



# Proceedings

OF THE

→\*MOST+PUISSANT+GRAND+COUNCIL\*←

OF

## Royal and Select Masters

OF THE

State of New York,

SEPTEMBER 8, 1880.



New York:

John F. Baldwin, Print. 42 Vesey St.



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

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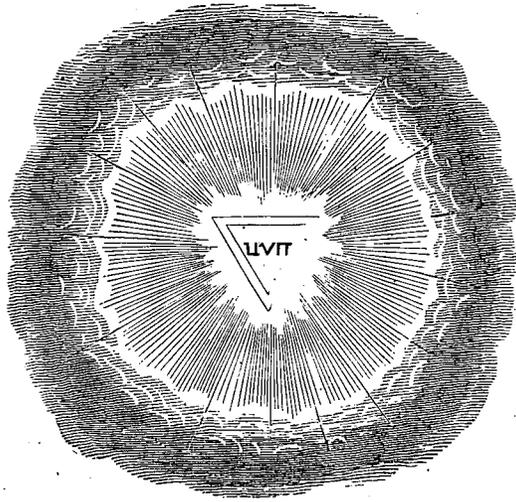
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NEW YORK :

JOHN F. BALDWIN'S STEAM PRESS, 38 VESEY STREET.

1880.





ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
GRAND COUNCIL R.: & S.: M'S.:  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

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GRAND COUNCIL ROOM,  
MASONIC TEMPLE, COR. SIXTH AVE. AND 23D ST.

The Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters  
of the State of New York convened in Annual Assembly, in the  
City of New York, on Wednesday, September 8th, A. D. 1880,  
A. S. Dep. S. 2880.

## PRESENT.

M. III.	GEORGE M. OSGOODBY,	GRAND MASTER.
R. III.	CHARLES W. BROWN,	GRAND DEPUTY MASTER.
R. III.		GRAND P. C. of W.
R. III.	DAVID B. HOWELL,	GRAND TREASURER.
R. III.	GEORGE VAN VLIET,	GRAND RECORDER.
R. III.	THOMAS H. FLOYD,	GRAND C. OF THE G.
R. III.	P. W. VERHOEVEN,	C. OF THE C.
R. III.	R. C. CHRISTIANCE,	GRAND MARSHAL.
R. III.	and Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER,	} GRAND CHAPLAINS.
R. III.	and Rev. JOSEPH BRADFORD CLEAVER	
R. III.	JOHN J. MARTIN,	GRAND LECTURER.
R. III.	ALEXANDER B. KING.	ACTING GRAND STEWARD.
R. III.	JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN,	GRAND SENTINEL.

With the Representatives of the following Councils:

COLUMBIAN,	No. 1	PALMYRA,	No. 26
UNION,	" 2	BATAVIA,	" 27
BROOKLYN,	" 4	UTICA,	" 28
ADELPHIC,	" 7	KING SOLOMON,	" 31
BLOSS,	" 14	PENTALPHA,	" 36
BRUCE,	" 15	KONHOCTON,	" 40
SOUTHERN TIER,	" 16	CORNING,	" 53
BUFFALO,	" 17	PEEKSKILL,	" 55
DORIC,	" 19	HUDSON,	" 62
KEYSTONE,	" 20	SING SING,	" 64
DEWITT CLINTON,	" 22	ITHACA,	" 68
ONTARIO,	" 23	NEPPERHAN,	" 70
DUNKIRK,	" 25	ALPH-OMEGA,	" 71

COMP.	G. FRED. WILTSIE,	PAST M. ILL. GRAND MASTER.
"	JOHN HOOLE,	PAST do.
"	ALEX. B. KING,	PAST R. I. P. C. OF W.
Rev.	CHARLES G. HUDSON,	CHAIRMAN COMM. ON FOR. COR.
"	JOHN G. BARKER,	PAST T. I. M.
"	THOMAS GLIDDON,	" "
"	PHILANDER REED,	" "
"	GEORGE MCGOWN,	" "
"	RALPH E. PRIME,	" "
"	JOHN F. BALDWIN,	" "

COMP.: GEO. W. THORN..... PAST T. I. M.  
 “ ROBERT M. LAWRENCE..... “ “  
 AS VISITORS—R. I. COMP. ALFRED SHAW, DEPUTY G. M. OF LOUISIANA.  
 M. I. GEORGE SCOTT..... PAST G. M. OF NEW JERSEY.

