The General Grand Chapter of the United States was petitioned to permit the Royal Degree to be conferred before, and the Select Degree after, the Royal Arch. This was the only question or petition presented by our Grand Council and Grand Chapter to the General Grand Chapter. The whole action of the Masons of Mississippi on this subject, was, however, brought before that Grand Body at its late meeting in Buffalo, by Comp. J. M. Howry, representing the Grand Council, and myself representing the Grand Chapter. The matter was postponed by it, and the action of the Grand Council and Grand Chapter of Mississippi, was not disapproved, and we were left free to follow the course we had adopted.

"The action of the Masons of Mississippi secured the approval of perhaps a majority of the delegates to the General Grand Chapter. A difficulty did present itself to some of them in our requiring the Council Degrees to be conferred in the bosom of the Chapter, and they feared this might violate Section 9, Article 1, of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter. This difficulty, which I do not regard as real, can be easily removed at our next General Convention.

"I am satisfied that any agreement made between a Grand Chapter and a Grand Council of a State, by which the officers and members of a Chapter may be authorized to open a Council and confer its degrees, would be sanctioned by the General Grand Chapter of the United States. This agreement would be a warrant or Charter to open a Council, and the Masons acting under it would not be a Chapter, but a regularly chartered Council attached to a Chapter, but not necessarily a part of it.

"The Royal and Select Degrees should then be conferred without charge on all worthy Royal Arch Masons desiring them, and always on the class receiving the Royal Arch Degree. This would make that Degree perfect, and would save the Council Degrees to Masonry.

"It was generally admitted by the delegates at Buffalo, that the Councils in most of the States in the Union are in a languishing and crippled condition, and that some of the Grand Councils will soon cease to exist. It was also generally conceded, that unless the General Grand Encampment of the United States should make the Royal and Select Degrees prerequisite to those of the Encampment, (and that it refused to do by an almost unanimous vote), that the action in Mississippi is perhaps the best that can be adopted. At all events, that action was not disapproved or disturbed, and the arrangement made in February last will be carried out.

H. W. WALTER,
Grand High Priest.

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"Many of the Chapters in this State have proceeded to act under the order and circular so issued, and others will soon follow.

"Whilst Mississippi cannot boast of as great a number of Royal Arch Masons as some of our sister States, she will soon be able to say that all are possessed not only of the form but the beauty of the Royal Arch, and that they are fully preserving the rite and ceremonies of the Council, so seriously imperilled elsewhere."

He reports one new Chapter. He permitted the exaltation of a one-armed candidate, in which we think he was wrong.

On "Quebec" the following was adopted:—

"Resolved, That while the Grand Chapter of Mississippi hears with pleasure and satisfaction of the formation of other Grand Chapters 'in accordance with the Ancient Customs, Constitutions and Land-marks of the Order,' yet it is the sense of this Grand Chapter, that inasmuch as it owes and yields allegiance to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the Grand Chapter of Quebec is an organization foreign to and separate and distinct from the General Grand Chapter of the United States, the Grand Chapter of Mississippi could not with propriety 'extend fraternal recognition to, and establish fraternal communication and representation' with, the Grand Chapter of Quebec, all such matters being within the exclusive jurisdiction and control of the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

Past Grand Officers of the Grand Council are to have equal rank with those of Grand Chapter.

All compensation for attendance at this Convocation was unanimously waived by the members present.

The Grand Lecturer has the following:—

"I have visited but four Chapters during the year, and conferred the Council Degrees on the members of said Chapters; and I find that all, indeed almost unanimously, approve the plan of uniting the Chapter and Council Degrees. But the stringency of the times has prevented the Chapters from availing themselves of this opportunity of obtaining the Degrees, when they are compelled to meet all the expenses of the Grand Lecturer, and also remunerate him for his time and labor. I am convinced that these Degrees will not be worked satisfactorily except at the expense of the Grand Chapter. Before the merging of those Degrees, and when times were more flourishing, I was very much opposed to the Grand Chapter undertaking this work; now, I acknowledge its necessity, for these reasons: 1st. There are six degrees, with a great deal to learn and retain, which no man can do unless his whole time was devoted to it. For instance, I go to a Chapter, confer all the degrees, lecture for several days, close the Chapter, and go home. Having no other call, necessity compels me to engage in other pursuits in which my mind is necessarily and wholly engaged. Two months later I receive another call, and must hurry to meet it. Now you see at once my predicament. There must be blunders, and, as a consequence, loss of respect for the work and also loss of confidence in the ability of the Grand Lecturer. All of which throws a

dampener over our prosperity. Now, if all my time was employed, and nothing else to engage my attention, everything would work harmonious, and the Grand Lecturer would be able to disseminate the work and lectures with credit to himself and benefit to the Craft. I am fully aware of the financial condition of the Grand Chapter. But this problem must be solved: How can we most effectually disseminate these degrees, and what means must we employ to that end? I beg, Most Excellent, that you give this subject serious consideration, and report the result to the Grand Chapter in your address.

If the Grand Chapter would, or *could*, give the Grand Lecturer a small salary on which he could with certainty rely, and the Subordinate Chapters would pay his travelling expenses, and take care of him when with them, I think the merging and working of these degrees would be assured."

On which a proposed amendment to the Constitution (as under), was ordered to be submitted to the Chapters:—

"The Grand Chapter shall elect, when the other Grand Officers are elected, a Grand Lecturer, whose duty it shall be when called upon by the Grand Council, to give lectures and instructions in Royal Arch Masonry, at each Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and to visit each Chapter within its jurisdiction at least once between each Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and instruct them in the work and lectures of Royal Arch Masonry, and he shall be compensated by a per capita tax of fifty cents annually upon each Royal Arch Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, to be levied and paid as other dues to the Grand Chapter are levied and paid."

The absence of a report on correspondence is thus satisfactorily accounted for:—

"Comp. Oliver Clifton, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reported that in view of the financial condition of the Grand Chapter, and the fact that the Representatives at present Convocation have agreed to charge neither mileage nor per diem, in order to relieve the Grand Chapter from debt, he had, after consultation with the Grand Secretary and Grand High Priest, thought it best not to prepare a Report, but that if such a Report was still desirable, he would prepare the same in time for publication with the proceedings.

On motion, the reasons given were deemed satisfactory, and the Foreign Correspondence Report, for this year, was dispensed with."

M. E. Comp. J. S. Jones (Coldwater), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John L. Power (Jackson), Grand Secretary.

MISSOURI.

Held at St. Louis, October 4th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Joseph S. Browne, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 89; represented, 65; exalted, 216; members, 4,289; receipts, \$5,720.70. Annual Convocation, 81st.

The Grand High Priest reports three new Chapters. He

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mentions the death of the lamented Gouley, and the ap-
pointment of Comp. John W. Luke to fill the vacancy as
Grand Secretary. We copy two of his decisions:—

"1. It is illegal in a Chapter to vote upon any question which may be brought before it, by calling for the 'ayes and noes.' In all cases where the law does not require a ballot to be taken, the vote should be ascertained in the customary manner, by raising the right hand.

"2. In all cases where it is necessary to take the ballot, the ballot-box may be placed upon the altar, or handed to each member present, that he may deposit his ballot therein, as the High Priest may deem expedient."

He has pleasure in saying that Capitular Masonry in Mis-
souri is in a healthy condition, and that the quality of the
material offered is looked after more than the number of
members.

Quebec was recognized.

No appeals or grievances were presented, and the business
transacted was local in its character.

From the report of the Grand Lecturer, we extract as
follows:—

"I have not visited the Chapters very extensively the present year, though I have devoted much time to individual instruction. In fact, long experience has taught me that this is the only practical way of imparting information in the ritual of the Chapter. A High Priest, Captain of Host, or Fr. Sojourner, will learn more in a private lesson of a few hours than can be taught in a whole day's chapter of instruction.

"It gives me great pleasure to state, both from personal observation and diligent inquiry, that, with few exceptions, the Chapters are doing good and square work, on good material. I am entirely confident that there is no Grand Jurisdiction in the United States where greater uniformity prevails. The Chapters are, with very few exceptions, splendidly outfitted, the younger Chapters generally leading in the van in this particular. The only trouble I have had in this matter has been to discourage useless expenditures."

The report on Correspondence is partly by Comp. Gouley, and completed by Comp. Luke. Canada for 1876 is noticed. Under the head of "Iowa," Comp. Gouley remarked as follows on the "colored" question:—

"1. There was nothing official before the Grand Chapter to show that any such so-called 'colored Chapter' was in existence.

"2. There was nothing to authorize any reference to it by the Grand High Priest except a common newspaper report.

"3. Providing there was such a Chapter, there was nothing before the Grand Chapter to show where it got its Charter, or by what means, or what was its work, character or membership.

"4. There is no law of the Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge of Iowa, or of any other Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge of Freemasonry on the face of the earth, which prohibits in any manner, shape or form, any of their subordinates from receiving and acting upon the petition, and conferring the degrees upon any man free born, of mature age, and under good report, without the slightest reference to color, clime, language, religion, or politics of the petitioner. All these things being undeniable and unimpeachable facts, what are we to think of an assembly of full grown and deliberate Representatives shooting off a whole battery of such double shot political stuff at a 'man of straw'? If this had taken place just after the close of a rabid political meeting, in which the blood and brains had been stimulated almost to frenzy, we could understand it; but as it is, we cannot; it is so far apart from the calm and conservative course pursued by our own Grand Body upon all important questions that (as we never sat in any other Grand Chapter), we are dumbfounded. It will be interesting, however, to notice how these views of Iowa will meet with the unanimous reprobation of every other Grand Chapter in the United States, just as did all the Grand Lodges with the incendiary Report of the Ohio Grand Lodge Committee.

The centennial year produced some good fruits and some very bad ones, and unfortunately for those who went into hysterics over the affair, and wanted to get a good deal of cheap notoriety on account of a national matter, they overlooked the great and one important fact, viz: that Freemasonry has no 'centennial' year, as it has been born and lived, flourished and had fixed principles before the United States were ever dreamed about. Like everlasting Truth, THE ETERNAL YEARS OF GOD ARE HERE."

And under "Maine," as follows:—

"He agrees generally with our views, in 1875, on various points, but walks into us considerably on our criticism of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and its entering into the Tripartite Treaty with the Knight Templar and Ancient and Accepted Rite, whereby it lost its appellate jurisdiction over its own members. As our esteemed Companion is a sort of foster father to the petition of the said Grand Lodge for recognition in General Grand Chapter, we must expect him to resist our attack strongly, which he does, but we think unsuccessfully, as he seems to rely chiefly on the point that 'if a Mark Master is expelled, he at once loses all his rights in the higher degrees, precisely as he does if he is expelled by a Blue Lodge.'

"Nobody ever denied that proposition. It is just what we are contending for, yet it is the direct opposite of the logical result of Companion Drummond's argument. What we have contended for all along is, that the Grand Mark Lodge of England had no right to go into a treaty whereby her subordinate members may be expelled by an organization which they know nothing about, and cannot even visit, and that, too, by men who need never have been Mark Masters at all. By that treaty Mark Masters are expelled *downwards*, not 'upwards' as Companion Drummond would seem to infer. They are expelled by Knights Templar and Princes of Jerusalem before they ever thought of applying for such degrees, and after confirmation of expulsion under that treaty, even the Grand Mark Lodge itself is as powerless for restoration or decision on appeal as a poor devil on the rack in an inquisition. He holds that that body had a right to go into that treaty,

and says: 'It is none body else.' In reply our business, but that our General Grand Chapter membership hereby we individually utterly incap General Grand Chapter without recognizing a don, which does not ate Royal Arch Chapter General Grand Chapter Mark Lodge business duty it owes to the does not think the as it has been there and been got out with or herculean labor ab Grand Lodges, or Lo with us and Pennsylv

"Since writing the Great Priory of England between the Grand and A. Rite, has been pressure was too strong which the treaty was man could stand, and "The Grand Mark ask for a recognition untrammelled manne

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and says: 'It is none of Companion Gouley's business, or that of any body else.' In reply to that dictum we have to say that it is not only *our* business, but that of every other Royal Arch Mason, to see that our General Grand Chapter is not tied up to any unfortunate alliances, whereby we individually or collectively may be compromised in our Chapter membership. The Grand Mark Lodge of England has proven herself utterly incapable of taking care of her own rights, and our General Grand Chapter has committed blunders enough already, without recognizing as an equal this emasculated institution in London, which does not rise even to the power or dignity of any subordinate Royal Arch Chapter in the United States. Again we hope the General Grand Chapter, at its next Triennial conclave, will settle this Mark Lodge business in accordance with its own self-respect, and the duty it owes to the Chapters and members under its jurisdiction. He does not think the Past Master's degree can be got out of the Chapters, as it has been there so long, but as other things have been in there and been got out without any harm being done, we see no great trouble or herculean labor about this Past Master's degree being relegated to Grand Lodges, or Lodges, leaving the Royal Arch OB. as it is, both with us and Pennsylvania.

"Since writing the above we have received the Proceedings of the Great Priory of England, and from it learn that the Tripartite Treaty between the Grand Mark Lodge, the Knights Templar, and the A. and A. Rite, has been abrogated by the Grand Mark Lodge. The pressure was too strong, and the manifest injustice of the basis upon which the treaty was formed was more than a thoroughbred Englishman could stand, and now we are happy.

"The Grand Mark Lodge of London is now again in a position to ask for a recognition of her control over that degree in England in an untrammelled manner worthy of consideration."

M. E. Comp. Wm. R. Stubblefield (St. Louis), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John W. Luke (St. Louis), Grand Secretary.

NEBRASKA.

Held at Tecumseh, December 20th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Charles F. Goodman, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 16; represented, 9; exalted, 71; members, 667. Annual Convocation, 10th.

The Grand High Priest, as an evidence of prosperity, refers to the erection of the Freemason's Hall in Omaha, costing \$80,000. He reports two new Chapters.

In the report of the Grand Secretary, we find the following proposal as to dues:—

"I submit for the consideration of the Grand Chapter, or of the constituent Chapters, whether it would not be to the best interests of the Craft to require of each one who hereafter becomes a member of

our Chapters the deposit of a sum, the interest of which (at 7 or 8 per cent) will pay the annual dues assessed against such member; this sum, with any surplus interest accrued, to be returned to such member whenever he honorably leaves the Chapter. Our thinking Masons observe the tendency of the Chapter to attract from the Lodge its best members; and in many cases the burden of dues in both Lodge and Chapter renders the payment thereof tardy, and sometimes leads to suspension. The payment of *all* dues in advance in the manner suggested would remedy the latter evil."

This subject was referred to a special committee, whose report (as under) was adopted:—

"Your special committee to which was referred so much of the R. E. Grand Secretary's Report as suggested the payment of dues to our constituent Chapters *in advance* by the deposit of a sum of money to be placed at interest by the constituent Chapter, would report that while they appreciate the excellence of the scheme, they do not deem it within the province of the Grand Chapter to do more than to recommend the plan to the careful consideration of the constituent Chapters, with the assurance that by-laws to that effect will meet with the approval of this Grand Chapter."

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"*Resolved*, That as a standing regulation by this Grand Chapter, and for the government of constituent Chapters, in this jurisdiction, that when a Comp. Royal Arch Mason, hailing from another Grand Jurisdiction, affiliates with a constituent Chapter in this State, he brings with him as of right all the official honors, rights and privileges, to which he would be entitled, had the same been conferred upon him in this jurisdiction; and that such official honors, rights and privileges, be, and are, hereby fully acknowledged and recognized and respected by both the constituent Chapters in that State, and by this Grand Body. *Provided*: The honors involved are of a generally acknowledged Masonic character, and are officially certified by the Sister Body conferring the same."

"*Resolved*, That hereafter, no member of this Grand Chapter, however many official positions he may have held, each and every one of which may have entitled him to votes in this Grand Chapter, shall be entitled to more than one vote by reason of such honorable position he may have held, and that shall be for the highest official position to which he may have attained."

"*Resolved*, That each constituent Chapter shall, as may be provided by law or regulation at all times, and for all purposes be entitled to three votes, either in the persons holding either of the principal offices, or by their proxy or proxies. *Provided*: They shall not have been disfranchised by reason of some violation of the Chapter regulations."

"*Resolved*, That all Grand Officers, elective and appointed, of this Grand Chapter, shall be entitled to one vote each."

It was agreed that all dues on membership, paid into the Grand Chapter for the year 1876, be returned to the subordinate Chapters; for what reason does not appear.

Sundry criticisms on their manner of opening the Grand

Chapter, by first were deemed not taken there anent.

The Grand Office in public, which disapproval.

The report on as explained in th

"No report from been submitted to th one of 1872. Some found in the subseque The reports her ular issued by the dressed to the Repr Nebraska:—

"COMPANION:—

"You are request 15th next, a synopsis cisions of the Grand sentative.

"This course is in ed in its Grand Loc recommend to the C These reports will t Foreign Corresponden full, interesting and America.

"Please acknowle me of your proposed

"Cordially,

"Although all the ports, a better result the main object is to Nebraska, these few leaf will be found bet

Ten Grand Ch appear.

M. E. Comp. E. Priest.

R. E. Comp. W.

Held at Omaha,

M. E. Comp. E.

Chapter, by first opening a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, were deemed worthy of consideration, but no action was taken there anent.

The Grand Officers were obligated, instructed and installed in public, which is a proceeding that has our unqualified disapproval.

The report on Correspondence, such as it is, is made up as explained in the following introduction:—

"No report from the committee on Foreign Correspondence has been submitted to the Grand Chapter of Nebraska since the admirable one of 1872. Some reasons for the absence of such reports may be found in the subsequent proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

"The reports herewith are made in response to the following circular issued by the Grand Secretary, October 15th, 1876, and addressed to the Representatives from, and to the Grand Chapter of Nebraska:—

CIRCULAR.

"COMPANION:—

"You are requested to transmit to this office, before November 15th next, a synopsis or digest of the proceedings and leading decisions of the Grand Chapter near or of which you are the Representative.

"This course is in pursuance of the Nebraska system already adopted in its Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery; and which I shall recommend to the Grand Chapter for adoption at its next session. These reports will be consolidated and arranged as the Report on Foreign Correspondence; and it is confidently hoped thus to secure a full, interesting and useful review of the doings of the Royal Craft in America.

"Please acknowledge the receipt of this communication, and advise me of your proposed action.

"Cordially,

WM. R. BOWEN,

"Grand Secretary."

"Although all the Representatives have not made the desired reports, a better result is anticipated for each succeeding year; and as the main object is to instruct and benefit the Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, these few reports are submitted with the hope that a small loaf will be found better than no bread."

Ten Grand Chapters are reviewed. Canada does not appear.

M. E. Comp. E. F. Warren (Nebraska City), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. R. Bowen (Omaha), Grand Secretary.

Held at Omaha, December 19th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Edwin F. Warren, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 17; represented, 12; exalted, 52; members, 688; receipts, \$899.00. Annual Convocation, 11th.

The manner of opening appears to have been properly changed. The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form, without the intervention of any subordinate Chapter.

The Grand High Priest delivered a good address. He reports one new Chapter. On special dispensations, he says:

"In March last I received an application from Ashland Chapter for a dispensation to 'confer the degrees and ballot for' a brother Master Mason, 'out of time and without proficiency,' as the candidate desired to receive his degrees before leaving the county temporarily. Thinking the request far more than I had authority to grant, and that the emergency requisite did not exist, I declined to issue the dispensation.

"On October 6, 1877, I issued a special dispensation authorizing Mt. Zion Chapter, U.D., to receive and act upon the petition of Brother Horace S. Fuller, in the usual way, except that he be not required to wait six months after having received the Master Mason degree, before petitioning the Chapter. The reasons therefor being special, and contained in the accompanying papers, I submit the same for your consideration. The rule requiring the candidate to wait six months after he has been made a Master Mason before he is advanced, seems to me an arbitrary one, without much to recommend it, except it be the *presumption of ignorance* in the candidate, and no reason, it seems to me, exists why the rule may not be suspended in a proper case."

He rightly decided against the petition of a blind man for exaltation. Before doing so, he consulted Comp. E. H. English, then General Grand High Priest, and Comp. J. H. Drummond, P.G.G.H.P., and received from them contradictory opinions: Comp. English holding the candidate not eligible, and Comp. Drummond the opposite. It appears that this candidate has been blind since he was about ten years of age, and it is a mystery to us how he was ever initiated.