On motion, all Companions Select Masters in good standing were invited to seats, as visitors, during this Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, except at such times as prohibited by the Constitution.

On motion, the reading of the Minutes of the previous Assembly was dispensed with (printed copies being in the hands of the Representatives).

M. I. GEO. M. OSGOODBY, Grand Master, then delivered the following address:

## ADDRESS.

### THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS:

Again have we, through the loving kindness of a Heavenly Father, been brought together in peace and prosperity—goodwill abounding, while the busy hum of the workers of our craft is to be heard resounding throughout the arches of Subordinate Councils of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Another resting place for us, Companions, where we can meditate upon the history of the the past; see our shortcomings, our omission of golden opportunities to labor for the common good of our Rite; and to rectify the mistakes that have been made in our work. As we indulge in a retrospect of the past year, and its lessons of wisdom, which are to guide our future, correcting our mis-steps, and congratulating ourselves upon our advances, which encourage us in the earnest sincere labor of our hearts in working for the interests that have been committed to our hands as a sacred legacy from those who have laid down their implements of toil, and been called to step up higher, to receive the reward that the Supreme Grand Master has there prepared for those who are faithful and true, let us remember that those who have passed from our midst are yet with us in spirit. Their works do live after them, and will ever remain as enduring monuments to their memory.

We are just entering to-day upon the threshold of the last decade of our four score years as a Grand Body; seventy-one years of age; a hale, strong body, a vigorous mind, an earnest sincerity in its work, and the vigor to perform its task, is the condition of the Grand Council of New York to-day. Emerging from the dark shadows that have been hovering over it and its sister Grand Councils for the few years past into the coming dawn of a brighter

day, made radiantly glorious in the sunbeams, that, penetrating the thick clouds, have dispelled their gloom and brought out in all their beauty the jewels of our crown of glory. We have been taught from childhood's hour the old familiar saying, that "It is always darkest just before day," and we, who have been feeling the effects of this darkness for the past few years, to some degree at least, in our Subordinate Councils, may take courage, for the funeral ceremonies prepared for the occasion of the merging of the Cryptic with Capitular Degrees have been made use of in the burial of the Plan of Miscegenation itself; and the sombre trappings of the mourners have been removed from our crypt, and the crape has been placed upon the Plan itself. Our work, as a Grand Body, has been faithful to the perpetuation of the interests of Cryptic Masonry in a distinct and independent organization, and in the future, Masonic posterity will not fail of rising up and calling us blessed.

When the croakings of the raven were heard and we saw falling on the one and on the other side, sister Grand Councils, and the enchanting music of the Lurley, was heard from nearly every side, the Grand Council of New York, with its constituent members, was fully awake to the importance of taking and maintaining an impregnable position, acting not only on the defensive, in repelling attacks upon our own jurisdiction, but also upon the aggressive in carrying the warfare into Africa, as we might say; encouraging those of our sisters who were in need of the hand of fellowship, and uniting with all who desired, in a strong band, determined in the defence of our rights. We have successfully carried it along until we can say there is no longer any doubt of our permanency. The plan adopted for our downfall has committed "hari-kari," and though it may be seen in its last dying struggles, still it cannot, if we are true to ourselves and to our interests, ever again get a foothold in Masonic bodies that have not already been joined unto their idols, and passed into the unknown realm beyond the vale of tears (in the chapter). But while congratulating ourselves upon the result of the year's work, and upon the prosperity which abounds throughout our land, we turn with moistening eyes and hearts surcharged with grief as we see upon the left, the chair of Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of Work arrayed in the emblems of mortality appropriate to the deep sorrow of our hearts. The unbidden guest has again silently entered our retreat, has passed the sentinel, and called from our ranks, ere we had reached our homes from the last Assembly of this Body, one of our best loved, honored and trusted members and officers. I well remember the 4th day of September, 1879, the day succeeding the annual election, when having arrived at my home I had a telegram from Companion ALEXANDER placed in my hands, "NORMAN is dead; funeral on Sunday; come;" had a thunderbolt from heaven fell at my feet, I could hardly have been more astounded. CHARLES NORMAN, whose congratulatory telegram had been read to me in this city the night before; whose kind loving message and words of encouragement had been read by myself to this Body upon its assembling at the opening of the Assembly, had rendered his final report, had struck the balance, and the account of his earthly stewardship had been

presented to the Supreme Grand Master for approval ; but of his future there can be no doubt. He has gone to that world where " adieus and farewells are a sound unknown." A Christian man, faithful to all his duties, he has entered into eternal rest prepared for such as him. It was my sad privilege of attending and taking part in the last mournful obsequies of our dearly beloved Companion.

As the head of this Grand Council for the time being, I opened an emergent Grand Council for the purpose of making arrangements for participating in the ceremonies of burial. There was the largest attendance at this service that had ever been known in Rochester. Distinguished Masons from many parts of the State were there, while the bowed head and the tear trickling down many a cheek exhibited the deep sorrow this afflicting dispensation had been the means of calling forth. For myself, I can say I loved Companion NORMAN as a dear brother, one worthy, in every respect, of the friendship of the true and the Select.

I also addressed a letter of condolence, to his aged parents at Derby, England, and enclosed to them some sprigs of Arbor Vitæ which I took from the casket containing his mortal remains for that purpose, and received an answer which expressed the deep anguish of the desolate hearts, and their thanks and appreciation, and in which he says, " Your letter and sprigs will be treasured up, and will be a great comfort to us."

I also undertook to tender to the bereaved widow the deep and abiding sympathy of this Body in this their most afflicting dispensation. The remains of Companion NORMAN have since been removed to England, where his widow and child will hereafter make their home.

I recommend that a copy of our proceedings for 1878-79, '80 be bound and forwarded to Mrs. NORMAN, as well as to the father of the deceased, and a memorial page set apart in our proceedings to his memory, and his seat continue draped in mourning until his successor be elected.

I also issued a circular to Subordinate Councils of this Jurisdiction and the officers of this Body, as well as to our sister Grand Councils in giving official notice of his death, and which, as it expresses in terse language the sentiments which I know are those of all who had the pleasure and profit of a personal acquaintance with our deceased Companion, I append to this testimonial to him.

The beautiful steel plate engraving contained in our proceedings of 1879 of Companion NORMAN is the generous gift of our Worthy Companion H. H. WARNER, of Rochester, whose liberality has enabled us to preserve in this way his likeness in our archives for all time to come.

## GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF NEW YORK.

*Our Hearts are Bowed Down with Sadness and our S. V. is Draped in Mourning.*

Words are too weak to express to you the deep sorrow that pervades this jurisdiction as the intelligence is made known that our Right Illustrious and dearly beloved Companion,

CHARLES NORMAN,

Grand Principal Conductor of Work of this Grand Council, is dead.

On the 4th of September, A. Dep. 2879, the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe called our Companion from his labors in this Grand Council to his reward of peace, love and rest in the Supreme Grand Council above.

In this dispensation of God, a dearly loved companion, an ever faithful worker, a constant and devoted friend, has been called from us.

By his life he had given us proof of his sincerity, his wisdom, his charity, his integrity, his goodness, and his love; and he has furnished an example of simplicity and unostentation, while he has ever proved himself to be eminently practical in his life work.