Comp. Warren favors the absorption of the Council degrees by the Chapter, as he thinks that otherwise it is but a question of time, when these degrees will cease to be conferred by any recognized authority. On this subject, the following action was had:—

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter favors, and is willing and ready to grant, the prayer of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Nebraska, substantially upon the plan agreed upon by the jurisdictions of Illinois and Mississippi.

"Resolved, That the question of consolidation be submitted to a vote

of the Subordinate C at the next Annual C jority of the Chapte sense of the Order i Chapter of the Unit such an arrangemen this State may agree of the United States. And, further, that in way of consolidation manner as it may de summate the wishes "Resolved, That t submit this question diction."

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Number of Ch

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"During the past had a steady and her ship has not been re on has necessarily be ment in times of con ciples of our Order, i From such come the meetings of our Cha tions of this Grand l strength and beauty, i will rest, its perpetu

of the Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction, to be reported upon at the next Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, that if a majority of the Chapters vote favorably, then it shall be considered the sense of the Order in this jurisdiction; that then the General Grand Chapter of the United States be petitioned to ratify and consent to such an arrangement as this Grand Chapter and Grand Council of this State may agree upon; *provided*, that said General Grand Chapter of the United States decides this question to be one of its jurisdiction. And, further, that in the event that no impediment be found in the way of consolidation, then this Grand Chapter shall proceed in such manner as it may determine conjointly with the Grand Council to consummate the wishes of the two Orders in this jurisdiction."

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be and is hereby directed to submit this question in form to the Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction."

Quebec was recognized.

The Constitution was amended by adding a new section, stating that no mileage or *per diem* shall be allowed to any officer or representative of Grand Chapter. We approve. In Canada, we have never had any mileage or *per diem*, and we seem to have got along very well without it.

There is no report on Correspondence.

M. E. Comp. E. F. Warren (Nebraska City), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. R. Bowen (Omaha), Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Held at Concord, May 15th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Andrew J. Thompson, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 19; represented, 18; exalted, 108; members, 2,157; receipts, \$584.40. Annual Convocation, 56th.

The Grand High Priest in his address, says:—

"During the past year the most of the Chapters in this State have had a steady and healthy growth. While a large increase in membership has not been realized, the character of the material wrought upon has necessarily been more valuable, as those who seek advancement in times of comparative quiet, do so from love of the innate principles of our Order, and always make reliable and steadfast members. From such come the familiar faces which always grace the regular meetings of our Chapters, and are often seen at the annual convocations of this Grand Body. They constitute the real pillars of *wisdom, strength and beauty*, in our Order; and on them has rested and forever will rest, its perpetuity and high character. I trust that during the

past year many such will be found to have entered our ranks to take our places when we have passed beyond the veils."

His conclusion is excellent:—

"It is no part of Masonry to vaunt its virtues before the world. Silence and perseverance in performing its noble work, are its characteristics, and inculcated in all its lessons. The successful business man proceeds in the same way. 'He did the most and said the least about himself,' is the highest praise Sallust pays his hero. Great forces, like great rivers, move silently and irresistibly on—unchanging, voiceless, yet omnipotent, the laws of nature govern the universe. By imitating these characteristics of Omnipotence, as far as is possible by human reason, Masonry has flourished in the past in spite of all fanatical opposition, and to-day has a stronger hold on the affections of its votaries than ever before. As such opposition has arisen in the past so will it in the future. Everything has its opposite. Justice and humanity have theirs in bigotry and arrogance. They are like the positive and negative poles of the battery—you cannot excite the one without stimulating the other. Thus the purest efforts of Masonry have met opposition, and even attempted suppression, and that in our own country, and within the recollection of many present. From all this the Institution has emerged steadfast and strengthened, without malice or hatred to anyone, not forgetting to spread the broad mantle of charity over all, seeing that man in his best estate is liable to falter and err. Continual observance of the landmarks and usages of the Order, a rigid adherence to its principles as set forth in the lessons, will insure its future prosperity. As justice is immutable, so these can never change. That no men, or body of men, can make innovations is one of its soundest maxims. I feel,—I trust you all do,—a profound veneration for all the institutes of the Ancient Craft. I would not change a word or letter of the work unless it could be clearly shown to be a return to ancient usage. That work has been found sufficient to explain the ethics of our Order in a masterly manner in all the past; it cannot fail to do likewise in the future. Let no one then seek to alter or amend. If you grant the right to alter in one part you cannot deny the right to change in another for equal reasons. Different workmen, at different times, will have different opinions. Even popular notions of right and wrong vary with the times. If the right to alter be granted there is no stability for the Order. Its very principles may be subverted and its usefulness destroyed. *Let every meddling hand be stayed.* This maxim has controlled this Grand Chapter ever since its establishment. It has taken deep hold of the convictions of all its attendants, who going out have spread that duty among all the workmen, of all grades, throughout our State. It has done no nobler work than this. That a like consistency may characterize its future, I know every member, present or absent, sincerely wishes, and will ever strive to realize."

The following resolution was adopted:—

"That every petitioner for a new Chapter shall present a certificate from the Chapter of which he is a member that he is free from all charges and dues."

Comp. Albert S. Wait reports on Correspondence, and notices Canada for 1876.

M. E. Comp. J
R. E. Comp. J

Held at Trenton
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2. A Companion's visit subordinate Chapter mission.
3. Applications for the signature of the

He cautions the
citing candidates t

"Every candidate should be admitted standing; and while all good applicants, whose character has been ascertained, or who, if a member of Capital Masonry, are recommended merely by the value of its treasure in the sterling truth of the Masonic work, practice of the great

"Another subject of the Companions, is through the several duties should be abolished cases, as no good character will gain no Ritual, his ideas, of his impressions of the

M. E. Comp. John J. Bell (Exeter), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John A. Harris (Concord), Grand Secretary.

NEW JERSEY.

Held at Trenton, September 12th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Edward Goeller, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 85, represented, 28; exalted, 107; members, 2,884; receipts, \$1,572.47. Annual Convocation, 21st.

The Grand High Priest reports the general condition of the subordinate Chapters as good, with peace and harmony prevailing, and a fair amount of work. The Companions appear to appreciate more thoroughly the impolicy of dispensations to confer the degrees out of time. His decisions were:—

"1. A Chapter cannot strike its High Priest, King or Scribe from the roll for non-payment of dues, nor try them for any offence during their term of office. After the expiration of their term they may be tried for any offence other than official misconduct; for the latter they are amenable only to the Grand Chapter.

2. A Companion stricken from the roll for non-payment of dues may visit subordinate Chapters, provided no objections are made to his admission.

3. Applications for initiation or affiliation must be by petition, over the signature of the applicant."

He cautions the Companions against the practice of soliciting candidates to join the Chapter, and says:—

"Every candidate should apply of his own free will, and no one should be admitted simply because he is a Master Mason in good standing; and while we hail with pleasure the voluntary approach of all good applicants, yet we should be careful in recommending no one whose character has not again been thoroughly and carefully scrutinized, or who, if a member, would not add to the dignity and reputation of Capitular Masonry. The prosperity of a Chapter is not to be estimated merely by the number of Royal Arch Masons it may make, by the value of its treasury, nor the work that is done; but it is measured by the sterling truth of the members, and their proficiency, not only in the Masonic work, but in a thorough knowledge and continued practice of the great lessons that are taught in Capitular Masonry.

"Another subject to which I would respectfully call the attention of the Companions, is the great haste in which candidates are rushed through the several degrees in some of the Chapters, and which practice should be abolished at once, or only indulged in in very extreme cases, as no good can be derived from it. A candidate thus hurried through will gain nothing more than superficial knowledge of the Ritual, his ideas, of all the degrees will be confused and indistinct, his impressions of the symbolic illustrations will be vague and unin-

pressive, and we assist in placing in the great Masonic temple a rough ashlar, yet to be hewn, squared and numbered, and which does not harmonize with the beautiful proportions of the surrounding structure."

The committee to whom the address was referred, do not entirely agree with the Grand High Priest on the solicitation of candidates. Their report, which was adopted by the Grand Chapter, has the following:—

"5. Your committee has considered with deep interest the truly eloquent remarks of the Grand High Priest at the close of his address. So much as relates to the prevailing practice of unduly hastening the progress of candidates through the several degrees is eminently worthy of our closest attention; and those remarks which relate to the true field of Masonic labor, we would commend to the earnest study of the general Craft, as they will be brought to them through the medium of our published proceedings.

6. But, although it is very evident that the right should be used with prudence and discretion, your committee cannot entirely concur with the Grand High Priest in his opinion that the practice of soliciting Master Masons to become Companions is not in accordance with the principles of Capitular Masonry. The profane and the Master Mason do not occupy the same ground, and we lean to the opinion that it may be proper, with wise care, to bring to the attention of competent and intelligent Brethren the desirability of completing the structure of their Masonic life."

We are inclined to agree with the committee. All intelligent Master Masons must perceive a deficiency in the third degree, and we can see no harm in their being informed where the deficiency is supplied. Of course, caution should be observed, but there seems to be no great objection to inciting good brethren to complete their Masonic instruction, by the reception of the R. A. degree, which is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry.

The new Grand Chapters of Nevada and Quebec were recognized.

Amendments to the Constitution were proposed, making Past High Priests members of the Grand Chapter.

Comp. Thomas J. Corson reports on Correspondence, and apologizes for the imperfections of his review, by reason of his physical disabilities, and other causes known to the Companions of his own jurisdiction. But we can perceive no diminution of his "ancient fire." His report is as ably

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Comp. Corson has
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Held at Albany
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written, and as full of interest and instruction as of yore. Comp. Corson has the heartfelt sympathy of all his friends and Companions in his many trials and afflictions, and we hope he may yet have many years of happiness and comfort in the time to come.

He notices Canada for 1876, and calls us his "ever-welcome Companions of the Queen's Dominion."

M. E. Comp. M. M. Drohan (Jersey City), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. T. J. Corson (Trenton), Grand Secretary.

NEW YORK.

Held at Albany, February 5th, 1878.

M. E. Comp. George Van Vliet, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 191; represented, 188; exalted, 738; members, 17,642; receipts, \$12,082.00. Annual Convocation, 81st.

The Grand High Priest delivered a very excellent address, from which we make the following extract:—

"Companions, I cannot let the occasion pass without calling your attention to the fact, that the outer door of our subordinate bodies needs to be well guarded. Many of you, I doubt not, can recall instances where material of inferior quality has found its way into our midst, in order to satisfy the rapacious ambition of rivalry,—where *one* unworthy block, whose irregularities may have been overlooked at the time of its reception, or accepted with the hope that the fitness of *all* the other *square* stones would keep this *one* in its place, after no great lapse of time, even before the structure was near completion, yet too far advanced to correct the error thus thoughtlessly made, seen destruction threaten that edifice whose foundation was laid with such favorable prospects,—causing indifference on the part of the builders as to whether it reached its promised proportions or not. This indifference, Companions, is one of the chief dangers to the stability and honor of our Craft.

"Many of you have witnessed that rivalry and pretended necessity of working, in order to maintain an existence, and no doubt you have noted the deplorable results of the indifference frequently displayed as to the fitness of *all* of its component parts.

"And now, while the excessive pressure in monetary affairs is so keenly felt in all business circles throughout our beloved land, it is but reasonable to suppose that many of our Chapters will feel the pressure as well, which may be a temptation to admit of such work as would not meet with the Overseer's approval. To such Chapters I say—'Be of good cheer,' accept of *no* work unless it be *good and true work*; then although your magnificent and compact structure may not rise with fairy-like speed, yet it will stand 'until time shall be no more.'

The good material which is now withheld because of the times will eventually come forth purified, present itself for inspection, add strength to our strength, and assist in advancing to completion the already solid walls."

He reports three decisions, on matters that do not seem to have been previously provided for:—

"In answer to a question as to the meaning of a portion of section 29 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, wherein it says 'except by concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members present at a summoned Convocation, &c.' I decided that, inasmuch as it becomes the duty of each member to vote, it meant two-thirds of *all* the members present.

"In answer to the question as to whether a Companion could be suspended for the non-payment of an assessment of three dollars in addition to arrearage for one year's dues amounting to two dollars, under By-laws which read as follows: 'Any member whose dues shall remain unpaid for more than two years shall be declared suspended from the Chapter, and a member so suspended shall as a penalty for such remissness, be restored to membership only on payment of his dues to the date of his restoration,' I decided, that in accordance with such By-law a Companion cannot be suspended, whose indebtedness amounts to *five* dollars, by the non-payment of one year's annual dues of *two* dollars, together with an assessment of *three* dollars.

"In answer to the question, as to whether it was in order to take an informal ballot at the annual election of officers, where a motion to that effect was made, I decided, that a motion to take an informal ballot was out of order, and as a matter of course the *result* of such a motion would be irregular, being fully convinced that all action taken in a Masonic body should be *formal*, and that all informalities are against the principles we are taught to inculcate."

He sees cause for congratulation in the fact that no petition for a Chapter was received during the year, as showing an evident desire on the part of the Companions to build up and strengthen the Chapters already in existence, rather than to weaken them by leaving to establish new ones.

He mentions the death of Comp. John O. Cole, who was Grand Secretary for 42 consecutive years, from 1825 to 1867, a period of service seldom equalled. He was initiated in 1821, and was earnest and untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of the Craft. He died in Albany on January 4th, 1878.

The Deputy Grand High Priest, Comp. David F. Day, also makes a report, in which we find the following decision, which we think is open to question:—

"At the annual election in that Chapter, it was found, after the officers had been chosen and the Chapter had closed its labors, that

the warrant had been where he had been a Chapter, and that it had during the Convocation, on this account of the Chapter; and to submit the question to difficulty in reaching Charter was not required.

It may have been the larity of the convocation. Chapters to think a warrant. In our much as the Volume complete without jurisprudence reported by the Grand Chapter.

"The decision of the report, was unquestionable case the warrant was ter in a safe place in ing held; and that, rule. In case of need regular existence of have availed itself reasons for the rule under the control of occasions. This is we concur in its propriety.

We think that decision was not any infringement charter should a Chapter.

Comp. Day referred Chapter in Buffalo.

"The distinguished Chapter to entertain tion with many expressions towards this Grand often repeated, in the occasion of the minds of the men joyous remembrance and here, to make universal accord with

the warrant had been left by the High Priest in a place of security where he had been accustomed to keep it during the recess of the Chapter, and that it had not been in the Chapter room at any time during the Convocation. The question of the regularity of the Convocation, on this account, was suggested by some of the Companions of the Chapter; and the High Priest to resolve all doubt, chose to submit the question to me for determination. I could find but little difficulty in reaching the conclusion that the actual presence of the Charter was not requisite to the regularity of the Convocation."

It may have been expedient to decide in favor of the regularity of the convocation, but it would never do to allow the Chapters to think that they can hold meetings without their warrant. In our opinion, it is one of the essentials, just as much as the Volume of the Sacred Law, and no Chapter is complete without it. On this subject, the committee on jurisprudence reported as under, and their report was adopted by the Grand Chapter:—

"The decision of the Deputy Grand High Priest, referred to in his report, was unquestionably correct in the case alluded to. In that case the warrant was in the custody of the High Priest of the Chapter in a safe place in the same building in which the Chapter was being held; and that, we hold, was a substantial compliance with the rule. In case of necessity he could produce it, as the evidence of the regular existence of the Chapter, and no clandestine assembly could have availed itself of its protection; and these facts furnish the reasons for the rule requiring the warrant to be in the custody and under the control of the presiding officer for the time being, on all occasions. This is what the Deputy Grand High Priest decided, and we concur in its propriety."

We think that the committee should have added that this decision was not to be taken as a precedent, to encourage any infringement of the old and wholesome rule that the charter should always be present at all meetings of the Chapter.

Comp. Day refers to the meeting of the General Grand Chapter in Buffalo, in August last, and says that:—

"The distinguished guests, whom it was the province of this Grand Chapter to entertain upon that occasion, departed from our jurisdiction with many expressions of the kindest and most fraternal feelings towards this Grand Chapter,—expressions which have since been so often repeated, in papers and publications, as to leave no doubt that the occasion of their meeting within our borders still continues in the minds of the members of the General Grand Chapter as a most joyous remembrance. In this connection I deem it my duty, now and here, to make special acknowledgment of the hearty zeal and universal accord with which our efforts to do honor to the Sovereign

Body of Capitular Masonry in the United States were seconded and made complete by the Chapters and Companions of Buffalo."

All who were privileged to be present will cordially agree with the above. The occasion was one of great enjoyment, and the efforts and exertions of the Companions of Buffalo, to further the pleasure and comfort of their guests, were beyond all praise.

Quebec was recognized.

The work was exemplified by the Grand Lecturer, Comp. Jesse B. Anthony, and the Constitution amended to read as follows:—

"SECTION 44. The Grand High Priest may annually appoint a discreet and well-informed Royal Arch Mason, who shall have been anointed a High Priest, as Grand Lecturer, whose duty it shall be, when required by any Chapter, to visit and instruct its members in the work and lectures of the several degrees, and such Chapter shall pay a reasonable compensation therefor. It shall also be his duty to attend the Annual Convocations of this Grand Chapter, and to exemplify before it, or a committee thereof, some portion or all of the standard work and lectures of the Grand Chapter—of which he shall be the custodian, subject to the direction of the Grand Council. He shall be a member of the Grand Chapter, while holding said office, and shall be entitled to the pay specified in section twelve. Additional compensation (not exceeding five hundred dollars annually) may, in the discretion of the Grand Chapter, be paid the Grand Lecturer. He may also authorize, by a commission in writing, any discreet and well-informed Companion to instruct any Chapter or Chapters applying for such service, in the standard work and lectures of this Grand Chapter, the expense thereof to be borne by such Chapters.

"SECTION 30. A Chapter has full power and authority to enact By-laws for its own government, conformably to this Constitution: and any By-law inconsistent therewith is absolutely void; and all By-laws governing the dismission of members shall embrace the principle, that a Companion clear of the books of his Chapter, and against whom no charges are pending, shall on his personal or written application at a regular Convocation, receive a dimit without further action by the Chapter."

Comp. Darius A. Ogden reports on Correspondence, and opens with a novelty, in the shape of a review of the Proceedings of his own Grand Chapter for 1877. He has a good notice of Canada for 1877. Under the head of "Maine," he says in reply to Comp. Drummond:—

"He differs with us on the subject of the effect of charges in a Blue Lodge on a Chapter member pending trial, and before a result is reached and promulgated.

"On a careful reading of our learned Companion's reply and argu-

ment, we must say that a member who insists that until he has no right to act up to the charges in regularly and legally of law and practice the Chapter has not they did know, it which, as a Chapter pending from all this then, is he cut off?

"Comp. Drummond rule on the subject, although I am sure, for we think it good results, may matter had been discussed; we are so found a way, if the would have been told."

"We rather thin question, that Com question of practice side, but we have stand by our own friends, giving him all!"

In answer to Comp. Drummond's following:—

"He also tries to degrees of the Chapter ballot on it. The object of the petitioner is to go elsewhere, and does not seem to be elsewhere without proper and the right changed his mind, or he be sure that a rejection to become a person to be humiliated by bership? We stand by go in peace."

He has advanced they should have 1 means.

"We venture to demand and receive a sanction that will not rest

ment, we must say we cannot see its force. Suppose a Chapter member is a member of a Lodge, it does not follow that it is the Lodge in which the charges, discipline, or trial is going on; and if it was, we insist that until it is terminated and the judgment rendered, he has no right to act upon it, or communicate it to, the Chapter; and if he did, it would not affect anything, for the member of the Chapter under charges in the Lodge, is to be held innocent until convicted regularly and legally. And we insist, under any fair administration of law and practice, he might even dimit from the Chapter; for, first, the Chapter has no right to know what is doing in the Lodge; and if they did know, it could not take from a Companion a single right which, as a Chapter member, he possessed. When expelled or suspended from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, then, and only then, is he cut off—at any rate we so hold.

"Comp. Drummond does not think our suggestions for a uniform rule on the subject of suspension for non-payment of dues practicable, although he regards the idea as a good one. We cannot concur; for we think that anything that is good, or any idea that promises good results, may be made practicable in some way. We wish the matter had been taken up by the General Grand Chapter and discussed; we are sure the wisdom of that Grand Body would have found a way, if the will had been reached, and we believe much good would have been the result.