None were more devoted to the interests of Cryptic Masonry in New York than he. He was a devoted and accomplished Mason.

His death was sudden, occurring the morning after his re-election to his exalted position.

“ In the midst of life we are in death.”

“ BE YE ALSO READY.”

The Altars, Jewels, and working tools of the Councils in this Grand Jurisdiction, out of respect to the memory of the deceased, are directed to be draped in mourning for the present year.

BUFFALO, N. Y., October 1st, 1879.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY,  
*Grand Master.*

ATTEST :

GEO. VAN VLIET,  
*Grand Recorder.*

I am happy to state that no other deaths have been reported to me.

The record of my official acts during the past year I will briefly state.

In accordance with your directions at the last Assembly an apportionment of the Subordinate Councils was made for Visitation and sent to your officers, and which was as follows :

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF NEW YORK.

BUFFALO, N. Y., OCTOBER 2D, A. D. 1879, A. DEP. 2878.

RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS :

It again becomes my duty in carrying out the direction of the last Assembly of this Grand Council to apportion the several Councils in this jurisdiction for official visitation during the present Cryptic Masonic year. This year is the most vital and important to Cryptic Masonry of any in its history. Before another Grand Council meets in September, 1880, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will meet in Detroit and the question of the merger of the Cryptic Degrees with Capitular Masonry will have been acted upon. The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will have also held its triennial conclave in Chicago; and questions of importance to our beloved rite will have been there presented and acted upon. The position of our Grand Council upon the subject of merging Cryptic with Capitular Masonry is irrevocably opposed to the proposition, and we have no fear of its ultimate success.

The great importance of making the visits assigned to you respectively, you must fully appreciate, and allow me to add that the Grand Council will rigidly exact the performance of your duties. *Every Council must receive its visit.* If you desire aid from me, or my presence to resuscitate dormant Councils, I will cheerfully render the aid, or be present with you as the exigency of the case may require.

When I made my last apportionment, one year ago, I supposed and intended that it should be the last one I should ever make, as it was my determination not to again fill the position to which, by the kind favor of my companions, I had been elected for three successive years, but from the force of circumstances, against my own wishes, I am again filling the position. Now, as this is to be my last year in office, will you not, as an especial favor to me, crown your many acts of kindness to me by doing your utmost in advancing the interests of our rite, that we may by united, faithful labors of love, as well as of duty, make this year one of unparalleled success and advancement? A year of purple and gold—to be enshrined in our memories, to be borne through life with the approbation of our companions as well as of our own hearts.

May the approving smiles of the Supreme Grand Master rest on your labors, and may the work performed tend to the honor and glory of the cause of the Select.

Forward your reports to me by August 1st, 1880, promptly. From necessity, to ensure the performance of the duties assigned to our late R. I. Comp. NORMAN, I have appointed T. L. Companion THOMAS GLIDDON, to perform such duties until 10 o'clock A. M., of September 8th, 1880. Let him be received and honored accordingly.

## APPORTIONMENT.

- R. I. I. CHARLES W. BROWN, D. G. M., Nos. 14-17-20-22-35-45-46.  
 " " THOMAS GLIDDON, as G. P. C. of W. *pro tem*, Nos. 15-25-27-33-41-56-71.  
 R. I. I. THOMAS H. FLOYD, G. C. of G., Nos. 23-26-38-45-61-67-68.  
 " " PETER W. VERHOEVEN, G. C. C., Nos. 2-4-7-55-62-70.  
 " " R. C. CHRISTIANCE, G. M., Nos. 16-19-30-40-53-69.  
 " " JOHN J. MARTIN, G. L., Nos. 21-28-29-34-37-66.  
 " " ALBERT E. LEACH, G. S., Nos. 1-24-31-36-64.

With kind regards and wishes for the health and prosperity of your charges, I am ever,

Faithfully yours,

Attest:



Grand Recorder.



Grand Master.

By this apportionment you will have already noticed, that I appointed T. I. Companion THOMAS GLIDDON, of Rochester, to act as R. I. G. P. C. of W. of this Body *pro tempore* until 10 o'clock A. M. of this day, the hour appointed for the opening of this Assembly. It seemed to me to be an appointment eminently fit and proper to make, from the fact that this Companion was not only the bosom friend of our deceased Companion, and had been elected by Doric Council under dispensation (granted by myself for an election after Companion Norman's decease) to the position of T. I. M. which was held by the deceased at the time of his death, and from the further fact, that he was a thorough workman and in every respect qualified to perform the duties of the position; and the work to be performed demanded the appointment of an able and efficient officer. The report of his work has been presented to you and you may judge therefrom understandingly, whether the position was properly filled, and as to the fitness thereof.

The reports of the visits which were made by your officers are also herewith presented.

My own visits to Councils this year have been less in number than usual, owing to the fact that the time I had to expend in the preparation for the work assigned me at Detroit engrossed a large portion of my time, and I found it would be necessary for me to give that work my particular attention, to the neglect of visitations, deeming it of the greatest importance.

On the 10th of December last, I attended with R. I. Comp. Gliddon at the Dedication of Alph-Omega Council No. 71, at Albion, at which time the officers displayed their workmanship, and several candidates were received and greeted. A royal banquet was spread, and your officers were received with the honors due to the positions they occupied in this Grand Body. I commend

the zeal and enthusiasm displayed by this infant Council to the consideration and emulation of its elders.

December 20th the following questions were submitted to me by T. I. Comp. ISAAC TERWILLIGER, Master of Sing Sing Council No. 64—Peekskill Council No. 53, and Sing Sing Council having under consideration a consolidation of the two Councils:—

First.—Will it require unanimous consent to surrender our warrant?

Answer.—If nine Companions oppose its surrender, it cannot be accomplished.

Second.—What is the position of those Companions who will not concur in the proposed consolidation, and shall we grant Dimits!

Answer.—If your warrant be legally surrendered, you cannot grant Dimits. The Companions desiring Dimits will then have to take a Grand Recorder's Certificate, as provided by Constitution, upon payment of arrearages and his fee.

I submit these decisions for your consideration and action. I would recommend that permission be granted by this Body for the consolidation of these two Councils, if desired by them, upon proper action of those Councils in that respect being duly had and presented to you.

On the 7th of January last I made an official visit to Batavia Council, where the work was exemplified thoroughly, and afterwards a pleasant reunion was had with the large-hearted Companions of this Council around their well and bountifully spread tables.

January 8th, 1880, I made an official visit to Buffalo Council, and presided at the installation of its officers for the present year. This Council has been doing very well under its present corps of efficient officers. Your officers were greeted with the honors due their station. After the work of the hour was performed, at the invitation of T. I. Comp. Oppenheimer, the Companions present repaired to the banquet hall, where a feast of reason and a flow of soul was enjoyed, together with the usual accompaniments. T. I. Comp. Oppenheimer, who was at this time installed by me as T. I. M. was the first Master of the Council in which I received the Cryptic Degrees. Able and efficient in his work then, he has maintained his attachment to our Order, and being thoroughly posted in the Ritual, with his zeal I have no doubt but that the record of this Council will be advanced materially.

January 9th, at the request of Nepperhan Council, I granted a dispensation to it for the convenience of work, to hold an Assembly on the third Monday of January, then inst., at Mount Vernon, in its jurisdiction, for its usual business and work, due notice thereof to be given to all Companions of the Council in advance. This I did, believing from the representations made to me, and which are subject to consideration of this Body, to be for the interest and advancement of our work.