"We rather think, as a matter of inexorable logic, on the objection question, that Comp. Drummond has the advantage of us, but as a question of practical good sense and logic together we have the right side, but we have not time now to discuss it. We are content to stand by our own former views, and leave our learned Companion to his, giving him all the advantage which the law allows."

In answer to Comp. Schultz, of Maryland, he has the following:—

"He also tries to controvert our position, that a candidate for the degrees of the Chapter has a right to withdraw his petition before a ballot on it. The only reason that he assigns for denying the right is, that the petitioner might learn of unfavorable action, and withdraw and go elsewhere, and thus an unworthy member might get in. This does not seem to be a good reason; for the petitioner could not go elsewhere without permission from the Chapter. And is it not proper and the right of a freeman to take back his request, if he has changed his mind, or is displeased with what he has done, or even if he be sure that a rejection is certain? You certainly could not force a person to become a member if elected, and ought you to force him to be humiliated by a rejection, if he did not desire a vote or membership? We stand by the freeman's right, to change his purpose and go in peace."

He has advanced views on the colored question, and thinks they should have Lodges and Chapters of their own. By all means.

"We venture to say that the 'colored or negro question' will demand and receive a good deal of attention yet; it is a kind of question that will not rest. While none are shut out of strict legal rights,

yet one black ball does shut the door; and can oil and water mingle? will social equality ever obtain between the white and colored race? We think not; and, as colored men have as good right to be Masons as white men, distinct and separate Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies must be provided for them."

He thus replies to Comp. Buechner, of Ohio, on Lodge membership in connection with the Chapter:—

"In speaking of Canada, he says he approves of the following from the Report on Correspondence:

"We do not hold Lodge membership as necessary for entrance or continuance of membership in the Chapter."

"In this we concur, but find that the Grand High Priest decided, that it was improper for a Chapter to receive a petition for degrees from a Master Mason who was not a member of a Lodge. This decision we infer, from the reference, is founded upon some decision or rule of the Grand Chapter; at any rate we go with our colleague, and hold with the Canada reviewer, that membership in a Lodge is not absolutely a prerequisite to membership in the Chapter, although we think it very desirable that all Master masons should affiliate with a Lodge, and hold an actual membership somewhere, but a Master Mason may be worthy and have good standing, and entitled fairly to the Chapter degrees, and be non-affiliated. Of course a by-law forbidding would close the matter, but by-laws are not infallible, and without them the rule we hold is good law."

Under "Oregon," he has some further remarks on dimitts, in reply to Comp. Patton:—

"On an apparent disagreement between Comp. Drummond and ourself in regard to dimitts, he sides with the Maine reporter. What we said, and still say, is, that a member of a Chapter, with no charges against him, is entitled to a dimit, notwithstanding charges may be pending against him in the Blue Lodge; and on the principle, first, that a Chapter cannot know what a Lodge is doing; and second, that the accused is to be held innocent until proved to be guilty. And the member of a Chapter unaccused in that body, of right may take his dimit. Such a practice is founded on common sense and justice, and is better for Chapter and member. We repeat here the query; How is the Chapter to know that charges are pending in a Lodge? The reply is, Some Companion announces it. What right has a Companion to make any such announcement? he has the right to prefer charges, but none to announce, for that is not Masonic; for may he not thus divulge to those not members of the Lodge proceedings that should be inviolate; and may he not thus do a great wrong to an innocent Companion? No injury can come to the Chapter by pursuing the orderly course. If the dimit is soon followed by the suspension or expulsion from the Lodge, then the relation is severed with all Chapters, and the dimit only speaks a truth of its own date. If the charges are not sustained, then the Companion with his dimit is all right. We think both law and right are on our side of this question; for the question resolves itself into this: That a Chapter has no right to know what is being done in a Lodge, until officially informed, or until its action is completed and may rightfully be divulged."

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There is also a *Officers.* This As in 1878, and is ec of the Grand Ch historical and bi the chain " of lor if any are needed tion. There are enrolled. The o are:—

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We are sorry to leave this excellent report, but we cannot dwell on it longer.

Following the report there is an eloquent address on "Moses," by Comp. J. B. Murray, Grand Chaplain, which is well worthy of perusal. We started to make extracts from it, but found that we were copying nearly the whole, so we were compelled to refrain, from want of space.

There is also a notice of the "*Social Union of Past Grand Officers*." This Association is a first-rate idea. It was formed in 1878, and is composed of the elective Past Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter. Its objects are social and festive, historical and biographical, and above all, "to keep bright the chain" of long friendship among its members. Funds, if any are needed, are to be provided by voluntary contribution. There are 17 members, and 7 others eligible, not yet enrolled. The officers of the Union, elected for one year, are:—

John L. Lewis, P.G.H.P., President.

John S. Perry, P.G.H.P., Vice-President.

Seymour H. Stone, P.G.H.P., Sec. & Treas.

Each member is requested to furnish a brief memorial of his Masonic life and history, to be deposited with the Secretary for preservation. The President was asked to prepare an essay for the next annual meeting, "On the Origin and History of the Order of High Priesthood."

We have also received a circular, which announces the death of Comp. Ezra S. Barnum, P.G.H.P. This sad event took place shortly after the meeting of the Grand Chapter. He was 86 years old, and was the senior P.G.H.P. of New York, and the oldest surviving officer of the General Grand Chapter. He was a thorough Mason in every respect, and his loss will be deeply regretted.

M. E. Comp. David F. Day (Buffalo), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. C. G. Fox (Buffalo), Grand Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Held at Charlotte, June 5th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. T. S. Kenan, acting Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 21; represented, 16; exalted, 42; members, 915; receipts, \$285. Annual Convocation, 28th.

In the address of Comp. Kenan we find the following, which shows their condition and points out a remedy for any existing defects:—

"Being desirous of adopting some means by which Capitular Masonry in our jurisdiction might be advanced, I issued a circular letter to the High Priests of Subordinate Chapters, on December 15th, 1875, requesting a report of the working of the Chapters, together with such suggestions, as might, to them, seem conducive to the future health and growth of our fraternity. To this letter, there were numerous replies. Some indicated activity and prosperity among the Companions. Others were characterized by a tone of despondency. One of the Grand Lecturers made an encouraging report. The others seem to have done but little, either on account of the financial inability of Chapters to compensate them for their services, or the absence of a desire on the part of members, to acquire a reasonable amount of Masonic knowledge.

"After eliminating the facts contained in these replies, I think unmistakable evidence is furnished to justify the conclusion, that our present condition of apathy may be traced, first, to the condition of the country, and second, to the want of skill in the work by officers of Chapters, and a want of knowledge of the philosophy of the Chapter degrees.

"The first of these causes should not be an obstacle. It is true the financial embarrassment of our people is almost universal, but remember, that we have only to do our whole duty, and humbly trust to the Providence of Him who doeth all things well.

"To remove the second cause, it would only be necessary perhaps, to call attention to the requirement of the Resolution of 1856, which is now in force, and of a permanent nature; and to urge upon Chapters, the importance of inaugurating a system of lectures, and discussions upon Masonic subjects. Secure the services of Grand Lecturers. Provide means to establish respectable Masonic libraries. Make the institution more attractive to men of intelligence and literary merit. Let us all show our appreciation of the labors of our Grand Secretary in his preparation of the Masonic Code of North Carolina, by securing a copy thereof. Though issued by the authority of the Grand Lodge, it is at the same time, an important part of the written law of this Grand Chapter. The *Masonic Journal*, which is published at Greensboro', is worthy of our support. It is ably edited; possesses a high degree of merit; and contains, besides Masonic literature, well selected matter, which is calculated to make its visits desirable and instructive.

"With these sources of information, there is no reason why every Mason in the State should not thoroughly acquaint himself with the laws of our government. Without their aid, no good work can be executed, and darkness will continue to overshadow us.

"There still exist Work; and while 'lips, a uniform flow some improvement; fore, that a remedy spectfully suggest, to be adopted by this work in Chapter, in for Ancient Craft M without which it ca

"But whatever of of Past Grand High ing any part thereof coming in the work imposing and solemn

The following Jurisprudence.

"Resolved, That a degrees in a Royal honorary degree of shall not be debarred where charges have

The committee adopted:—

"The Committee lution, introduced b of a requirement, who has been once estopped, beg leave and recommend th to the usage of th evidenced by abun require that any c voted."

This reasoning to jurisdictions s ballot for each de Comp. James pondence.

M. E. Comp. Priest.

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Held at Newbe M. E. Comp. T Number of Cl

"There still exists in our jurisdiction, a want of uniformity in the Work; and while 'it is impossible that from finite minds, and finite lips, a uniform flow of anything should proceed,' yet I apprehend that some improvement might be made in this direction. To the end, therefore, that a remedy may be applied for the removal of this evil, I respectfully suggest, that the 'work as taught by Comp. L. L. Stevenson,' be adopted by this Grand Body; so that the character and kind of work in Chapter, may conform to that adopted by the Grand Lodge for Ancient Craft Masonry upon which our Capitalar system rests, and without which it cannot stand.

"But whatever our work may be, let me remind you, in the language of Past Grand High Priest Hill, that 'levity or carelessness in performing any part thereof, is destructive of the very purpose intended, unbecoming in the workmen, and an inexcusable perversion of the most imposing and solemn symbols of truth.'"

The following resolution was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. We fully agree with it:—

"Resolved, That any brother, after having been elected to receive the degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter, and having been advanced to the honorary degree of Mark Master, and exhibited suitable proficiency, shall not be debarred from receiving the remaining degrees except where charges have been preferred."

The committee reported as follows, and their report was adopted:—

"The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the resolution, introduced by Comp. M. M. Katz, in regard to the enactment of a requirement, compelling the preferring of charges against one, who has been once elected and received part of the degrees and estopped, beg leave to report that the same has had due consideration, and recommend that it do not pass. We hold that it is contrary to the usage of the craft and against the policy of our Order, as evidenced by abundant legislation and immemorial precedent, to require that any one should disclose his ballot or declare how he voted."

This reasoning of the committee cannot, of course, apply to jurisdictions such as ours, where there is not a separate ballot for each degree.

Comp. James Southgate has a good report on correspondence.

M. E. Comp. Thomas S. Kenan (Wilson), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Donald W. Bain (Raleigh), Grand Secretary.

Held at Newbern, June 4th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. T. S. Kenan, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 22; represented, 14; exalted, 21;

members, 912; receipts, \$285. Annual Convocation, 29th.

The Grand High Priest states that there are evidences of a renewed interest in the advancement of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction.

He declined to grant a dispensation to revive a Chapter, because it had been dormant about four years. He thus again brings forward the Orphan Asylum:—

"In my last address I urged you to take care of the Orphan Asylum. I respectfully renew my appeal to you in its behalf. The substantial support of the Grand Chapter should no longer be withheld from an institution founded by Masonic charity, to maintain and educate the orphan. While all the schools and colleges in this jurisdiction have been, and are now, aiding the indigent in their efforts to acquire knowledge, yet I feel warranted in calling special attention to the liberal offer made by the superintendent of the 'Bingham School' to educate the sons of deceased Masons, without charge for tuition. The superintendent, who is a Mason, has repeatedly sent circulars to Masonic bodies in the State, and it is remarkable that so few of our brethren and companions have co-operated with him to the end that the objects of his generosity might be benefited."

A revised Constitution was adopted. Also the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the High Priest of every Chapter shall annually appoint a standing committee for raising funds for the Orphan Asylum, and require said committee to report in writing at every monthly Convocation, copies of which reports, with the funds received, shall be transmitted monthly to the superintendent of the Asylum. The support of the Asylum shall be a regular order of business in every Chapter at each regular Convocation."

The Grand Officers were installed in public, and the proceedings were enlivened by music from the Newbern Cornet Band. After the business was finished, they had an excursion on Neuse River, to Pamlico Sound, given in honor of the Grand Chapter, by the Companions of the City of Newbern, and the Newbern Grays.

M. E. Comp. C. W. Alexander (Charlotte), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Com. Donald W. Bain (Raleigh), Grand Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Held at Halifax, June 6th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. S. R. Sireom, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 9; represented, 8; exalted, 18; members, 364; receipts, \$117.75. Annual Convocation, 7th.

From the address following extract:—

"We meet this year sincerely congratulated throughout this jurisdiction."

"The most important of our last Annual Convocation was held at Yarmouth, and the Grand Chapter under the jurisdiction have both declared Scotia; the former on 29th, 1876, and they our registry."

"All the Royal Arch Chapters working under the jurisdiction."

"The Supreme Grand Chapter at length extended to me great pleasure. Companion Alexander have caused his Creed been duly acknowledged Grand King of this Grand Chapter, it being of Scotland to come Rank."

"It is a source of pride to you that the Grand Chapter of Scotia, and that too with any way compromise the past, being in the present."

He received an address from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, and the Grand Chapter of Cape Breton.

In the minutes find the following:

"Resolved, That gratification be given to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia by the Grand Chapter of Cape Breton."

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE. LXXXIII.

From the address of the Grand High Priest, we make the following extract:—

"We meet this year under very auspicious circumstances, and I sincerely congratulate you upon the entire harmony now prevailing throughout this jurisdiction.

"The most important intelligence I have to announce to you since our last Annual Convocation, is, that the Union Chapter, No. 108, Yarmouth, and the St. John's Chapter, No. 130, Pictou, formerly under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, have both declared their allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia; the former on the 22nd November, 1875, and the latter, April 29th, 1876, and they are now respectively designated No. 7 and 8, in our registry.

"All the Royal Arch Chapters in this jurisdiction are at present working under the authority of this Grand Chapter.

"The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland I am happy to state has at length extended to us a full and cordial recognition, and it has afforded me great pleasure to approve of their recommendation of R. E. Companion Alexander Hay, Edinburgh, as our Representative. I have caused his Credentials to be forwarded, the receipt of which has been duly acknowledged. I would suggest that the rank of Past Grand King of this Grand Chapter be conferred upon the distinguished Companion, it being customary with the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to compliment their Representatives with some Past Rank.

"It is a source of infinite satisfaction for me to be able to acquaint you that the differences heretofore existing between the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland and this Grand Chapter are thus terminated, and that too without the dignity of this Grand Chapter being in any way compromised, or the wisdom of the attitude assumed by it in the past, being in the slightest degree questioned."

He received an application for a new Chapter in St. Johns, Newfoundland, and also one for a new Chapter in Sydney, Cape Breton Island. The Newfoundland Companions, forty-five in number, had severed their connection with the Grand Chapter of England, and they received a Charter from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. The application from Cape Breton was returned for some correction.

In the minutes of the Committee of General Purposes, we find the following:—

"Resolved, 'That this Committee receive with sincere feelings of gratification the foregoing cordial recognition of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and trust that the present amicable relations existing between our respective Grand Bodies may long continue.'"

The following correspondence explains itself:—

"GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA"

Office of the Grand Secretary,
Washington, D.C., Nov. 24, 1875.

"JAS. GOSSIP, Esq.,
Grand Sec'y Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia."

“DEAR SIR AND R. E. COMPANION,—

"At the Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, held on the 19th inst., a resolution was unanimously adopted, recognizing the right of its Grand High Priest to request the revocation of a Commission of a Representative of a Foreign jurisdiction.

"I am directed by the M. E. Grand High Priest to ask a compliance with his request for the revocation of the Commission of Companion John Edwin Mason, as the Representative of your Grand Chapter, near the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Fraternally yours,

L. G. STEPHEN,
Grand Secretary.

“[REPLY.]

GRAND CHAPTER OF NOVA SCOTIA:
Grand Secretary's Office, Halifax, Dec. 4, 1875.

"L. G. STEPHEN,
Grand Sec'y of the Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.

"DEAR SIR AND R. E. COMPANION,—

"Your communication of Nov. 24th was duly received, in reference to a resolution said to have been adopted by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, 'recognizing the right of the Grand High Priest to request the revocation of a Commission of a Representative of a foreign jurisdiction.'

The communication will be laid before our Committee of General Purposes at an early day, and in the meantime I am requested by our Grand High Priest to ask whether the resolution was passed during the incumbency of the immediate Past Grand High Priest, or the Present Grand High Priest; and also whether the appointment of Companion Mason was sanctioned by the voice of Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, or merely by the Grand High Priest, then in office.

I am, dear Sir, and R. E. Companion, fraternally yours,

JAMES GOSSIP,
Grand Secy. G. C. N. S.

"On motion of Companion Darling, seconded by Comp. Munnis, it was resolved unanimously.

"That this Committee defer any consideration of the question until such time as an answer is received to the Grand Secretary's communication."

On motion of Comp. Wm. Taylor, seconded by Comp. Munnis, it was

"Resolved, 'That those Chapters in this jurisdiction having held Charters from other jurisdictions be recommended to procure new Charters from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.'"

Comp. James Gossip reports on correspondence. In his notice of Canada for 1876, he says:—

"There appears to be a slight interruption in the friendly relations between the G. C. of the District of Columbia and that of Canada, owing to the refusal on the part of the latter to accede to the request of the G. H. P. of the District of Columbia, to cancel the commission of Comp. J. E. Mason as the Representative of the G. C. of Canada near the G. C. of the District of Columbia. Their reasons for so doing appears to us to be that no request to that effect has been made by the G. Chapter, of D. C."

"As Comp. Mason is also the Representative of the G. C. of Nova Scotia, we have likewise been asked to have his commission cancelled; but as the request did not come from the source which we think sanctioned his appointment, viz: the *Grand Chapter* of the District of Columbia, and as not the slightest murmur of dereliction of duty, or unmaasonic conduct on his part, has ever been brought to our notice, we have hesitated to declare the position vacant until such time as the matter is placed before us in a fair and honest manner."

M. E. Comp. Chas. J. Macdonald (Halifax), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. James Gossip (Halifax), Grand Secretary.

Held at Halifax, June 5th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Chas. J. Macdonald, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 9; represented, 7; exalted, 17; members, 359; receipts, \$126.75. Annual Convocation, 8th.

The Grand High Priest has words of congratulation on the fact that all the Chapters in Nova Scotia are now working under this Grand Chapter; and that the most complete unanimity prevails. He decided that nine members are necessary to ballot.

The following notice of motion was given for next meeting:—

"That Chapters may return as missing any member whose residence and address is not known for three successive years, and that Chapters be exempted from dues for such members, while so missing."

Also that all of the officers of Grand Chapter shall be elected.

The decision as to the number of members necessary to do business, was deferred till next meeting.

The Grand Secretary reports considerable apathy prevailing, owing to the continued business depression.

In consequence of the low state of the funds, the usual report on Foreign correspondence is omitted.

M. E. Comp. Benj. Curren (Halifax), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. James Gossip (Halifax), Grand Secretary.

OHIO.

Held at Put-in-Bay, August 30th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Reuben C. Lemmon, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 137; represented, 115; exalted, 504; members, 8,579; receipts, \$3,189.50. Annual Convocation, 60th.

The Grand High Priest reports one new Chapter. He suspended one chapter for its unsatisfactory action in a case where he had ordered charges to be preferred against a Companion for selling a pretended ritual. Some of his decisions are as follows:—

"March 22. That under Rule 28 (proceedings 1874, page 100), a subordinate Chapter might confer all the Chapter degrees on a candidate on the same day.

"July 8. That a Mark Master should not be allowed to prefer charges in a Lodge of Mark Masters against a Royal Arch Mason, member of the Chapter to which his Mark Master's Lodge was appendant.

"Have had numerous applications for permission for Chapters to appear in public procession on July 4th, all of which were, after consultation, refused.

"July 1. Held that a Chapter could at any stated meeting amend the minutes of a former meeting according to the facts, and this although the minutes had been previously read and inadvertently approved."

A large amount of local business was transacted.

Comp. William L. Buechner reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1875. On the "objection" question, he asks us if a professional man would not, perhaps, be guilty of violating confidence, if compelled to state reasons for objection or prefer charges. We answer in the affirmative. In our arguments on this question, we have always made an exception in the case of professional secrecy.

M. E. Comp. Reuben C. Lemmon (Toledo), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. James Nesbitt (Troy), Grand Secretary.

Held at Cleveland.

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Held at Cleveland, August 29th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Reuben C. Lemmon, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 187; represented, 127; exalted, 372; members, 8,464; receipts, \$3,240.75. Annual Convocation, 61st.