January 16th, this statement was submitted to me: A Companion of our Rite, a resident of Corning, had received the degrees in Seneca Council, which had become dormant; he petitioned for affiliation with Corning Council, was

regularly balloted for and elected, having paid his dues in Seneca Council, and presented the Recorder's receipt therefor, and being promised a dimitt from there, but failed to get it. The question was—what position did he occupy? and whether his election and subscription to the Constitution and By-laws of Corning Council made him a member thereof. From the statement made and the fact that Seneca Council was to all appearances irrecoverably dormant, I advised that the Companion be allowed to participate in the work of Corning Council until such time as this Grand Body should meet and authoritatively dispose of the problem. Such action, I am informed, has been taken by the parties interested. I submit the matter for your consideration and decision, and suggest, that if the Companion should now withdraw from the Seneca Council by due notice, in writing, signed by himself, it would not require the action of Seneca Council to give such withdrawal force.

January 17th I made an official visit to Keystone Council, and was duly received with the honors due the exalted position which this Grand Body has conferred upon me. On this occasion I had the pleasure of installing the officers of this Council and amongst them, as their T. I. M., a veteran of the Rite, our well known and zealous Companion, JOHN L. BROTHERS. This position he held some years ago in the same Council, with distinguished credit to himself, and to the great good of his Council and the Rite. We shall have his able assistance and counsel at this Assembly in the business which is to come before us.

I have also been in correspondence with the T. I. M. of King Solomon Council in reference to the proposed removal of that Council from Newburgh to Poughkeepsie, instead of the organization of a new Council at the latter place. This suggestion commended itself to my cordial approval, and I authorized the preliminary steps to be taken, and as the Companions of that Council see fit to recommend it to you, I trust your sanction to the proposition will not be withheld. I understand their warrant allows their assemblies to be held at either of said places, and this change in that event would be proper.

February 18th, I made an official visit to Doric Council, as a reserve corps to the regular official visitor, and to whose report I will give way, instead of giving a full account of it myself. Suffice it to say, that in this strong-hold of the Cryptic Rite, built up under the able administration of our lamented Comp. NORMAN, the work has progressed, and the Council still retains its allegiance to the ancient landmarks as taught it by its illustrious workers.

March 11th, I again made an official visit by invitation to Buffalo Council, and had the pleasure of seeing the work exemplified in most excellent form.

Circumstances, over which I had no control, prevented my attendance at DeWitt Clinton Council, at Albany, November 20th last, at their re-union, to which I was honored with an invitation. I was also prevented by like circumstances, from making a visit to Dunkirk Council, April 7th. My regret at being compelled to forego the pleasure of these visits was keen, not only from the loss of the pleasure of the visits in their official character, and the instruction I was sure to receive, but from the fact that I had been a visitor at these same

Councils in former years, and I missed the large-hearted, open-handed hospitality of the generous souls that comprise the membership in these Councils.

Arrangements were also made upon my part to visit Konhocton, Corning, Southern Tier and Owego Councils, but from circumstances which seemed to prevent meetings at the time at which I could attend, I did not succeed in greeting the Companions of these Councils in their respective Crypts, but shall most assuredly do so in the future, if life be spared, not however, in the official relation I now stand as regards them.

I also received a communication from the T. I. M. and Recorder of Genesee Valley Council No. 41, stating that this Council had voted to surrender its warrant. Upon procuring a transcript of its proceedings at the assembly, and a copy of the summons to its companions, and finding that no notice was given to the companions absent that such a proposition was to be voted upon, I decided that its action was void. I might further say, that the proceedings did not show whether the vote was by a majority vote or not, or how many voted in favor of, or against the resolution, but the first objection above suggested was sufficient in my mind without consideration of the other questions, which were also fatal to the legality of its action. The papers upon which this decision was made are herewith presented. I have been, however, recently informed that this Council is about making an effort to regain its old position, I hope with success.

The reports of your officers of their respective work will be presented to you by them respectively.

In accordance with the power conferred upon me at the last Assembly of this Body, I have discharged the old indebtedness of Adelpic Council to this Body.

During the past year I have commissioned as Representatives of this Body to sister Grand Bodies as follows:

M. I. JAMES A. CHAPIN of Milton, Florida, to the Grand Council of that jurisdiction.

M. I. H. SHAW NOBLE, of Monro, Michigan, to the Grand Council of that jurisdiction.

And R. I. Comp. GLIDDON has received the appointment from the Grand Council of Michigan, as its representative near this Grand Body.

I was honored in receiving from the Grand Council of Florida its proxy to represent it at the National Convention of Royal and Select Masters held in Detroit during the last week of August, and did so represent it.

In reference to this Convention, associated with your Grand Recorder, GEO. VAN VLIET and T. I. JOHN M. MACOMB, Jr., I attended it in behalf of this Body, and presented and read to it, upon its request, the remonstrance or protest which I had prepared for presentation to the General Grand Chapter in behalf of this Body, against the merger of the Cryptic with the Capitular degrees, and I am pleased to state it was by a unanimous vote adopted as the protest of that Convention, after consent for such action had been requested of and granted by your representatives. This protest was pre-

sent to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. Several other communications and memorials on this same subject were also presented to that Body adverse to our position. A committee of nine were appointed by it upon the subject of the Cryptic Rite. The General Grand High Priest FRIZZELL, in his address to that Body dwelt at length upon the subject and said, referring to the amendment to the Constitution of that Body in 1853, "Since that time this Body has uniformly held that it had no control whatever over the Council degrees, and, of course, that Chapters adhering to its jurisdiction had no right to confer them. The attempts recently made by which some Grand Chapters in this jurisdiction seek to assume control over these degrees, and by agreement with Grand Councils and otherwise, to authorize Chapters to confer them, either directly or indirectly, is in direct contravention of the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and demand your serious consideration." So spoke this distinguished and eminent man and Mason upon the subject.

The action of the General Grand Chapter upon this subject will more properly find a place hereafter.

The Royal and Select National Masters' Convention held its sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Aug. 23, 24, and 25. There were represented thereat nineteen Grand Councils, and one subordinate Council from the District of Columbia.

The Convention was ably presided over by M. I. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine, President, M. I. GEO. J. PINCKARD, of Louisiana, as Vice-President, with the assistance of R. I. GEO. VAN VLIET, of New York, as Secretary.

The action of this Convention upon the subject of the "Merger Plan," and upon the subject of treatment of those receiving these degrees in Chapters, was in perfect harmony with the declared policy and standing of this Grand Body.

Proceedings were taken for the provisional organization of a General Grand Council of the Cryptic Rite for the United States, and a Constitution therefor, and a plan was proposed to be submitted to the several State Grand Councils for their approval and ratification, if satisfactory to them, and which plan and constitution I have the pleasure of presenting to you, together with the Protest before mentioned, which is attached thereto. The organization of such a Body seemed to meet with the general expressed wish of the representatives, but no one felt authorized to speak with positive assurance or warrant from their respective Grand Councils on the subject. It seemed, however, to make use of the forcible and expressive language of M. E. G. G. H. P. FRIZZELL, that such an organization would prove to be the knife that would cut the "Gordian Knot," referring to the controversy over the merging of the two branches of Masonry. This also appeared to be the prevailing opinion among the representatives in the General Grand Chapter.

The Committee on the Cryptic Rite of the G. G. Chapter was comprised of five who were opposed to the merging under all circumstances, and four who were either favorably impressed with its expediency or were not positive either

way, and including two of its strongest and most earnest advocates. This committee had their meeting and consultation after the action was had in relation to the organization of a General Grand Council; and which had been reported to them, and to the surprise of *all*; they agreed without a dissenting vote, to a report which recommended the adoption of a resolution as follows:

*Resolved*, That this General Grand Chapter has no jurisdiction over the degrees of Royal Masters and Select Masters, and that it is inexpedient for the General Grand Chapter to take any action concerning them."