The Grand High Priest reports having appointed a number of Deputy Grand Lecturers, with authority to disseminate the ritual and work approved by Grand Chapter. He believes in public installations, which we think is a mistake. He thinks that membership in a Lodge is necessary for admission to the Chapter; which is not the law here. We approve the following:—

"Decided that the word 'emergency,' as used in Rule 21, signifies something more than a want which might, by the exercise of ordinary care or common prudence, have been foreseen and provided for; that it signifies an unexpected event—an event or occasional combination which calls for immediate action or remedy, a pressing unforeseen necessity; and that the desire to obtain the degrees of the Chapter for the ulterior purpose of getting into the Commandery in time to participate in the march, display, or pageant of the Knights Templar at this their Triennial Encampment, did not present a case of emergency within the meaning of said rule; and that the members of a Chapter should not so far forget the dignity of the Chapter as to yield to such request."

A number of the officers and members of the General Grand Chapter were present as visitors, and were cordially welcomed.

Comp. William L. Buechner notices our Proceedings for 1876. He has some further remarks on "objections after a clear ballot," in which he appears to slightly misunderstand our position. We fully agree with him that "no man has a right to reveal a professional secret to a Chapter or a member thereof." But he can stop the candidate, without any violation of professional confidence, in this way: He can say to the presiding officer, privately, "I was unavoidably absent when this ballot was taken. From circumstances within my knowledge, as a professional man, I know that this candidate is not worthy to receive the degrees. I am not at liberty to make known these circumstances, but I can state that they are amply sufficient to warrant my asking you not to proceed any further with this candidate."

LXXXVIII. GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

This would not be violating professional confidence. He need not state what the offence was, nor give any names nor any particulars. At the next meeting of the Chapter, the High Priest disposes of the matter, by simply announcing that since the ballot, circumstances have come to his knowledge which he considers sufficient to prevent any further proceeding.

We are still of opinion, that this way of stopping a candidate, should be treated as an exceptional case, as involving the preservation of professional secrecy. All other objections after a clear ballot, should be openly stated, and an opportunity given for their investigation, before denying to the candidate that which the ballot has stated he is entitled to receive.

M. E. Comp. James W. Underhill (Canton), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. James Nesbitt (Troy), Grand Secretary.

OREGON.

Held at Portland, June 9th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. James R. Bayley, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 11; represented, 10; exalted, 76; members, 391; receipts, \$655.00. Annual Convocation 16th.

In opening his address, the Grand High Priest says:—

"The experiment of a Republican form of Government is no longer an experiment, but is recognized as a fact, and to us as a nation, under the providence of God, descends the rich inheritance of the favored sons of freedom.

"And when we turn our attention to the wonderful display of our countrymen at the Quaker city, where one hundred years ago Liberty was first proclaimed to the handful of struggling patriots, from Independence Hall; and when she now calls our people and the people of the world together to witness the fruits of that Declaration we are lost in amazement at the progress shown in so short a time. In Art and Science we are the peer of any; and to our mechanical genius and practical development of our national resources all must yield the palm.

"We may be pardoned then, as men, if we feel a just pride in these grand results and our hearts swell with the proud title of American citizens.

"Then with overflowing hearts and never-ending gratitude toward the great Author of all this, as well as every good and perfect gift, let us devoutly pray that in the future we may be more deserving of His con-

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tinual love and care, and that the lessons of the past may be remembered in the future: resolving so to act that our children following in our footsteps may find the paths ever leading straight where duty and honor call.

"Let the experience of the past teach us that as we have ever prospered, not only as a nation but as Masons—when the gentle dove of peace has hovered over us, so may we only hope to prosper when we meet and work in peace, harmony and brotherly love; and be assured that the work here done in that spirit of love and peace, shall be acceptable as good and true, and stand the test of the Master Overseer's Square."

He recommends that the office of Grand Lecturer be continued, until all the Chapters are thoroughly posted in a uniform work. He reports one new Chapter.

The Grand Lecturer visited all the Chapters, and says:—

"I found great thirst for '*more light*,' great interest taken in the work, and I think much good has been done.

"The diversity of work in the jurisdiction was much greater than I had expected to find. What was orthodox in one Chapter was heresy in another—would discover some of the E. A. Degree in the R. A. in one Chapter, and a portion of the R. A. in the E. A. Degree in another. But generally, the '*land marks*,' were preserved, and all were doing the best they could.

"I am proud to say that Royal Arch Masonry is on a solid foundation, and rapidly increasing in this jurisdiction. I think the returns of the several Subordinate Chapters will show an increase very materially over any previous year, perhaps double, and will demonstrate the necessity for a Grand Lecturer.

"The system is a good one, and if any plan can be devised to place it within the means of the Grand Chapter, it ought to be retained.

"Your Grand Lecturer has travelled over a great deal of territory—from Roseburg to Canyon City and La Grande, a great portion of it often, done a great deal of hard work, but with him it has been a labor of love for the Craft."

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"Your Committee on Grand Lecturer, on account of the great want of uniformity of work in the various Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction, would respectfully recommend the continuance of said office at least until the work becomes more uniform."

"Resolved, That any Royal Arch Mason in good and regular standing, member of a Subordinate Chapter in this jurisdiction, is entitled to the privilege of casting a ballot for the degrees, or objecting to advancement of any applicant in any Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction."

Strange to say, the latter was adopted by a unanimous vote of Grand Chapter. We think it strange, probably because we do not agree with it; but in Oregon they perhaps see things differently.

After eight years service as Grand High Priest, Comp.

Bayley retired; and received the hearty thanks of Grand Chapter for his zeal, industry and fidelity.

Comp. M. V. Brown has a good report on correspondence. Canada was not received.

M. E. Comp. John B. Lee (Corvallis), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. R. P. Earhart (Portland), Grand Secretary.

Held at Portland, June 8th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. J. B. Lee, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 18; represented, 11; exalted, 25; members, 415; receipts, \$994.50. Annual Convocation, 17th.

The Grand High Priest reports three new Chapters. The Craft have been enjoying peace and harmony. He received no complaints during the year, nor was he called upon to make any decisions, and the utmost good feeling prevails among the Companions throughout the jurisdiction. The satisfactory condition of affair is very properly a subject for congratulation.

Comp. Lee thus concludes his address:—

"In conclusion, permit me to say, that Capitular Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, is in a harmonious and prosperous condition, a greater interest seems to be manifested, and a greater care exercised in the selection of material, and its importance and value more sincerely appreciated. Foreign and sister Grand Chapters everywhere hail us with fraternal greetings and complimentary phrases; the proceedings of every Grand Chapter in the United States, and of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, Scotland, Nova Scotia, and Canada, have been received by our Grand Secretary and their receipt acknowledged by him in fraternal letters. These proceedings show the Royal Craft enjoying the same concord and prosperity found with us."

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"Resolved, That the Chapters within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall not grant a dimit to any Companion, a member of their respective Chapters, unless such applicant desires to remove from the jurisdiction of the Chapter to which he applies for a dimit, or wishes to become a member of another Chapter.

"Resolved, That the General Grand Chapter of the United States is respectfully petitioned to permit the degrees of Royal and Select Master to be conferred as a part of the Royal Arch degree.

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter extend fraternal recognition to the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

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"Resolved. That being stricken from the rolls by a symbolic Lodge for any cause, operates in like manner in the Chapter."

Comp. T. McF. Patton has an extensive report on correspondence, of 170 pages, well written, and far ahead of the reports from some of the larger jurisdictions.

He opens with a short historical sketch of the introduction of Royal Arch Masonry into Oregon. The first Chapter held its first meeting on June 17th, 1856; and the Grand Chapter was organized on September 18th, 1860. Their membership then was 89. Now, the number of miles required to be travelled, in order that their 13 Chapters may be represented will aggregate 1,859. The most remote Chapter is distant 320 miles. It is worthy of notice, as a "most pleasing fact," that during their seventeen years' existence, they have never had a case of grievance for final adjudication. This speaks volumes to the credit of the Royal Arch Masons of Oregon.

Comp. Patton has a good notice of our Proceedings for 1875 and 1876. He quotes the report of the Executive Committee in 1876, on grievances and appeals, and comments on it as follows:—

"We submit the following for information:

"Companion George Pocock was exalted in Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 25, and was subsequently suspended for non-payment of dues. He has never obtained his Grand Chapter Certificate of Exaltation, and now demands it, although his suspension appears to be still in force. His Chapter resists the demand and the Companion now appeals to Grand Chapter.

"Under these circumstances, the committee is of opinion that the position taken by Companion Pocock is in strictness correct, and that he is entitled to his Grand Chapter Certificate notwithstanding his suspension. This is the ruling of the Grand Lodge under similar circumstances, and it may with propriety be followed."

"Here is another complication. A Mason *suspended* for a violation of law, and yet, entitled by authority to a dimit granted *during the existence of such suspension*. A dimit is a certificate of good standing at the time of its issuance and contains a clause recommending the Companion to whom it is issued to the fellowship of Royal Arch Masons wheresoever dispersed.

"How our Companions in Canada can construe Masonic law on such a liberal gauge, as the foregoing action declares, is more than we are able to comprehend. His Chapter was right in 'resisting the demand' for a dimit; and we unhesitatingly say, that the Grand Chapter of Canada was wrong in granting any such document under the seal of the Grand Chapter. We trust Companion Pocock will not, for the

credit of Royal Arch Masonry, attempt to visit any Chapter until he is legally restored.

"A Mason suspended for any cause is as dead *during such suspension* as though he had never seen Masonic light; and we confess our surprise that our Canadian Companions, generally so correct in their constructions of law, should in this instance countenance any such proceeding. Should this dimitted Companion or any other, holding Grand Chapter dimitts obtained under similar circumstances, ever visit Oregon, and attempt to fellowship with us, (the facts being known), we can with the utmost confidence assure him or them of a reception, which in frigidity would do honor to the denizens of the North Pole."

The above is an excellent illustration of what sometimes occurs, when a man does not know what he is talking about. We have often seen young fellows laying down the law with perfect confidence in their own conclusions, and in sublime ignorance of the real state of the case; but old stagers, such as Comp. Patton, are apt to be more cautious. He will probably be able to comprehend the foregoing action, when he learns the difference between our Grand Chapter "Certificate of Exaltation" and a "Dimit."

Our Grand Chapter does not issue any dimitts. The "Certificate of Exaltation" is a simple statement that the Companion named therein was exalted in such a Chapter on such a day. Our Constitution provides, that every Chapter shall procure for each Companion exalted therein, immediately upon his being registered in the books of the Grand Chapter, a certificate of such exaltation, signed by the Grand Secretary. Comp. Pocock's Chapter neglected to procure this certificate for him, and Grand Chapter decided rightly, to give him that document, which he would have had before his suspension had his Chapter done its duty at the proper time.

This certificate is not a dimit, nor does it purport to be one in any way. It is given to all Companions after exaltation, as evidence of the reception of the degree at a particular time and place, and it forms no proof of good standing at any subsequent time. When a member wishes to withdraw he can obtain a dimit from his own Chapter, not from Grand Chapter.

Comp. Patton also quotes our action, in expelling the six

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Companions, who were concerned in the "Ontario" Grand Lodge movement, as it appears on pages 122 and 123 of our Proceedings for 1876. He calls it a "wholesale slaughtering of the innocents," and says he gives the record entire, but he has overlooked a very important part of the record, namely, the paragraph relating to this matter in the address of the Grand Z., on pages 95 and 96. Comp. Patton then says:—

"It might be possible that these Companions thus summarily deposed and cast out, were severally tried by their respective Chapters, and that the above was their peculiar method of confirming the action of the Subordinates. But it is hardly reasonable to suppose that such was the case, from the fact that the committee on "*Grievance and Appeal*" only reported the case of Comp. Poock, to whom a *dimit* was granted.

"Then again, we conjectured it might possibly be, that the Companions had been expelled by the Blue Lodges; and, that this action, on the part of the Grand Chapter, was only a *coup de grace*, to give former action respectability.

"But we abandoned this supposition at once, realizing the impossibility of a dead man '*appearing at the portals of the Grand Chapter*,' much less *answering* any call; and further, the inconsistency of cutting off a man's toes with a view of affecting his death, when his head had already been severed and the body cold. Like the boy with the conundrum, 'we give it up.'

"Tell us, Companion Robertson, just how this is. Were they expelled without trial? or were they simply killed after they were dead?"

In Canada, we differ so materially on several points from the majority of the United States, that it is sometimes hard for those who are not acquainted with these differences, to understand our proceedings. For instance, our subordinate Lodges and Chapters are not allowed to expel. They may suspend, and may recommend for expulsion, but the extreme penalty can be inflicted only by the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter.

Again, suspension or expulsion from the Lodge is not necessarily suspension or expulsion from the Chapter. We have already made some remarks on this subject under the head of "Maine."

These six Companions above referred to, had been expelled by the Grand Lodge of Canada, for being concerned in the formation of a spurious "Grand Lodge of Ontario."

The proceedings in Grand Chapter thereupon were regulated by the following Article in our Constitution:—

"16. When the Grand Lodge, or any other competent authority in the Craft, shall suspend or expel any Brother who is a Royal Arch Mason, the Grand Chapter shall, immediately on such suspension or expulsion, and the circumstances relating thereto, being communicated to it by the Grand Z., proceed to consider and decide, whether such Companion shall be suspended or expelled from his Arch-Masonic functions, for the period whilst such Craft suspension or expulsion continues in force. But he shall not, neither shall any Companion, under any circumstances, be suspended or expelled, until he shall have been summoned to show cause why such sentence should not be recorded and enforced, and afforded every opportunity of defending himself, either in Grand Chapter as aforesaid, or before other duly constituted authority."

All these requirements were properly observed. The Grand Z. brought the matter before Grand Chapter in his address. The Companions were duly summoned to show cause. They were not "summarily deposed and cast off," but had every opportunity of defending themselves. They failed to appear, their offence was proven, and they were then expelled by Grand Chapter from the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. We hope this explanation will be satisfactory to Comp. Patton, and others, who may not have quite understood our regulations in such cases.

We are glad to find that Comp. Patton is on the right side on the "objection" question. He quotes our reply to Comp. Ogden, of New York, and adds the following very sensible remarks:—

"This reply of Companion Robertson ought to be satisfactory to Companion Ogden.

"In our review of New York two years ago, on page 96 of our report, we called Companion Ogden's attention to principles laid down by distinguished jurists, among them Companion Simons, of his own jurisdiction, with the hope that after examination he would modify his views; but it appears he has not.

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jection to the advancement of a candidate *without assigning reasons*, would only stop a moment and consider that the laws of Masonry provide for the punishment of even an Entered Apprentice,—that he is a Mason, and cannot be deprived of a single right or privilege without trial and conviction, they would unquestionably modify their views and opinions, and be willing to accord to their fellows the same privilege which they would ask for themselves—a simple hearing in self-defense. We are accustomed as Masons to refer with commendable pride to the Cardinal Virtues, prominent among which is *justice*, and yet how seldom do we practice that which we preach; we are willing to concede the right to object at any stage of the proceedings, in the reception of a candidate, but, after he has received one degree he is a Mason, and we hold that he cannot be stopped, held in abeyance or deprived of a single right without cause shown, and passed upon by his brethren. The opinion advanced by some, (and we feel profoundly grateful to know they are few in number), that objection when made continues in force as long as the objector lives or sees fit to exercise his will in the matter, is a lasting disgrace to the jurisprudence of Masonry."

M. E. Comp. John B. Lee (Corvallis), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. R. P. Earhart (Portland), Grand Secretary.

QUEBEC.

Held at Montreal, September 27th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. J. H. Graham, Grand Z.

Number of Chapters, 9; represented, 7; exalted, 30; members, 489; receipts, \$161.00. Annual Convocation, 1st.

The organization of this new Grand Chapter was fully noticed in the Proceedings of 1877. It was formed on December 12th, 1876; and was cordially recognized by the Grand Chapter of Canada at an Emergent Convocation held on February 2nd, 1877.

From the very able address of the Grand Z., we extract the following:—

"With profound satisfaction, I beg to congratulate you, and all Royal Arch Masons within our jurisdiction, on the auspicious organization of this Grand Chapter, on the 12th day of December last, and on the fraternal welcome already extended to it by sister Grand Bodies in the Dominion, and elsewhere in the Masonic world.

"A hearty vote of thanks is due, and I am sure will be unanimously passed by you in acknowledgment of the wise and truly Masonic course pursued by the officers and companions of the mother Grand Chapter of Canada, anent the establishment,—the recognition,—and the graceful, fraternal welcome accorded to us as a sister Grand Body. The kindly expressions by the M. E., the first Grand Principal of the parent Grand Chapter, and their endorsement by the assembled Companions,—of their confidence in our preparedness for, and capability of supreme local self-government, and its successful administration,—

are alike honorable to them, and gratifying to us, and will greatly tend to cement us in enduring friendship, and incite us to every laudable endeavor to carry on to complete success the erection of our grand superstructure, whose foundations have been so auspiciously laid.

"In response to our address to the Grand Chapters of the world, many fraternal communications have been received, assuring us of prompt recognition when their Grand Bodies hold their annual Conventions.

"I have great pleasure in announcing to you that the Grand Chapters of Canada, Georgia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Wisconsin and Vermont have extended hearty fraternal recognition to this Grand Chapter, and have expressed their desire for the establishment of Grand Representation between themselves and us. I beg therefore to recommend Grand Chapter to pass a resolution adopting and establishing the system of appointment by the M. E., the Grand Z., of Grand Representatives, near sister Grand Bodies, subject to ratification by the Grand Chapter.

"The recent successful establishment of the M. W., the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Quebec, began a new era of prosperity in that department of our craft within our jurisdiction, and the organization of this Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, as a necessary and logical sequence of our former action, will be received with the highest satisfaction by that Grand Body, and every worthy and zealous Craftsman should, as circumstances permit, seek admission into our Chapters, and thereby attain to the perfection and consummation of Ancient Craft Freemasonry. From past success and present indications, we may also reasonably anticipate that the cognate and duly organized Orders of Knight Templars and the Ancient Rite, will, at no distant day, assume sovereign local self-government, and thus complete the full embodiment and final organization of our fraternity in all its great divisions on an equality of independence and supremacy with the sister Grand Bodies in the several Provinces, States, Kingdoms, and Empires of the world."

He advises the appointment of committees on publication of the constitution and on Ritual.

R. E. Comp. Thomas Milton was acknowledged as Representative from the Grand Chapter of Canada; and R. E. Comp. Daniel Spry was appointed their Representative to the same, thus firmly cementing the fraternal relations of the two Grand Bodies.

In the report of the Executive Committee we find the following:—

"That it is the duty of this Grand Chapter to mark in some way its deep sense of the obligations we are under to the parent Grand Chapter of Canada, for the many kind and fraternal considerations extended to us in the peculiar circumstances in which we were placed; and it is recommended that a cordial vote of thanks from this Grand

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Chapter be communicated to the Grand Principals, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

"Your Committee are much gratified to learn that such a fraternal reception has been so uniformly extended to the address of this Grand Chapter announcing its organization; and it is with especial satisfaction that we have to acknowledge the fraternal recognition of the Grand Chapters of Canada, Georgia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and last, but not least, our staunch and trusty friends and Companions from the Green Mountain State, Vermont; and your committee would most cordially endorse the recommendations of the M.E. Grand Z. that duly accredited Grand Representatives be appointed near these several Grand Chapters."

Comp. J. T. McMinn has a very creditable report on correspondence, in which Canada for 1877 receives a good notice. He is a little doubtful about our position as to the effect of lodge suspension on chapter standing; but is open to conviction, and he will probably appreciate our remarks on this subject under "Maine" and "Oregon."

On the question of "objections after a clear ballot," Comp. McMinn is entitled to be ranked among the faithful. In his comments on "Connecticut," he says:—

"As there is no mention made of the requirement of the reasons or grounds for such objections, to be given for the satisfaction and approval of the assembled Companions, we presume a simple objection is all that is necessary.

"If such is the case, we cannot but consider such a procedure both unjust and unmasonic. In our jurisdiction, far up north among the Canadian frosts and snows, there still linger some curious constitutional ideas on masonic subjects, which the march of intellect in more favored regions seems to have almost destroyed. Among those fossils is the strange one of considering that we are entitled sacredly to keep all promises made, to whomever given. With us, after all constitutional forms are complied with, by a clear ballot the candidate is declared entitled to have conferred on him the several degrees of M.M., P.M., M.E.M. and R.A. in regular sequence; nor can his advancement at any future stage be interfered with or retarded by the simple objection of a Companion, unless such objection be accompanied by reasons placed openly before the Chapter, of which the assembled Companions are the sole judges."

M. E. Comp. J. H. Graham (Richmond), Grand Z.

R. E. Comp. J. T. McMinn (Montreal), Grand Scribe E.

RHODE ISLAND.

Held at Providence, March 18th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. W. T. C. Wardwell, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 10; represented, 9; exalted, 49;

members, 1,617; receipts, \$642.90. Annual Convocation, 79th.

The Grand High Priest delivered a brief address. Harmony prevails, and the Chapters are in good condition.

A revised Constitution was adopted; the following resolutions were passed, and the Companions dined together, according to their ancient and established custom.

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter approves of the interchange of Representatives between the Grand Chapters of different jurisdictions, and that the M. E. Grand High Priest is hereby authorized to appoint Representatives of this Grand Chapter near other Grand Chapters as he may deem expedient."

"Ordered, That the sum of fifty dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated from the funds of this Grand Chapter, the same to be paid to the proprietor of the 'Freemasons' Repository,' for the space occupied in publishing the official business of this Grand Chapter; and for three copies of the same to be furnished to each Chapter in the jurisdiction."

Comp. George H. Burnham reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1876. He says they have no regulation, requiring a candidate for exaltation to be an affiliated Master Mason. As they have very few unaffiliated Masons, they see no necessity for it. Under the head of "Tennessee," he has the following on the "quorum" question:—

"The Representatives of the Grand Chapter were by resolution directed to ask the General Grand Chapter the following conundrum: 'What is a legal quorum for the transaction of business in a subordinate Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.' We should think that the promise given by the High Priest at his installation a sufficient answer to the foregoing, and if the number there mentioned couldn't be obtained, the business had better be done in the Most Excellent Master's Lodge, where two is a quorum. We don't believe this word 'quorum' belongs in any way to a subordinate Masonic Body, and that the ancient regulations and practices as to what is the number necessary to enable a Body to do business is good enough for anybody. The General Grand Chapter *might* give its opinion about the matter, but probably wouldn't without a qualification."

His report is approved by the Grand High Priest. It appears that this approval is necessary to be had before publication.

M. E. Comp. W. T. C. Wardwell (Bristol), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. Wm. R. Greene (Providence), Grand Secretary.

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SOUTH CAROLINA.

Held at Charleston, February 12th, 1878.

M. E. Comp. Wm. K. Blake, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 25; represented, 23; exalted, 37; members, 902; receipts, \$747.50. Annual Convocation, 67th.

The Grand High Priest reports the Chapters at work (with a few exceptions) with commendable zeal and fidelity. No application was received for a new Chapter, nor a single complaint preferred during the year. On Masonic Literature, he says:—

"I cannot refrain from again urging the Subordinate Chapters to provide, for the use of their members, a library of standard Masonic works, and to collect and have bound the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

"A knowledge of Masonic jurisprudence, history and literature, is not less essential to a just appreciation of the value of the Institution, than to a proper administration of its government. A Chapter, composed of worthy and intelligent members, and faithful workmen, though numerically small, will be more valuable to society and receive more honor from God and man, than one made up of a multitude whose object is not to improve themselves in Masonry, but to promote their own interest or ambition.

"I repeat, therefore, that every Lodge and Chapter should have a library of its own, and every Mason should read and study more if he would be fruitful in good works and become a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

"Good works, and not words alone, constitute the true jewels of a Mason, and they are more imperishable than brass or marble. The power which, with its invisible finger, turns the needle to the pole, is not more true than the power of human influence upon human destiny. It is indeed a sublime thought that in the influences which follow him, man is immortal. And the thought is not less fearful than sublime that it may be an immortality of honor, or one of irretrievable dishonor."

Quebec was recognized.

The committee on the address reported as follows on the Council degrees, and the report was adopted:—

"Your Committee notice with much interest the agitation of the question of blending the Royal and Select Master's Degrees with the Royal Arch. Inasmuch as the Grand Council is supreme in the control of the Royal and Select Master's Degrees, a proposition to merge the Cryptic with the Capitular Degrees ought to originate with it, but with a view of ascertaining the sense of this Grand Chapter and the Grand Council upon the subject, we would respectfully recommend that a committee of three be appointed by this Grand Chapter, of which the Grand High Priest shall be chairman, to communicate with the Grand Council in relation thereto; said committee to report at our next Annual Convocation."

C.

GRAND CHAPTER OF CANADA.

Comp. J. E. Burke reports on Correspondence, and gives good notices of our Proceedings for 1876 and 1877.

M. E. Comp. W. G. DeSaussure (Charleston), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. J. E. Burke (Charleston), Grand Secretary.

TENNESSEE.

Held at Nashville, Tennessee, November 11th, 1875.

M. E. Comp. Wilbur F. Foster, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 95; represented, 77; exalted, 118; members, 3,788; receipts, \$2,772.00. Annual Convocation, 47th.

In his address, the Grand High Priest has the following on the success of the order:—

"The information obtained by letters received from various parts of this Jurisdiction, together with such personal visits as I have had the opportunity of making to Subordinate Chapters, lead me to think, that while all matters connected with Capitular Masonry in this State, are harmonious and peaceful, yet there is a certain apathy, and a lack of interest and activity, which should be overcome, if possible. I know of no remedy, except by a system of visitation, which shall arouse the membership to a prompt attendance upon Stated Convocations, give such instruction as may be necessary to the officers, and re-awaken the interest of all in the teachings, history and ritual of the Chapter-Degrees. It is for the Grand Chapter to decide what steps, if any, shall be taken in that direction."

The following parts of the report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence were adopted by the Grand Chapter:

"I. That the system of Grand Lecturers, or Visitations, be left under the entire control of the M. E. Grand High Priest."

"IV. We recommend that Article 13 of the By-laws be so amended as to read that no degree shall be conferred until the fee for the same has been paid."

"VI. In regard to the question by Memphis Chapter, No. 95: when a Companion has asked for a dimit, which had been granted, but not issued, the High Priest asked the following questions:—

"1. Is the Companion a member of Memphis Chapter?

"2. Is he dimitted.

"3. Can the Companion, at a subsequent Convocation, withdraw his application, and can the Chapter reconsider its previous action, or must the Companion petition for membership as a non-affiliate?

"To which the M. E. Grand High Priest replied:—

"1. The Companion is not a member.

"2. He is dimitted.

"3. He can not withdraw his application. The Chapter can not reconsider its action, and the Companion can only re-unite with the Chapter by petition and a clear ballot.

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"In this opinion of the M. E. Grand High Priest, the Committee concur."

M. E. Comp. A. S. Currey (Trenton), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John Frizzell (Nashville), Grand Secretary.

Held at Nashville, November 16th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. A. S. Currey, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 95; represented, 74; exalted, 121; members, 8,579; receipts, \$2,821.85. Annual Convocation, 48th.

The Grand High Priest reports harmony prevailing. Never before were fewer appeals and intricate questions of jurisprudence presented for decision. Some Chapters are prevented from resuming work, by reason of their past indebtedness to the Grand Chapter, which they are not able to pay in full.

The following report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence was adopted:—

"Your Committee, to whom the following inquiry was referred at the last Annual Convocation: 'Can a Chapter grant a dimit on the condition that the Companion shall pay his dues before the dimit is issued?' would respectfully report: That the dimit is granted whenever action is had by the Chapter and the High Priest so declares, and the certificate of the Secretary is only an evidence to others that such action has been had. This being the case, your Committee are of opinion that the application for dimit can only be entertained when the Secretary shall have announced that the Companion's dues are paid."

A communication was received and filed, from a Committee of the Grand Council of R. and S. M., and the representatives to the General Grand Chapter, were requested to bring this matter before the attention of that Grand Body. The letter was as follows:—

"The undersigned members of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Tennessee were appointed on behalf of said Grand Council to ask the consideration by your body of incorporating the degrees of Royal and Select Masters into Capitular Masonry. We are unauthorized to say that the Grand Council is prepared for such an arrangement at this time, though it is believed the matter would receive from her a favorable consideration. Hoping that you will take such action as its importance demands, &c."

M. E. Comp. H. M. Aiken (Knoxville), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John Frizzell (Nashville), Grand Secretary.

Held at Nashville, November 15th, 1877.

R. E. Comp John S. Pride, Deputy (Acting) Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 98; represented, 78; exalted, 95; members, 8,403; receipts, \$2,056.50. Annual Convocation, 49th.

The Grand High Priest (Comp. Aiken) was absent through illness. His address was read, in which we note the following on the condition of the Craft:—

"So far as the affairs of our own immediate jurisdiction are concerned, the last twelve months have passed so quietly and harmoniously that but little of official duty has devolved upon your presiding officer, and his annual report will, therefore, be embraced in brief compass.

"No application has been received during the year for a dispensation to form a new Chapter.

"No perplexing questions of law have been propounded, nor has any matter presented itself that has been the cause of the least anxiety or concern. Upon the contrary, we have enjoyed a year peculiarly free from disquieting or disturbing influences; and although the detailed reports are not before me, I am satisfied, from what I have learned, that this spirit of fraternity and good-will has been attended—as it ever must be—by a gratifying and encouraging degree of prosperity. In our Masonic bodies, as in the other relations of life, it is well for us to remember that 'prosperity hath its perils no less than adversity.' Let us not then become discouraged simply because our members may not have increased to an extent known in former years. Rather let us regard it as a matter for congratulation, and scan only the more closely the character of those who shall in the future apply for admission into our Chapters.

"We are told that, in the days of her pride and her power, none were permitted to enlarge the city of Rome except those who had rendered some important service to the Empire.

"So let us suffer none to extend the circle of our Order except those who, by virtuous and upright lives, have bettered the condition of their country and their kind.

"Thus only can we advance the true interests of Masonry, and establish it upon a basis that will withstand destruction and opposition, and carry it down through the ages an honoring and honored institution."

Quebec was recognized.

Two amendments to the Constitution were adopted as follows:—

"Art. XII. No Subordinate Chapter shall confer the various Chapter Degrees for a less sum than thirty-five dollars, which total amount shall be distributed as follows: Mark Master, five dollars; Past Master, five dollars; Most Excellent Master, five dollars; Royal Arch, twenty dollars. No degrees shall be conferred until the fee therefor has been paid."

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"Art. XXXIII. of the Rules and Regulations of this Grand Chapter being in conflict with the action of the General Grand Chapter, we recommend that it be stricken out, and the following substituted therefor:

"That no Subordinate Chapter shall be opened unless one of the three principal officers be present."

"We also recommend the adoption of the following additional Article to the Rules and Regulations of this Grand Chapter, in view of the action of the General Grand Chapter:

"That a legal quorum in the various Degrees of a Subordinate Chapter, is as follows:

"Royal Arch Degree: For all purposes, except opening and closing or conferring Degrees, nine members of the Chapter are necessary. Most Excellent Master's Degree: Seven Most Excellent Masters. Past Masters Degree: Seven Past Masters. Mark Master's Degree: Five Mark Masters."

On the motion of the Grand Secretary, his salary was reduced from \$750 to \$500. The members' *per diem* was reduced from \$3 to \$2, and the mileage from 10 cents to 7 cents. These reductions appear to have been made in consequence of a falling off in the receipts. We would be glad to see the allowances for attendance and mileage altogether abolished everywhere. We have never had anything of the sort in this jurisdiction, and have never felt the necessity for it. We have our meetings well attended, but the Companions pay their own expenses, except in a few cases, where some of the subordinate Chapters pay the expenses of one representative from each.

There is no report on Correspondence.

M. E. Comp. John S. Pride (Culleoka), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John Frizzell (Nashville), Grand Secretary.

TEXAS.

Held at Houston, December 13th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. W. F. Swain, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 96; represented, 85; exalted, 428; members, 3,946; receipts, \$2,780.22. Annual Convocation, 28th.

The Grand High Priest opens his address with a reference to their early days:—

"On this day, thirty-six years ago, the Royal Craft in Texas assembled in Convocation at the City of Austin, and organized the progenitor of this Grand Body. When we consider the peculiar political

surroundings of the Texas Craftsmen at that early day, when society was like a volcanic eruption, the population as diverse as the builders of Babel, we stand in awe and admiration as we view that zealous little band in their feeble efforts to rear the first Royal Arch upon our broad, wild prairies. But their zeal was equal to the task; the columns were raised, the Book of Law was opened, and from their Lebanon and Zeredatha, gathered they the material for the Building; and to-day we sit down under the shadow thereof, to-day we present a roll of membership far exceeding the conception of those grand old spirits.

"The sound of the gavel of our subordinates is ringing from almost every village and hamlet of this great State.

"To-day, as you assemble from the broad prairies of the West, from the mountains of the North, from the forests of the East, and the sea-girt shores of the South, it becomes my pleasant duty and province to bid you all a cordial welcome."

He visited eighteen Chapters, most of them several times and had the work thoroughly rehearsed. On some unauthorized practice, he says:—

"As I have done in visits, so let me here impress upon you, and through you the Companions of your Chapters, the necessity of discountenancing that senseless, not to say inhuman, practice, which so mars the beauty and sublimity of the Royal Arch Degree. Our ritual does not teach it; decency forbids it; cultivated taste abhors it, and to gentlemen of good breeding, it is disgusting. The recipient expects to be exalted to the sublime; let him not be degraded to the ridiculous. As another has beautifully expressed it, 'In teaching the lesson of humility a candidate should never be reduced to the reptile's vile crawling. Man, of all God's creatures, was made to walk erect, and thus is displayed his royalty over all animate being. To 'stoop low,' it is not necessary to degrade. Every High Priest should be careful and swift to rebuke any attempt to trifle with a candidate. There is a mock kind of humility, which is to be reprobated as much as the most pharisaical haughtiness. However humble a man should be before his God, he should have enough self-respect to enable him to carry his head erect along the pathways of life, never bowing it except in those gentle courtesies which characterize the finest social amenities. We have seen some practices in the abuse of Masonry that were as disgusting as the blasphemy of administering baptism to a dog, and as ill-befitting our solemn rites as would be the performance of a mountebank in the sacred desk. Where natures have obtruded themselves, so lost to the refinements of ceremonials as to be willing to debase them to the temporary discomfort of a candidate, merely to afford a coarse amusement to those who participate in them, they should receive the withering frown of authority to such an extent that the offender dare not repeat them.'"

Two of his decisions were as follows:—

"Should a Royal Arch Mason from Scotland, who has not received the Past Master's Degree, apply for admission to a Chapter in this State, what is the proper course to pursue?"

"Answer—Having obtained satisfactory evidence that the Companion is a Royal Arch Mason in good standing, having obtained the Degree in accordance with the laws and usages which obtain in Scot-

land, proceed to receive him, and become a visit a Chapter.

"A Master of the Order of the Lafayette degrees. Can he be received?"

"Answer—He may be received, but he must be received by a Chapter, and not by a Grand Chapter.

"Hence it was that the Grand Chapter, in its capacity as a candidate within the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, is to decide to receive or not to receive him, though unauthorized by the Grand Chapter.

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land, proceed to confer upon him gratuitously such of the appendant Degrees as he has not received, to the end that he may be healed and become a Royal Arch Mason among us; until this is done he cannot visit a Chapter in this jurisdiction.

"A Master Mason residing at Caddo, Indian Territory, petitions Lafayette Chapter, No. 48, Paris, for the Royal Arch and Appendant Degrees. Can that Chapter receive and act upon his petition?

"Answer—The Grand Chapter of Texas claims jurisdiction over all adjoining territory where there is no Grand Chapter of this rite. Hence it would seem that the candidate properly belongs to Lafayette Chapter, it being the nearest to his residence, and there being no Grand Chapter in that Territory. But says our Constitution, 'No candidate shall be advanced or exalted in any Subordinate Chapter within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, unless he shall have resided twelve months *within this State*.' There seems to be an inconsistency in this clause of the Constitution, but by it I am compelled to decide that no Master Mason residing in the Indian Territory, although under our jurisdiction, can apply for and receive the Chapter Degrees in this State."

He reports the condition of the Order as strong and healthy; believes that they should resume their connexion with the General Grand Chapter; advocates a reprint of the Proceedings, and says:—

"And while upon this subject, I would suggest that this Grand Body extend the powers of the Committee on Printing, thereby enabling them to bring out our Proceedings in a little more creditable style than were those of last year; and it is certainly very desirable that the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence appear and be sent out with the Proceedings. This important appendage can be found in scarcely a Chapter Room in the State. It is prepared at great expense of time and labor, and is of incalculable value to the Craft. It should be read by every Companion, and especially by those who are expected to reflect light from the East. If our High Priests would study and digest these reports, they would find light to guide them in the innumerable decisions they are called upon to make, and have the satisfaction of knowing how the great pulse of the Order beats throughout the Masonic world."

The Grand Visitor of the Eastern District spent about 180 days in travelling and lecturing Chapters. He thinks that the use of substitutes should be allowed, and that the Grand Visitors should be required to visit all the Chapters.

A committee of five Past Grand High Priests, was appointed to consider the subject of resuming connexion with General Grand Chapter, and to report at the next Annual Convocation.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Texas recognizes the Grand

Chapters of Nevada and Quebec as regular and legal Grand Chapters, and extends to them the right hand of fellowship as such.

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Chapter hereby recognizes the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Dependencies of the British Crown as the rightful supreme authority over the Degree of Mark Master Mason in the above named countries, where no Grand Chapters claim jurisdiction over said Degree."

"*Resolved*, That the Grand High Priest, and Deputy Grand High Priest be authorized, on satisfactory showing of the necessity therefore, to grant dispensations for the use of substitutes in conferring the Royal Arch Degree."

"*Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred and forty-four dollars be paid the Committee on Work whilst in attendance on this Grand Chapter."

The Committee on Work, consisting of four members, met in Houston during the week preceeding the meeting, and gave instruction in the work and lectures to all who applied for it. An unusual number availed themselves of the opportunities presented, and the committee are still of the opinion that this method of communicating the work is the best that can be adopted.

Comp. R. M. Elgin has an excellent Report on correspondence of 104 pages. Their method of voting is very similar to ours, and is thus explained:—

"We believe our plan is best, both in principle and practice. Each individual member, whether it be by virtue of being an officer, a past officer or a Past High Priest, is entitled to cast his individual vote. He may be entitled to that vote by more than one right; for instance, he may be a Past High Priest, and also an officer in the Grand Chapter, but still he is only entitled to his one personal vote. Each Chapter is entitled to three votes, which is cast by its Representative or Representatives, whether it be a proxy, or one, or all of its Representatives. Sometimes there are but two Representatives, and they disagree. In that case our California Companions have the advantage of us. Our cattle-driving Companions are generally so 'bull-headed' that neither will give way, and the vote is lost."

Canada for 1876 and 1877 receives due notice. On our expulsion of six Companions in 1876, he says:—

"A singular practice prevails in that jurisdiction. On motion of a Companion, duly seconded, that a number of Companions, naming them (who, we suppose, had been found guilty of offenses in Subordinate Chapters, though the record does not show that fact), be called to show cause why they should not be expelled for violation of their obligations as Royal Arch Masons, they were severally called at the portals of Grand Chapter, and, failing to answer or appear, were declared expelled."

Our explanation in regard to this matter will be found in.

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our review of "Oregon." The record would probably have been more complete, if the motion for expulsion had referred to the paragraph in the address of the Grand Z., by which the matter was brought before the Grand Chapter. The motion might also have stated the fact, that these parties had been expelled by the Grand Lodge. It was, however, all well understood *here*.

On the question of objections after a clear ballot, Comp. Elgin quotes our remarks of 1876, in reply to Comp. Piereson, of Minnesota, and then says:—

"We are not particular as to whether you denominate it a *right* or a *privilege*. We think Comp. Robertson's reasons won't hold water. Is it to be supposed that a priest who had obtained information at the confessional, an attorney who had received the secrets of his client in the confidence of an adviser, or a physician in an intercourse still more sacred would reveal them even to the High Priest of his Chapter? If left to such an alternative, a conscientious Mason would most likely quietly withdraw himself and allow the wolf to enter. It is a bad policy to drive out a member already tried for the purpose of taking in a new and untried one. The candidate has no claims on the Chapter—the member has; and it is a fundamental principle that no one can be admitted except by unanimous consent; any other rule than that which allows an objection to exclude allows a mere majority to admit, unless the only person, perhaps, belonging to the Chapter who knows the candidate well is present and votes at the balloting. As to the other class, concerning which he says the objections should be stated in open Chapter and promptly followed by charges and trial, where would you try him? Certainly not in the Chapter until he is admitted. And, as a principle the rule should be the same here as in an application for initiation. Moreover, I have seen men who, from their disposition and peculiar mental conformation, were nuisances in any body, keeping everything in turmoil in the Chapter, and allowing no one to enter; and yet you could not find in them any specific offense upon which charges might be based. According to Comp. Robertson, such an one, if he chanced to be elected, would necessarily have to be admitted, and allowed to keep up his mischief in the Chapter."

Under "Ohio," we have already noticed some of these points. As to the trial, it cannot of course take place in the Chapter, before the candidate is admitted to the Mark degree, but it can take place in the Lodge to which the candidate belongs, or in whose jurisdiction he resides.

We can see a very great difference between an applicant for exaltation, and a candidate for initiation. In the former case, he is already a Mason, and he is bound to the members.

of the Chapter by solemn ties and obligations. They are also reciprocally bound to him, and their duty is to guard his fair fame, and carefully preserve it as their own. They can of course, through the ballot, prevent his admission to the Chapter, because the law gives them that privilege. But after a clear ballot, they have no right by an "objection," to affix a stigma upon his good name, and not give him any opportunity to answer it. They should remember their obligations as Master Masons, and act up to them, and not perpetrate an injustice upon a brother Mason, because they have been too lazy or neglectful of their duties to attend the Chapter when the ballot was taken and found clear.

As to men with "peculiar mental conformation," against whom no specific offence can be charged, we say, use the ballot, and if you do not do so, you have no reason to complain, as it is your own fault.

In his notice of "Vermont," Comp. Elgin has the following, in reply to Comp. Poland:—

"He does not like the Georgia plan of assigning visiting Companions seats by themselves in the Chapter, and says it would not suit the democratic notions of the Royal Arch Masons in Vermont. Were we a politician we would say, 'Come, now, that is very good—very good, indeed,' for a Green Mountain Boy—a Vermonter teaching a Georgian democracy!

"We, too, are democratic, Comp. Poland, and mix the visitors with our own members. No such separation as to lead to the suspicion that some were sheep and the others goats.

"He is opposed to the 'Texas practice,' and in reply to Comp. Carr, says:

"It would be the end of all Masonic harmony to allow visiting Brethren to vote on petitions for degrees, which we believe is the mischievous rule which prevails in Texas."

"We have tried the rule for over a quarter of a century, and have not yet found 'the end of all Masonic harmony,' nor have we found it a 'mischievous rule.' We have never in all our experience heard of its abuse, or any complaint of its bad effects. Where he finds the 'inalienable right' of a few members of a particular Lodge to force upon the whole Fraternity material to which there are objections, we do not know. Masons were made before Lodges were, and ballots were had when all the Fraternity met as one brotherhood. We would ask when did that inalienable right accrue. It is not pretended that the Texas plan is the law where it has not been adopted. But we find it a good practice, believe that it is sound in principle, and *may* be adopted elsewhere without violating any fundamental law."

M. E. Comp. W. Bramlette (Bonham), Grand High Priest.

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R. E. Comp. Robt. Brewster (Houston), Grand Secretary.

VERMONT.

Held in Burlington, September 27th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Edward S. Dana, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 25; represented, 18; exalted, 111; members, 1,868; receipts, \$318.00. Annual Convocation, 60th.

The Grand High Priest reports the past year as one of unexampled peace and harmony. But few complaints had reached him, and those were speedily and happily adjusted.

The proceedings are very brief; and everything appears to be kept in such apple-pie order, that they had hardly anything to do but elect officers, return thanks to the railroads, and wend their way home again rejoicing.

A resolution to change the time of meeting from September to June, was not agreed to.

In the returns, we notice Chapters bearing the mellifluous names of Abeniqui, Otanqueechee, and Skitchewang.

Comp. J. Monroe Poland reports on correspondence, and notices Canada for 1875.

M. E. Comp. Edward S. Dana, (Cornwall), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. H. S. Whitcomb (Burlington), Grand Secretary.

Held at Burlington, September 26th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Edward S. Dana, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 25; represented, 20; exalted, 65; members, 1,867; receipts, \$285.00. Annual Convocation, 61st.

The Grand High Priest gives the following decision:—

"A newly elected Master of a Lodge applied to the High Priest of a Chapter to confer upon him the Past Master's degree, in order that he might be installed as Master. The High Priest addressed me, asking how he should proceed in the matter. I replied, directing him to decline conferring the degree, as the Chapters were not authorized to confer the Past Master's degree upon Masters elect, or in any other way than in the regular succession of Chapter degree."

We also extract the following historical paragraph:—

"The Grand Chapter of Vermont of one of the oldest Grand Chapters in the country, having been organized on the 20th of December, 1804. Its career has been one to which we can always refer with pardonable pride, and it has left its impress upon the Masonic history and literature of the land in characters which will not soon be obliterated. It has been presided over by many who have been eminent in the varied walks of life, and who have graced the Executive Chamber of State, the highest honors of the Bench, the halls of Congress, and the legislative forum. The wise and prudent craftsmen who formed this Grand Body have, years since, passed to their long home and a merited reward. Their sturdy successors who, with Spartan courage and heroism, braved the whirlwind of persecution, of calumny and scorn, during the dark period from 1834 to 1849, have also nearly all passed from the duties of life to the fruition and joys of a higher existence."

Quebec was recognized.

A Chapter received permission to hold alternate meetings at two places.

A committee was appointed to reprint the proceedings from the organization down to 1850.

Comp. J. M. Pollard, owing to protracted illness, was unable to prepare the report on correspondence, and at a late hour Comp. Edward S. Dana performed this duty. He reviews our Proceedings for 1876 and 1877.

M. E. Comp. Edward S. Dana (New Haven), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. H. S. Whitcomb (Burlington), Grand Secretary.

VIRGINIA.

Held at Richmond, December 16th, 1875.

M. E. Comp. B. M. Harris, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 38; represented, 26; members, 1,478.

The Grand High Priest reports one new Chapter. He appointed nine Deputy Grand Lecturers, and says:—

"This division of labor forms a new era in Capitular Masonry in our State, and if the Deputy Grand Lecturers have discharged their duties as their well known zeal in the cause would naturally lead us to expect, then we may confidently anticipate most gratifying results. Their reports will, doubtless, give you full information in regard to the condition of the Craft in their several jurisdictions."

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plied to him for instruction or consultation, as they were requested to do. He suggests that the Grand Working Committee should be composed of Companions living in the same place, or else that their expenses be paid.

On this subject, the report of the committee on the address was adopted as follows:—

"Your committee are much pleased with the results of the labors of the committee appointed to district the State, and the appointment of Deputy Grand Lecturers, and believe that much good will result therefrom, when these Deputies shall have learned the Work, so as to impart it correctly; and would unite with them in the suggestion that the Deputy Grand Lecturers be appointed by "the Grand Council with the advice of the Grand Lecturer;" and in accordance therewith beg leave to offer the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the District Deputy Grand Lecturers, for this Grand Jurisdiction, shall be appointed annually by the Grand Council, with the advice of the Grand Lecturer."

Comp. Wm. B. Issacs reports on Correspondence, and notices Canada for 1874. He publishes his valedictory, but the Grand Chapter earnestly requested him to continue for another year.

M. E. Comp. W. H. Lambert (Alexandria), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John Dove (Richmond), Grand Secretary.

Held at Richmond, December 14th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. Wm. H. Lambert, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 40; represented, 25; exalted, 100; members, 1,624; receipts, \$782.50.

The Grand High Priest thus records the death of three of their most prominent members:—

"On the 25th day of February, Comp. James R. McDowell, the Grand Lecturer, passed from time to eternity. He always manifested the deepest interest in the welfare of the fraternity, and more especially so since his appointment to the honorable and responsible position he occupied at the period of his decease. He was indefatigable in his efforts to preserve in its unsullied purity, the beautiful ritual of our degrees. He possessed in an eminent degree those high qualities which were so essentially necessary to qualify him to discharge the duties of his office, and with untiring patience and fervency of spirit laboured to impart the treasures of his richly stored mind to his lesser informed Companions.

"Not satisfied with so shining a light, the unerring archer claimed another victim. On the 1st day of April, Comp. Thos U. Dudley, our beloved Grand Treasurer was taken from us, and called to pass

through the dark valley of the shadow of death, and was welcomed to that rest prepared for those who serve God and keep his commandments. Need I, can I, say more of him, that he was dearly beloved by all of us who knew him, loved for those noble generous attributes which characterize the true gentleman, and the memory of his many virtues will ever be enshrined in our hearts.

"Would that I could here stop the sad record, but duty compels me to proceed. When autumn leaves began to fall, our venerable and venerated (did we love him too much?) Excellent Comp. John Dove, Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter for a period of fifty-eight years, was stricken down by sickness, and in the early part of September was first confined to his room. For three weary months, attended by dutiful and affectionate children, he bore his tedious confinement with Christian patience and fortitude, and although in his eighty-fifth year, retained possession of his mental faculties and was bright, cheerful and uncomplaining to the last. On the 16th day of November he fell asleep, and his disembodied spirit taking flight was borne on angel's wings aloft, and was permitted to pass the Mystic Vails of the Heavenly Tabernacle, and ushered into the presence of the great I Am, has joined the countless throng of God's elect, and through the ceaseless ages of eternity will unite his voice with theirs in singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. A wail of sorrow and grief has ascended from our altars, for truly 'There is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel.'

"Although much his junior in years, yet it was my happy privilege not only to have been intimately associated with Companion Dove in the discharge of various official Masonic duties, but also socially, and I bear my testimony to his gentleness of manner, characterized by marked firmness of character, and unswerving fidelity to the important trusts committed to his care. But why should I say even this, his name is not only an household word throughout Virginia, the State of his birth, but his fame, as a Mason, has extended throughout the Masonic World.

'There is a time to mourn;'

and sincerely and truly we grieve for the loss of our three departed Companions; but we mourn not as those who have no hope, we judge them by their works, for by their walks in life they exemplified the faith that was in them."

The Grand Chaplain delivered an address "in memoriam," from which we make one extract:—

"There was ever about the personal appearance of Companion Dove something that made him an object of notice. We will never forget when in 1838, as the representative of Chapter No. 10, we visited the Grand Chapter and for the first time saw him as the Grand Secretary. Scrupulously neat and tidy with the ruffled shirt bosom and sleeves, we looked upon him as the representative of the polished manners of the age, then almost passed away, and felt that he only wanted the forewig and buckles to make us feel that there sat before us one of the old Virginia educated gentlemen of one hundred years before. He rose in favor as he became known, and when on the 16th day of November he closed his earthly journey and laid aside the garments of mortality, we felt that a mighty spirit in our Order had gone, that a bright star in our firmament of Masonry had ceased its

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shining, and one of the bright jewels of her diadem had been plucked. "Companions Dudley and Dove for many years united in their labors in Masonry to elevate society and train men to be upright and happy. For twenty-four years did each annually proclaim the other duly elected. To both have rewards of distinguished merit been awarded by the Grand Bodies. Their names were ever associated as the truly worthy. So soon as one had gone, the other entered the dark valley and ere long followed on, and we trust both found their consummation and bliss in the Holy of Holies in the presence of the Supreme Grand High Priest."

We offer to Virginia our deepest sympathies for the great and irreparable losses they have sustained. Comp. John Dove was in an especial manner known to the Craft everywhere. His long years of service, and untiring devotion to the Craft, will serve to perpetuate his memory in the hearts of his brethren. After a long life, well spent in the exercise of the virtue of charity in its broadest sense, let us hope that he may rest in peace.

The absence of an extended report on Correspondence is thus accounted for by Comp. Wm. B. Isaacs. As one of his *confreres*, we can only say that the excuse is amply sufficient. It would have been hard indeed to write a report under such saddening circumstances:—

"As chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, he can only express his regrets over his inability to present his usual annual report. That regret is much increased, not only in consideration of the very complimentary resolution passed by the Grand Chapter at its last annual convocation, but for the cause which prevented. It has been our custom to obtain possession of the proceedings for revision in November of each year. This year parental ill, and daily declining health, claimed our undivided attention. Fully realizing the gradual, solemn approach of the last inevitable, and this unceasing watching, waiting, watching for a human soul, the soul of a life-long Mason, the soul of an aged Christian warrior, take its eternal flight, incapacitates the human mind for other labor. This we offer you, Companions, as our apology, with every assurance of its appreciation and acceptance by you."

M. E. Comp. W. H. Lambert (Alexandria), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. B. Isaacs (Richmond), Grand Secretary.

Held at Richmond, December 18th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Wm. H. Lambert, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 38; represented, 22; exalted, 72; members, 1,601; receipts, \$806.50.

[Will Comp. Isaacs please inform us how old the Grand Chapter of Virginia really is? We know they date away back in the days of antiquity, almost to time immemorial, but we like to keep track of these things, and want something substantial to which to pin our faith, "without variation or shadow of turning."]

The Grand High Priest notes with pleasure that he has not been asked for any dispensations to confer degrees out of time. No new Chapters were formed during the year. He declared an election void for the office of High Priest, where the elect had not filled the office of King or Scribe. He quotes their law on this subject, which is somewhat similar to ours, and then adds the following excellent remarks:—

"Were the law changed, I am not aware that it would be any violation of the ancient land-marks; but from a careful observance of its workings, for many years, I am convinced of its beneficial results. In my experience of nearly a quarter of a century, in both Lodge and Chapter, I have witnessed brilliant Masonic meteors flash in our Halls, who were all zeal and eloquence, who, disdainful to fill the humbler positions, aspired to the highest posts of honor, unskilled in the Ritual, ignorant of our laws, and unimbued with the fundamental principles of Masonry, their career was soon ended, they became drones, in the hive and soon passed into obscurity. Not so, with those who, by regular succession, have attained the posts of honor; you see them in your Tabernacle to-night, old, well tried veterans, presenting an impenetrable bulwark to all innovations. I make these remarks, having observed in some of our Sister Jurisdictions a desire to have this regulation so changed as to render any one eligible to the highest position in the Chapter without having filled the other chairs."

On the subject of joining the General Grand Chapter, Comp. Lambert says:—

"I consider it my duty to present for your information the following extract from the truly eloquent address of the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest, E. H. English, delivered at the Triennial Convocation, held at Buffalo last August; and also the resolution of Companion Albert Pike, which was adopted. Most Excellent Companion English says: 'And what shall we say of Pennsylvania, the old *'Keystone'*, and of Virginia and her off-shoot, West Virginia, the child of a revolution, and 'the nursling of a storm?'

"These were never members of the General Grand Chapter; but there are vacant seats of honor in our beautiful Temple for them, and we have a standing invitation for them to enter, and when they come, we will bless them, and set bread and wine before them as Mel-

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chizedeck, King of Salem, did to Abraham, the servant of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth."

"Resolved, That the General Grand High Priest be requested to address a communication to the Most Excellent Grand Chapters of Virginia and West Virginia, fraternally and cordially inviting them, as their mode of work is substantially the same as that of their Sister Grand Chapters, to enroll themselves as constituents of the General Grand Chapter; and to the Most Excellent Grand Chapters of Rhode Island and Texas, specially inviting them to be represented at our next Triennial Convocation."

"The Grand Chapter of Virginia entertains the most profound respect and regard for each and every Grand Chapter composing this illustrious body. It has not been prejudice which has prevented her from becoming a constituent member thereof, but from a firm conviction, formed years ago, that no benefit could accrue to her by such an union. Time has not changed those calm and deliberate views. While she is the supreme head, she feels that her subordinates can look up to her with more respect and veneration. To use the language of one of our oldest and most venerated Past Grand High Priests: 'She now occupies her true position, and is as she should be, *'the equal of all, and the subordinate to none.'*"

"We fully appreciate the kindly feelings of the General Grand High Priest, coming, as we believe, from an honest and sincere heart, and so happily expressed that we may compare them to 'apples of gold in pictures of silver;' and the resolution adopted by the General Grand Chapter shows the regard and respect entertained for us by that Grand Body in an unmistakable manner; and we can only add, that when we do enter your beautiful Temple, we shall claim the privilege of being supported on the one side by the good old *Keystone* Pennsylvania (who is always right), and on the other by our foster daughter, West Virginia, 'the nursing of a storm,' and side by side be permitted to occupy those seats which you have for so long a time held in reserve for us."

We also quote his remarks on Foreign Correspondence:—

"The report on Foreign Correspondence, though brief from necessity, will give you general information of the status of the Royal Craft throughout this continent. Through the courtesy of the Grand Secretary, I have been furnished with the proceedings of the various Grand Chapters, and commencing with Maine (for in our boyhood days we were taught so to begin), have read through the *pile*; on laying down that of Maine, Companion Drummond's elicited our warm admiration; but on reviewing the others we had to give up in despair, and award praises to them all. Had I ever entertained doubts of the utility of these reports, which I never have, they would certainly now be removed, and I conscientiously believe that if all of our members were required to read and digest the valuable information contained in the reports on Foreign Correspondence, they would rise from their tasks better men and Masons."

A proposal was made to place the Past Master's Degree before the Mark. The consideration of this proposal, as contained in the following preamble and resolutions, was ordered to be postponed until the next annual convocation:—

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"WHEREAS, The degree of Past Master is not, in any proper sense, a degree belonging to the Royal Arch Chapter, but belongs exclusively and by right to the symbolic Lodge; and

"WHEREAS, For carrying out the theory and maintaining the true character of Royal Arch Masonry, the symbolic Lodge has granted to the Royal Arch authority over that degree to an extent necessary for her own complete existence;

"And thereby said degree of Past Master is truly an intermediate degree between Lodge and Chapter—belonging by permission in one case and authority in the other to the two bodies:

"Resolved, That the Methodical Digest, section 7, par. 9, page 268, be so amended as to read, 'to make Past Masters, Mark Masters,' &c., and thus requiring the Past Master's degree to be conferred before the Mark—placing this degree where it belongs—an intermediate degree to be taken as the last step leading to the door of the Chapter.

"Resolved, That the same change be made in section 21, par. 2, page 280, second line from bottom, so as to read, 'Past Master, Mark Master,' &c., and similar changes be made wherever necessary in the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand and Subordinate Chapters to make them conform to the above proposed amendment."

In the report on the Address, which was adopted, we find the following:—

"The act of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, in reference to the course of Keystone Chapter in electing from the floor, over the heads of Past Kings and Scribes, a Companion to be the High Priest, is fully approved. It was in accordance with the law of this Grand Chapter. A Companion must have the training of the Council life, to be qualified to rule and govern his Chapter. There are extraordinary cases when one must be taken directly from the floor, but those cases are, like all cases of emergency, to be decided by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in the vacation of the Grand Chapter. He alone can say whether a particular case is emergent or extraordinary."

"Resolved, That the subject of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales be postponed until the next Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter."

Comp. Wm. B. Isaacs gives a reproduction of decisions of the various Grand Chapters, in place of an extended report on foreign correspondence, being moved thereunto by the economical orders of his Grand Chapter. We trust this necessity will soon pass away. Canada Proceedings for 1876 and 1877 were received.

M. E. Comp. A. S. Lee (Richmond), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. W. B. Isaacs (Richmond), Grand Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Held at Martinsburg, November 15th, 1877.

Annual Convocation, 7th.

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ensuing year, the proceedings of the Grand Chapter were mainly in the usual routine, and devoid of general interest.

A resolution was adopted, recognizing the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

By resolution of the Grand Chapter, it was ordered that the proceedings at this Annual Convocation be not published in separate form, but issued in pamphlet with those of next year.

M. E. Comp. K. D. Walker (Fairmount), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. O. S. Long (Wheeling), Grand Secretary.

WISCONSIN.

Held at Milwaukee, February 20th, 1877.

M. E. Comp. William C. Swain, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 51; represented, 51; exalted, 218; members, 3,067; receipts, \$8,208.00. Annual Convocation, 27th.

The Grand High Priest reports one new Chapter. We copy two of his decisions, with which we agree:—

"1st. A Companion, excluded in his Lodge for the non-payment of dues, is not thereby suspended in his Chapter.

"This is in accordance with the following decision of the General Grand High Priest, confirmed at the last session of the General Grand Chapter: 'The effect of suspension of a member of a Chapter, by his Lodge, for non-payment of dues, must be determined by the laws of his Grand Lodge. If the suspension, as in some States, is from membership only, his standing in the Chapter is not affected, in the absence of any regulations of his Grand Chapter; but if the suspension, as in other States, is from all his Masonic rights, he at once loses his standing as a Royal Arch Mason, whatever may be the regulations of his Grand Chapter.'

"In this jurisdiction, a Companion excluded in his Lodge, for non-payment of dues, is simply placed in the position of a non-affiliated Mason; and in the absence of any provision of this Grand Chapter, his standing in his Chapter is not affected.

"6th. A Chapter has no right to take charge of the funeral of a Companion; as it has no burial service of its own, and cannot, as a Chapter, use that of either Lodge or Commandery."

In the concluding portion of his address, he has some excellent remarks on the duties of officers and Companions, beyond the conferring of degrees; and shows that the giving of Masonic degrees, is by no means the sole object of the

existence of Masonic bodies. In the course of these remarks, he says:—

"As one method of awakening the interest of Companions, and of diffusing Masonic light and information, I suggest that the proceedings, constitution, edicts, &c., of this Grand Chapter should be read aloud in the Convocations of subordinates. At present, the knowledge of our deliberations and laws is confined to very few members of the Royal Craft. To the great mass of Companions they are a sealed book. Our Foreign Correspondence, upon which so much labor is expended, and which gives us an epitome of what is being transacted throughout the Masonic world, is written for very few besides reporters. Give all the Companions the benefit of these Proceedings, and soon discussions will arise upon questions involved, which will lead to further search for light, and the introduction of candidates will come to be looked upon as an interruption.

"While upon this subject, I call your attention to the desirability of allowing a Master Mason time to digest the Masonic food he has already received, before rushing him to a new feast, and gorging him with the Capitular degrees when he is already loaded to repletion. To do this it is necessary to *choke off* the recruiting officers from the Blue Lodges, and allow the candidate to go higher, 'of his own free will and accord.' I consider it fully as unmasonic, to solicit a Master Mason to advance into the Chapter, as to urge a profane to apply for initiation. A Master Mason should be discouraged from applying to the Chapter, until he has advanced far enough into the S. S. to comprehend the designs upon the Trestle Board."

A new Standing Regulation was adopted, to the effect that the Annual Proceedings, etc., must be read in every Chapter.

Comp. J. P. C. Cottrill reports on Correspondence, and notices Canada for 1875 and 1876.

M. E. Comp. W. C. Swain (Milwaukee), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John W. Woodhull (Milwaukee), Grand Secretary.

Held at Milwaukee, February 19th, 1876.

M. E. Comp. William C. Swain, Grand High Priest.

Number of Chapters, 53; represented, 49; exalted, 186; members, 3,138; receipts, \$2,606.00. Annual Convocation, 28th.

The Grand High Priest reports two new Chapters. On "decisions," he says:—

"The Constitution, as revised last year, appears to have covered the wants of the Companions, and but few decisions have been called for. Among them I note the following:

"1st. Only a Present or Past High Priest is competent to install the officers of a Chapter.

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"2nd. A man must have a Masonic residence somewhere, before his application can be received in a Chapter. If he has no legal residence, he can acquire one by giving notice of his intention to that effect; and as no stated time is required in this jurisdiction, he at once becomes a Masonic resident, and his application can then be received.

"3rd. By the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of this State, a man who has lost one foot is ineligible for the Chapter degrees.

"4th. A Master Mason, who has lost the forefinger of his left hand, is fully able to conform to the ritual of the degrees, and is eligible for the Chapter degrees.

"5th. Following the rule in the Grand Lodge, when a Chapter surrenders its charter, all its records are delivered, with its other property, to the custody of the Grand High Priest, and the Companions receive their dimits from the Grand Secretary, after paying to him all debts due from them to the Chapter.

"6th. I declined to make any decision upon a question whether it was necessary for an officer who was re-elected to be re-installed, because I did not like to reverse a custom, which has prevailed for some time, of not re-installing re-elected officers. At the same time, I am of opinion that the custom is a wrong one, and tends to encourage slipshod ways of managing Chapters. An officer is elected for one year, and when the year has expired his term of office has expired; and if re-elected, he commences a new term, and is his own successor, and should therefore be re-installed. I recommend that the Grand Chapter authoritatively settle this question."

The general condition of the Craft is very favorable. They have a healthy state of prosperity, notwithstanding the general depression in business. There are a few Chapters not in good condition, and Comp. Swain again gives them some sound advice. The following extracts indicate the proper course to be pursued. They are exactly to the point, and are well worthy of attention:—

"Some other Chapters manifest a similar weakness. They have no work, and, consequently are disgusted—think there is no use in attending the Convocations. There is nothing to do, and it will be a waste of time.

"They are mistaken. There is something to do besides making Masons. I cannot do better than to reiterate my remark of last year, that there are other reasons for a Chapter to be, and other Masonic lesson to be received, than learning to repeat the ritual, like a parrot, and rehearsing it to a candidate, in a monotonous manner, without heart or feeling. And no officer of a Masonic Body is competent for his position, or to confer a degree upon a candidate, until he has learned those lessons. When the officers of a Chapter become imbued with the principles which the ritual symbolizes, and to search into the esoteric meaning of the symbols; study the jurisprudence of the Order, read the discussions by the Masonic scholars of the country; which are generally embodied in the Reports on Correspondence, and impart the information they have gained to their Companions, they will not be members of weak Chapters, no matter how small in numbers or poor in purse. And when a Chapter has such officers, it is ex-

ceedingly unwise if it changes them before it is able to replace them with others equally good.

"I am happy to be able to mention one Chapter, Excelsior, No. 40, which has always been a *live* body, whose High Priest, not having the usual amount of work on hand, has taken these measures to keep alive the interest of the Companions, and instituted a series of debates, at his Convocations, upon current subjects of Masonic interest, and upon questions of jurisprudence, varied occasionally by lectures from well-informed members of the Craft. His method of awakening interest, so far, has been completely successful, and has had a tendency to increase the distaste for levity and boyishness, formerly so prevalent, and he now rejoices in the temporary absence of candidates for our mysteries. I say temporary, because the very means he has adopted to awaken interest, will soon lead good men to seek our portals."

The following Memorial from the Grand Council was received, and a Committee of Conference appointed as requested:—

"*M. E. Sir*.—The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Wisconsin, to memorialize the Grand Chapter, of which you are the presiding officer, relative to the proposition of that body to surrender the control of the degrees of Royal and Select Master to the Grand Chapter, would most fraternally represent that the labor and expense incident to the support of two Grand Bodies and corresponding constituent organizations, may be avoided and at the same time save these beautiful and instructive degrees to our Jurisdiction and provide for a more extended dissemination than is now possible, by placing the same under the control of the Grand Chapter. We therefore, as instructed by the Grand Council, fraternally ask, through you, the Grand Chapter to appoint a Committee to act with us in an endeavor to perfect a plan, by which the consolidation may be accomplished, and to submit the same for the approval of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council."

The report of the special committee, as under, was *unanimously* adopted by the Grand Chapter. It is rather remarkable that on such an important matter there was no difference of opinion. It seems to prove that this was the only feasible plan to preserve the Council Degrees; or else to indicate an indifference as to whether they were preserved or not.

We can see no great reason to fear that Masonry would sustain any loss by their total abolition. We rather fancy that the Craft in general would survive the infliction with the greatest possible amount of serenity. Their addition to the Chapter will, in our opinion, only add another element

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of complication to the United States Masonic system. The report is as follows:—

"Your Special Committee appointed to confer with the committee appointed by the Grand Council of Wisconsin relative to transferring the Council Degrees to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter, respectfully report that they have conferred with said committee, and agreed upon the following recommendations:

"*First.* That the Council Degrees be received under the charge and control of the Grand Chapter.

"*Second.* That the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master be conferred upon all who are Royal Arch Masons at the date of the consummation of this plan, without charge.

"*Third.* That a committee of three be appointed by the Most E. Gr. High Priest to act in conjunction with a similar committee from the Grand Council, to carry these recommendations into effect, and to definitely settle all the preliminaries for the transfer of the degrees of the Council to the Chapter.

"*Fourth.* The arrangements entered into by this joint Committee, when approved by the Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter and the M. I. Grand Master of the Grand Council, and published to the several Chapters and Councils, shall be the law of this Jurisdiction until otherwise ordered."

The joint committee subsequently reported in substance to the same effect. Their arrangements were approved by the Grand High Priest, and the M. I. Grand Master; and on the 11th March, 1878, the Grand Council of R. and S. Masters of Wisconsin ceased to exist.

The Committee on Jurisprudence approved of four of the decisions of the Grand High Priest, and with regard to the others, and also on a proposed resolution, reported as follows:—

"As a substitute for decision No. 2, we would recommend the adoption of the following:

"A man must have a masonic residence somewhere before his application can be received in a Chapter, and to avoid any ambiguity or uncertainty, a masonic residence is hereby defined to be a legal residence under the laws of this State."

"As to the question of re-installing re-elected officers, your Committee would recommend the adoption of the following rule:

"All the officers of a Chapter (whether re-elected or not) should be regularly installed each year."

"Your committee recommend the adoption of the resolution offered by Comp. Martin, amended as follows:

"No Companion shall be installed High Priest of a Chapter in this jurisdiction except upon certification by the Past High Priest of his Chapter, the Grand Lecturer or Grand High Priest, that he is competent to preside and confer the degrees."

The report on Correspondence is, as usual, by Comp. J.

P. C. Cottrill; and is also, as usual, a capital review, well written, and combining instruction with interesting reading. He makes no extracts, but writes out in full a synopsis of the important matters, interspersed with judicious comments. This plan entails extra time and labor. Our Proceedings for 1877 receive due attention.

M. E. Comp. O. Libbey (Green Bay), Grand High Priest.

R. E. Comp. John W. Woodhull (Milwaukee), Grand Secretary.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER, UNITED STATES.

TWENTY-THIRD TRIENNIAL CONVOCATION.

Held at Buffalo, August 21st, 1877.

M. E. Comp. Elbert H. English, General Grand High Priest.

Number of Grand Chapters, 86; represented, 83. The absentees were Nevada, Oregon and Rhode Island. There are also nineteen Subordinate Chapters, under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, namely, three in Idaho; three in Montana; three in Wyoming; two in New Mexico; two in Washington Territory; and one each in Dakota, Utah, Valparaiso (Chili), Honolulu (Hawaiian Islands), Smyrna (Turkey), and Shanghai (China).

Comp. English delivered a very able and comprehensive address, felicitous in expression, and displaying great mental resources. He submits fifteen decisions, giving full details of each case, and elaborating his opinions so as to show clearly the grounds of his ruling. We copy six of these decisions, which contain matters of great interest to ourselves. It should be borne in mind, that these decisions have been weighed and prepared with great care, and they are entitled to respect, as emanating from the highest authority in Capitular Masonry in the United States. Some of them were slightly modified by the General Grand Chapter, as will be seen below:—

"CASE NO. 2.—RITUAL.

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of the M. E. Grand Chapter of Michigan, appointed to inquire and report, &c. (February 16th, 1875.)

"At Baltimore, in 1871, a verbal resolution was adopted almost unanimously, after discussion by the most learned Masons, declaring — to be the true — of a Royal Arch Mason. This action is referred to in printed Proceedings 1871, p. 42.

"At Nashville, in 1874, this resolution was simply rescinded, which left the matter just as it was before the Baltimore resolution was adopted. (See Proceedings 1874, p. 49.)

CASE NO. 3.—M. E. M. DEGREE.—IRISH R. A. M.—RESIDENCE, ETC.

"Questions propounded by M. E. Comp. J. Woolverton, G. H. P. of New Jersey, through Comp. Thomas J. Corson, Grand Secretary, &c.:

"Facts stated.—A Royal Arch Mason, now residing in Pennsylvania, who is a member of a Chapter at Naas, Ireland, desires to visit Siloam Chapter, at Camden, in this State. He has never received the Most Excellent Master's degree, which is not conferred in the European Chapters:

"Would it be allowable to confer the M. E. M. degree upon, or communicate it to him, in order to enable him to visit, as done in our Commanderies with the Red Cross Order, when Canadian Templars desire to visit?"

"Adding: 'He also wishes to join Siloam Chapter; to do which, it is supposed he must obtain his dimit from the Irish Chapter:

"1. Can he be admitted to Siloam Chapter?"

"2. Can the missing degree be conferred any where in the United States, while he is a member of the Chapter at Naas, or will he have to dimit?"

"3. All obstacles to his receiving the degree being removed, can he receive it in New Jersey, while a resident in Pennsylvania?"

"4. Can he not select his Masonic residence?"

"Answer.—(Feb. 16th, 1875.) 1. He cannot be permitted to visit Siloam Chapter until he receives the M. E. M. degree. It is one of the regular degrees in the American System of Chapter Masonry. In opening and closing a Chapter, part of the secret work of the degree is practiced, which one not in possession of the degree, though a Royal Arch Mason, could not join in, and would not be permitted to witness.

"2. By Section 5, Art. 3, Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, U. S., when any worthy Royal Arch Mason, from without the jurisdiction of the United States, who has not received the degrees of Mark, Past and Most Excellent Master, shall present himself to any Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, such Chapter is authorized to confer the degrees upon him, to the end that he may be healed.

"A similar provision seems to have been embodied in the report of a Committee of the General Grand Chapter as early as 1824. (Compendium, p. 135.)

"It seems the Companion in question is only wanting the M. E. M. degree. The fact that he is not dimitted from the Irish Chapter, is no obstacle to his receiving the degree in Siloam or any other American Chapter, because, in the Irish Capitular System the degree is unknown, and it will be no invasion of their jurisdiction to confer upon one of their Companions a degree not belonging to their system.

"3. The fact that he resides in Pennsylvania, can be no valid objection to his being healed by a Chapter in New Jersey, which he wishes to visit; for the conferring upon him the wanting degree is but a healing process.

"If he were not a Chapter Mason at all, and desired to receive the Chapter degrees in New Jersey, while a resident of Pennsylvania, they could not be conferred without a concession of jurisdiction. But he is a Royal Arch Mason under a foreign system older than ours, and a member of an Irish Chapter, and wishing to visit a New Jersey Chapter, or any American Chapter, is the door to be closed upon him because he has not a lower degree peculiar to the American rite, and unknown in the jurisdiction from which he hails? Surely not; but he may be healed, and admitted. The conferring upon him the M. E. M. degree does not affiliate him with the Chapter, or make him a member of the appendant Lodge, but merely prepares him to enter the Chapter as a visitor. Why should Pennsylvania object?

"4. If you mean by the fourth question to enquire whether, after obtaining a dimit from the Chapter at Naas, he can affiliate with Siloam Chapter, of New Jersey, while a resident of Pennsylvania, I am not sure if that is not the subject of local regulation. Possibly, on general principles, a Mason may select his Masonic residence; and cases sometimes occur where his affiliation without the jurisdiction of his place of residence is very proper as a matter of convenience. For example, where there is a Chapter of a neighboring jurisdiction, nearer or more convenient of access than any Chapter within the jurisdiction of his residence.

"I should not favor, however, the policy of permitting a Companion residing in one State, convenient to a Chapter, to affiliate with a Chapter of another State."

"CASE NO. 7.—MAINED CANDIDATES.

"M. E. J. W. Bowers, G. H. P. of Maryland, by letter of 4th October, 1875, desired my official opinion on two cases which had just been presented to him, viz:

"1. Can a brother Master Mason be exalted in the Royal Arch Chapter, who has lost the index finger of his right hand at the second joint—or rather part of the finger?

"2. Can the remaining degrees be conferred on a brother Mark Master Mason, who, since receiving that degree, has been afflicted with white swelling, which has left the right knee joint without motion, i. e., perfectly stiff, therefore preventing him from kneeling on both knees, although he can kneel upon the left knee?"

ANSWER, (Oct. 15th, 1875.) The question of maimed candidates was several times before the General Grand Chapter, ably discussed, and finally the law expressed and settled as follows: "That it is incompetent for Royal Arch Chapters to confer the *respective* degrees of Masonry upon candidates whose physical defects are such as to prevent them from *conforming literally* to all the requirements of those degrees." (*Compendium*, p. 271, *Proceedings 1853*.)

"This was a softening of the rigid old rule, which required the candidate for the symbolic degrees to be perfect in body, *without maim, &c.*

"1. My judgment is, that your first question should be answered in the affirmative. There is no requirement in any of the Chapter degrees with which a man cannot *literally conform*, who has lost the index finger of the right hand at the second joint.

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"2. The second question, I think, must be answered in the negative. A brother whose right knee is without motion, perfectly stiff, is unable literally to conform to the requirements in the work of the Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch degrees. In what particulars he would be at fault, I am not at liberty to suggest in this mode of communication, but I think they will readily occur to you, if you work about as I do.

"CASE NO. 8.—THE BLIND.

"In answer to a letter from M. E. E. F. Warren, Grand High Priest of Nebraska: 'A blind Master Mason, though very worthy in all other respects, cannot receive the Chapter degrees.' (March 11th, 1877.)

"CASE NO. 9.—QUORUM.

"Questions propounded by M. E. Haswell C. Clarke, G. H. P. of Illinois, by letter of 21st February, 1876:—

"1. Can a ballot for degrees or membership be taken, unless there be present at least nine members of the Chapter entitled to vote?"

"If the first is answered in the affirmative, is it necessary that nine ballots should be cast upon an application?"

"3. Is it necessary that a member should be excused from voting by an unanimous vote, or simply majority?"

"ANSWER. 1st, It may be regarded as a landmark of American Capitular Masonry, that there must be present not less than nine regular Royal Arch Masons to open a Chapter. But there is nothing in the rituals, or common law (so to speak) of the Order, establishing it as a rule that *all* of the *nine* must be members of the Chapter in order to open or close it, or to confer the Royal Arch degree. On the contrary it may be said, that the power to open, confer the degree on candidates duly elected, and close the Chapter, without the presence of nine members has been established by common usage.

"It may also be regarded as a settled law of the Order that a Chapter cannot be opened in the absence of the High Priest, King and Scribe—that one of them must be present. So decided by M. E. Josiah H. Drummond, G. G. H. P., and approved by the General Grand Chapter. (Proceedings 1874, pp. 27, 60.)

"There must, therefore, it may be safely asserted, be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons, one of whom must be the High Priest, King or Scribe of the Chapter, in order to open it for any purpose. But I cannot undertake to affirm it to be the settled common law of the Order, that there need necessarily be present any member of the Chapter other than *one* of the three principal officers in order to open it legally.

"Nor can I safely affirm it to be law, that candidates for degrees or membership may be balloted for when only *one* member of the Chapter is present—or *two, three, four, five*, or any less number than the charter or dispensation quorum, which is *nine*. If there be a general law authorizing a ballot when a less number of members of the Chapter than nine are present, where is it to be found? In the absence of some positive law, or long and well-established general usage, warranting the transaction of such important business as balloting on applications for degrees or membership, without the presence of *nine* members of the Chapter, it is forbidden by good policy.

"No doubt in the planting of Royal Arch Masonry in new Territories and States, where Chapters have been established with but few

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and scattered members, it has frequently happened (as I know it has in Arkansas), that a Chapter has been opened and all its business transacted, including balloting, by the assistance of visiting Companions, when there were not nine members present. But such exceptional cases, growing out of necessity, cannot be said to have established the general law, that a ballot may be taken when less than nine members of the Chapter are present. I must, therefore answer your first question in the negative.

"2nd. It is not necessary that nine ballots should be cast upon an application, because the Chapter may excuse a member from voting, for good cause shown.

"3rd. It is the duty of every member of the Chapter present (entitled to vote) to vote on applications for degrees or membership, and share in the general responsibility of electing or rejecting the candidate; but he may be excused, for good cause, by unanimous consent of the other members present. He cannot be excused by a mere majority.

"The last two propositions are well established as law in Blue Masonry, and, I think, well founded in principle, and have been well adopted as law in Copitular Masonry.

"The first of your questions has not been decided by the General Grand Chapter, nor by any of the reported decisions of my predecessors. I have found a few opinions of Masonic jurists on the subject, and they are not in harmony, and hence I have endeavored to decide the question on safe grounds."

"CASE NO. 15.—BANK AT FUNERALS.

"M. E. Comp. H. E. McIntyre, High Priest of Honolulu Chapter, No. 1, Hawaiian Islands, by letter of date May 23rd, 1877, submits the following statement of facts and questions:

"A member of the Fraternity died here a short time ago, who had taken all the degrees of the York Rite, and a number of the degrees of the Scottish Rite. The latter body elected to bury him by their funeral rites, and invited the Chapter as a body to attend. The day before the funeral, they withdrew, and the friends of the deceased then invited his Lodge to conduct the funeral services, which they did.

"A few members of the Chapter appeared, and the W. M. of the Blue Lodge requested that they take their position ahead of the Master Masons, which they did, rather than cavil in the street about any supposed right to any particular place. The Chapter was not opened or closed; they simply met and donned their regalia.

"As we have no wish to quarrel with the Lodge, or they with us, most of the Chapter members belonging to the Lodge, I submit to your consideration the following questions:

"1. Has this Chapter any right to appear at a funeral, conducted by a Lodge of Master Masons, or in fact has it any right to appear in public at all in any ceremony conducted by a Lodge of Master Masons?

"2. If the Chapter has such right, what is its position in the order of procession?

"3. The Chapter holding a Charter from the General Grand Chapter, and the Lodge holding one from the Grand Lodge of California, should a conflict arise, and the Lodge is sustained by the Grand Lodge, what then would be the position of the Chapter?

ANSWER.—1. Where a funeral is conducted by a Lodge, it is usual

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and better for Masons of all grades to join in, and be clothed as Master Masons, the funeral dress being a suit of black, with white aprons, gloves, &c. It is customary, however, as laid down in the old Monitors, in forming the procession, to place the different orders or grades in accordance with rank—1st, Master Masons; 2nd, Royal Arch Masons; 3rd, Select Masters, and 4th, Knights Templar, the W. Master taking the rear. Where a Royal Arch Mason is buried by a Blue Lodge, if his Chapter wishes to turn out and attend his funeral in a body as a mark of respect for him, I can see no objection to their doing so.

"2. But when they do turn out in a body, the Lodge conducting the services would be the ranking body, and place them in front in forming the procession.

"It is probable that the Worshipful Master of the Lodge which conducted the funeral ceremonies in the case referred to by you, regarded the Royal Arch Masons as attending in a body, as such, and hence placed them in front.

"3. It is hardly probable that the M. W. Grand Lodge of California, and the M. E. General Grand Chapter, (from which you hold your Charter), will seriously disagree about a question of rank at a Masonic funeral; but should such a disagreement unhappily arise, as they are both sovereign, and neither one can overrule the judgment of the other, they would no doubt submit the question to the judgment of learned Masonic jurists, or of one or more other Masonic sovereigns, to be mutually selected, and abide the decision. They would certainly not go to war about the matter, as the profane do about their disagreements.

"At best the question of precedence in a Masonic procession, is of no great moment, because in the movements of the procession we illustrate the beautiful lesson of the Mark degree, that 'the first shall be last, and the last first.' Moreover, in moving to the final resting-place of the dead, where all ranks are leveled, we need have but little care whether we occupy a place in the front or rear of the procession, for, at the termination of the march, we all reach the same humiliating position."

The action of the General Grand Chapter on these decisions, will be seen from the following report of the committee on jurisprudence:—

"I. DECISIONS OF GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

"They have arrived at the following conclusions, and recommend that they be adopted:

"1. It is not legally necessary, that the first three officers named in a charter should be those named in the dispensation.

"2. Under the regulations of the General Grand Chapter, companions receiving the Royal Arch Degree in one of its Chapters U. D., are members thereof, and they, as well as affiliated members, are eligible to be named in the charter as officers.

"3. The decision of the M. E. General Grand High Priest of Case No. 2 is affirmed.

"4. An Irish Royal Arch Mason, who has never received the Most Excellent Master's degree, cannot be allowed to visit any Chapter under this jurisdiction until he receives that degree, which any Chapter, without regard to his residence, may confer upon him.

" 5. Such a Royal Arch Mason, after being so healed, and producing a dimit from his Chapter in Ireland, may be admitted a member of a Chapter in New Jersey, while residing in Pennsylvania.

" 6. Upon the organization of a new Grand Chapter, the subordinates may continue to work under their old charters, or take out new ones, as the Grand Chapter may decide.

" 7. The decisions of the M. E. General Grand High Priest, in Cases No. 5 and 6, are affirmed.

" 8. Under previous decisions of the General Grand Chapter, the two decisions of the M. E. General Grand High Priest under Case No. 7, and his decision of Case No. 8, are correct, and should be affirmed accordingly.

" 9. Upon the first two points of Case No. 9 the majority of the Committee are of opinion, that the law, as established by the general custom and usage in the jurisdiction, is not in accordance with the decision of the M. E. General Grand High Priest, and therefore do not affirm the same.

" From this conclusion the chairman and Comp. Pike dissent, holding that nine members must be present for opening the Chapter, or transacting any business whatever.

" 10. It is contrary to the landmarks to excuse a member from voting upon a petition for the degrees.

" 11. In Case No. 10 the parties interested appeared before the Committee, introduced evidence, and were heard, and the Committee report:

" That the action of York Chapter, in the conferring of the degrees upon Comp. Sprague, was upon sufficient evidence to warrant their conclusion that he was a resident of Illinois, and that therefore the degrees were lawfully conferred, with all the legal consequences.

" 12. A Chapter has the right to appear at a funeral conducted by a Lodge of Master Masons, when so invited, taking such position in the procession as may be assigned to it by those having charge."

This report was adopted, except the ninth paragraph, for which the following substitute was carried by a vote of 76 to 48; the General Grand High Priest, Comp. Drummond (Chairman of jurisprudence), and Comp. Pike, voting in the affirmative:—

" For all purposes, except opening and closing a Chapter and conferring degrees, nine members of the Chapter are necessary to constitute a quorum."

This settles the much-debated "quorum" question, for the majority of the States; and it is well that there should be an acknowledged rule on this subject.

Comp. English authorized the formation of the Grand Chapter of Colorado. He also reports that Alabama and Georgia have renewed their connexion with the General Grand Chapter.

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Comp. Christopher G. Fox, General Grand Secretary, submitted a thorough report of his official acts, which gives a large amount of valuable information. From it we learn that the Proceedings from the organization in 1798 to 1856, have been reprinted and stereotyped, at a cost of \$1,628.00, for 1,000 bound copies; which are now ready for distribution and sale. Of the State Grand Chapters, he says:—

"The printed proceedings of the several Grand Chapters for the years 1874, 1875 and 1876, with very few exceptions, have been received, and their preservation, as a portion of the archives of the General Grand Secretary's Office, properly cared for.

"A careful examination of these proceedings show conclusively that most of the Grand Chapters are in a sound and healthy condition as respects their finances, and the general character of their work, and methods of transacting business, and that the management of their affairs is usually entrusted to Companions worthy of the exalted positions they hold in the Craft."

"Some of the Grand Chapters, few in number, however, to which the foregoing will apply with equal fitness, except as to their financial condition, find it difficult, with the limited means at their command, to meet promptly their necessary expenses, and are weakened accordingly; while none seem to have escaped the evil effects of the distressing blight that has fallen upon our country in common with the rest of the world, by reason of the financial and business depression so generally prevailing, and which affects alike disastrously the membership and resources of all Masonic Bodies—by reducing their revenues, materially affecting their work, and compelling many to retire from an active participation in the duties and privileges of Masonry."

And of the subordinates, he says:—

"The Chapters immediately subordinate to the General Grand Chapter in this country have made returns annually to December 27th, 1876, and have paid dues to that date, with the exception of Deer Lodge Chapter, No. 3, Montana Territory, which made its return and paid dues to December 27th, 1875.

"Keystone Chapter, at Shanghai, in the Empire of China, has also made its return, and paid all dues to December 27th, 1876.

Honolulu Chapter, No. 1, at Honolulu, H.I., made its return and paid dues to December 27th, 1875.

The Chapters on the Registry of the General Grand Chapter, known as King Cyrus Chapter, at Valparaiso, Chili, and St. John's Chapter, at Smyrna, in Turkey have made no returns, and I have had no information from any source as to their condition; and, as nothing has been heard from them for the past six years, I am led to believe that they are not now in existence.

"On the 16th of January, 1875, Santa Fe Chapter, at Santa Fe, in the Territory of New Mexico, surrendered its warrant by a vote of its members, and the charter was returned to me, with a certified list of

its members in good standing at the time. The charter was restored March 15th, 1877, by direction of the General Grand High Priest, and the Chapter was reorganized August 1st by the election of William W. Griffin, as High Priest, Thomas B. Catron as King, and Gustave Elsberg as Scribe, who were duly installed into office on August 2nd, by Comp. Samuel B. Wheelock, P. H. P.

During the time the warrant was in my possession, certificates of good standing in the Chapter, at the time of the surrender of the warrant were granted to Comps. Chas. L. Cooper, and Peter Knapp, under date of January 3rd, 1876."

"Walla Walla, Chapter, No. 2, claiming that it is the only Chapter now in existence in Washington Territory, respectfully prays to have its warrant changed to No. 1."

On "Ritual," the following resolutions was adopted:—

"Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed, by the General Grand Council, to take into consideration the differences of ritualism in the jurisdiction, and to report to this General Grand Chapter such instruction in regard thereto as is fit and proper this General Grand Body should give for the government of its own subordinates."

The Special Committee reported as follows:—

"The Committee on Ritual have considered the matter referred, and beg leave to report:

"As was to have been expected, differences of opinion in respect to the ritual were found to exist among the members of the Committee, but, after consultation, we are enabled to present a unanimous report.

"We believe that it is essential that the means of recognition should be taught and practiced uniformly, in the several Chapters which work under Charters granted by this General Grand Chapter; we therefore report, that we are prepared to make known the means of recognition as agreed upon in committee as they should be used by those Chapters."

And after a full illustration of the means of recognition recommended by the committee, the subject was laid on the table.

The following amendments to the Constitution were adopted:—

"Provided, also, that the State Grand Chapters may admit to membership therein the Past High Priests of Subordinate Chapters in their respective jurisdictions, so long as they may continue members of such Chapters."

"Provided, That any Chapter under this jurisdiction, in any State, District or Territory, where there is no Grand Chapter duly established, shall have a right to appear by its first three officers, or any one or two of them, which officers, or their proxies, shall collectively have one vote."

"And provided further, That all proxies referred to in this section shall be held only by members of the bodies they severally represent."

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The subject of the merging of the Cryptic degrees in the Chapter was referred to a committee, who reported as follows:—

"Your Committee, to which was referred the petition of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Mississippi, asking that it may be authorized to take jurisdiction of the degrees of Royal and Select Master, and permit the same to be conferred by its subordinates, beg leave to report, that having carefully examined the said petition and accompanying papers, and duly considered the subject matter referred to, we are of the opinion that the General Grand Chapter has no jurisdiction over said degrees, but, on the contrary, it is restricted in its recognition of degrees to those of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, as specified in Sec. 9, of Art. I, of the Constitution.

"For these reasons we recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be not granted."

On the consideration of this report, it was moved and carried that the further consideration of the matter be postponed until the next Triennial Convocation. (This action has been deemed by Mississippi tantamount to a tacit permission to do as they like with these degrees.)

Resolutions of thanks were passed as follows:—

"That, having enjoyed in a pre-eminent degree the royal and princely reception, welcome, and entertainment of the Royal Arch Chapters and Companions of the City of Buffalo, and of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of New York, whose constant and unremitting efforts have contributed in so large a degree to the pleasure, comfort, and social enjoyment of this Grand Body, in all its membership, during its session and the stay of its members in the Great City of the Lakes; an expression of its high appreciation of these unexampled courtesies is proper and due to all who have thus labored in this behalf.

"Resolved, That the cordial and hearty thanks of this Body be and are hereby tendered to the Committee of Arrangements, whose successful efforts to this end, like the resistless current of the mighty Niagara, have known no abatement since our first arrival in their midst:—

"To the Companions Royal Arch Masons of 'Buffalo Chapter,' No. 71, 'Keystone Chapter,' No. 163, 'Adytum Chapter,' No. 235, and 'Germania Chapter,' No. 256, of Buffalo:

"To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of New York, its officers, members, and constituent Chapters:

"To the Sir Knights of 'Lake Erie Commandery,' No. 20, and 'Hugh de Payen's Commandery,' No. 30, of this City, whose knightly bearing and fraternal escort of this Body reassures us of the intimate relations existing between their illustrious Order and our Sublime Rite:

"To the citizens, and all, who have spared no pains or efforts to make this session one long to be kindly remembered in the annals of the Royal Craft.

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"Resolved, That, as we shall go hence, we will ever recall the happy hours we have spent with our Companions, friends, and the ladies of their families in this lovely city, linked as these memories will ever be with the pleasant recollections of our excursion to that mightiest of the world's wonders, Niagara, and its sublime scenery."

The report on Grievances by Comp. Parvin, of Iowa, is unique:—

"Your Committee on Grievances respectfully report, that no case of grievance has been referred to it for consideration.

"That in the knowledge of the Committee, peace, harmony and good will prevail in all our extended borders, and that we as Royal Arch Masons are a truly "happy family," and that we are not in the least aggrieved; that we have had no work to do in this line of our labors, and fondly trust that our successors may experience the like benign influences of our Rite in drawing more together and preserving these social influences which make us all one common brotherhood in good works and good feelings."

The following officers were elected:—

Comp. JOHN FRIZZELL,
Nashville, Tenn., General Grand High Priest.

" ROBERT F. BOWER,
Keokuk, Iowa, Deputy General Grand High Priest.

" ALFRED F. CHAPMAN,
Boston, Mass., General Grand King.

" NOBLE D. LARNER,
Washington, D. C., General Grand Scribe.

" JOHN McCLELLAN,
Boston, Mass., General Grand Treasurer.

" CHRISTOPHER G. FOX,
Buffalo, N. Y., General Grand Secretary.

" HENRY BOSTWICK,
Covington, Ky., General Grand Captain of the Host

" DAVID F. DAY,
Buffalo, N. Y., General Grand Royal Arch Captain.

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vote of 66 to 58; and the following resolution was adopted:—

"Resolved, That the M. E. General Grand High Priest be requested to correspond with the Grand Chapters of other nations with reference to the propriety of holding a convention looking to the securing of uniformity of work in Capitular Masonry, and report his action to this General Grand Body at its next Triennial Session; and the General Grand High Priest be also requested to invite and consummate the establishment of relations of amity and correspondence with the same Grand Bodies."

Comps. Pike, Drummond and English, were appointed as a committee, to report to the G. G. H. P. a Royal Arch cipher for the use of that jurisdiction.

The following was adopted:—

"Resolved, That there must be present nine Royal Arch Masons to open any of the bodies under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter; but that five may work as a Lodge of Mark Masters; seven as a Lodge of Past Masters, and seven as a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters."

The next Triennial Convocation will be held at Detroit, on August 24th, 1880.

The festivities and entertainments which accompanied this meeting were on a scale of magnificence befitting the occasion; and were heartily appreciated and enjoyed by those who had the good fortune to be present. The first was a reception by the Royal Arch Masons of Buffalo; comprising a procession, a song of welcome, and several addresses, interspersed with music. There was a grand banquet at the Tiff House, given by the Grand Chapter of New York. There were also an excursion to Niagara Falls, a carriage ride around the city, a lunch at the Refectory on the Parade, and a visit to the City Hall, which was illuminated in honor of the event.

STATISTICS.

We are indebted to Comp. J. H. Drummond, of Maine, for the following valuable Table of Statistics and accompanying remarks:—

TABLE.

GRAND CHAPTERS.	No. of Subscribers	No. making Returns	Members	Exaltations	Admissions & Restorations	Dimissions	Expulsions	Suspensions	Sum for Non-pay'g Dues	Deaths	Rejections
Alabama.....	47	44	1,345	50	40	54	0	1	78	11	6
Arkansas.....	69	27	889	44	18	28	1	0	30	10	10
California.....	48	48	2,883	243	45	60	1	0	36	45	16
Canada.....	68	68	2,285	290	28	82	0	0	47	28	1
Colorado.....	7	7	347	40	13	15	0	0	15	2	0
Connecticut.....	35	35	3,387	122	5	23	0	1	29	29	0
Delaware.....	6	6	310	15	0	4	2	0	9	2	0
Dist. of Columbia.....	8	8	1,078	33	13	13	0	0	85	16	6
Florida.....	18	10	288	40	5	15	1	0	18	6	1
Georgia.....	54	44	1,724	68	29	83	3	0	104	28	5
Illinois.....	166	166	10,828	883	164	329	17	0	233	124	69
Indiana.....	90	84	4,918	420	55	118	30	12	76	66	0
Iowa.....	80	79	4,184	369	57	141	5	34	0	25	0
Kansas.....	34	32	1,163	115	32	47	0	2	15	9	16
Kentucky.....	106	92	5,794	268	54	128	4	0	163	71	17
Louisiana.....	29	27	1,595	48	22	33	0	12	36	25	0
Maine.....	42	42	4,139	163	41	64	1	1	0	44	14
Maryland.....	14	13	1,304	83	8	38	0	22	5	30	0
Massachusetts.....	63	63	9,270	483	140	1	15	30	91	0	0
Michigan.....	90	98	7,310	356	60	141	4	5	124	63	0
Minnesota.....	39	25	1,396	148	39	34	2	0	28	13	0
Mississippi.....	74	69	2,180	74	51	72	2	4	43	42	0
Missouri.....	76	62	4,267	287	64	131	11	0	127	38	29
Nebraska.....	10	15	667	71	14	17	0	0	9	2	0
Nevada.....	7	7	551	56	25	46	1	0	9	10	6
New Hampshire.....	19	19	2,115	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey.....	35	33	2,718	229	28	38	0	0	116	31	0
New York.....	191	191	18,889	971	196	316	11	4	925	285	117
North Carolina.....	21	16	842	42	10	10	0	0	6	9	4
Nova Scotia.....	9	9	364	13	4	12	0	0	0	2	0
Ohio.....	126	126	8,579	504	167	191	14	3	269	89	0
Oregon.....	11	11	391	76	12	13	0	2	7	0	7
Pennsylvania.....	97	96	10,747	729	77	68	0	0	226	132	0
Rhode Island.....	10	10	1,592	72	2	1	0	1	110	21	10
South Carolina.....	33	29	951	61	2	19	0	0	12	14	0
Tennessee.....	93	85	3,579	121	54	140	1	14	66	62	0
Texas.....	160	160	3,968	257	145	187	7	0	82	65	0
Vermont.....	25	25	1,268	111	2	14	0	0	8	21	0
Virginia.....	42	34	1,624	100	42	58	3	0	0	25	0
West Virginia.....	17	15	509	36	3	16	0	0	11	5	0
Wisconsin.....	51	51	3,667	213	40	66	1	0	45	28	21
Total.....	2,181	2,036	184,825	3,469	1,644	3,035	113	133	3,239	1,560	344

* Including suspensions for unmaasonic conduct. † Same as last year.

Comparing with last year, the number of Chapters has increased 15; the number making returns, 38; the membership, 2,402; the suspensions, 17; suspensions for non-payment of dues, 110; the exaltations have decreased 1,256; the restorations, 456; the dimissions, 186; the expulsions, 6; and the deaths 65. The reported membership in fifteen Grand Chapters has actually decreased.

We doubt if the tide has yet fully ebbed; we shall not be disappointed if the statistics for next year show an actual decrease in the aggregate membership. But we regret to notice a falling off in the interest of members as the work falls off; and we fear that the unprecedented prevalence of peace and harmony reported is, in some degree, the quiet of stagnation.

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CONCLUSION.

The importance and variety of the subjects treated on in the Proceedings we have reviewed, and their increased number over any previous year, will account for the length of this Report.

We will not trespass further upon the patience of our readers, but will close with the hope, that our labors in this direction may prove of some service to our Companions, and aid in the dissemination of useful information regarding the Capitular Branch of our beloved Fraternity.

All which is fraternally submitted,

HENRY ROBERTSON,

Chairman.

COLLINGWOOD, Ontario, July 2nd, 1878.

The following Proceedings have been received, after the Report on Foreign Correspondence had been completed:—

ALABAMA.....MAY, 1878.
CALIFORNIA.....APRIL, 1878.
MAINE.....MAY, 1878.
NEVADA.....JUNE, 1878.

DANIEL SPRY,

Grand Scribe E.

TORONTO, 1st August, 1878.

Rejections.

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