This resolution was adopted, and this question is thus set at rest, we trust forever. Believing as I do that the ratification by this Body of the organization of a General Grand Council should be made, and as our action, being that of the first State Grand Body meeting after the Convention, would have an influence abroad, I recommend your ratification of such organization, and of the proceedings of such Convention in that regard.

The officers who were selected for this provisional organization are named in such proceedings which I have presented to you.

And now, my loved companions, we have labored in the past with earnest zeal to advance and perpetuate these beautiful degrees of Cryptic Masonry, whose importance there are none who have knowledge of the lessons inculcated by them dare question. We have labored earnestly and faithfully to complete our work ere the week closeth and the Sabbath of eternity sets in. The work, for the completion of which, your kind partiality has kept me in this honorable position has ended, I trust, to your satisfaction, and to the honor, perpetuation, and glory of the Cryptic Rite. This being the case, it becomes your duty to keep this work in motion, to advance by all proper means its success, to inculcate the morality of these degrees into the minds of all seeking Masonic light, and to pass to posterity in all their integrity the degrees of the Cryptic branch of Masonry. The success that is to attend future labors in this jurisdiction is now to be left to the earnest and sincere workers in our Crypt; for myself I shall ever be happy and glad to labor with and for you, but it must no longer be as the head of this truly Grand Jurisdiction. I have on three occasions before come here with the determination upon my part to decline further re-election to the position I now hold, not because I failed to appreciate the distinction and great honor it conferred upon me, or that I desired to shrink from any of the duties that devolved upon the office, but rather, because this honorable position, one worthy of the best, the purest, and greatest amongst you, should not, I thought, be held by one person for so long a time. For four successive years your kindness has placed me in this position and covered me with the highest honors in your power to confer. I appreciate it, I assure you; I appreciate the kindness of your acts, the faithful encouragement I have received from you, the charity that has been shown me in my short comings; and last, but not least, the many evidences of the esteem and love in which my companions have held me; but we have arrived now at a point in our history in which, with faithful workers in the Crypt, there can be no failure, and I therefore must in-

sist, kindly, but positively, upon your selection of some other of your companions to fill this position. I shall return to you at this Assembly the official robes you have placed upon me unsullied, and this beautiful jewel untarnished by thought, word, or act of mine. And now, again assuring you of the deep abiding interest I have in Cryptic Masonry, and that I will ever labor for its advancement in the private character to which I now turn my footsteps, and that I will never shrink the performance of any duty you may choose to impose upon me in that more humble position, and thanking you, one and all, for your patience, kindness and forbearance, for the honors you have so generously bestowed upon me, let us turn to the labors of the hour, and to the labors of life, remembering that this life is only preparatory for a life to come, that we are placed here to do the will of the Supreme Grand Master, who, when our work is complete, will spread before us in the Supreme Lodge above all the joys and glories of His eternal Sabbath. Let this be a powerful incentive to the performance of every duty. Time with us will soon be no more, and we shall be of those who were, but are not. To those who, faithful and true to the trusts reposed in them, depart this life with their stewardship approved ;

To die, is but to enter the realms of the blest,  
 Leaving the frail casket of the soul to decay ;  
 'Tis the call of the Warden, " from Labor to Rest,"  
 From the darkness of night to the brightness of day.

'Tis the wakening to Life, and a long, long release,  
 From the thralldom of earth, with its care, sin and pain.  
 The soul finds its repose, in the Mansions of peace,  
 'Tis " from labor to rest," for the heart, hand and brain.

Let our work be prepared for the Overseer's test,  
 As the night cometh on, when no work can be done ;  
 For the call of the Warden, " from labor to rest,"  
 Gives the crown to our brow that by faith we have won.

The door will re-open, and the unwelcomed guest,  
 Will call each of us thence, death's cold stream to pass o'er,  
 If our work be well done, at the Master's behest,  
 We'll " pass on " to the Temple, where death is no more.

There the portals of life will open before us,  
 And the noontide of bliss will eternally shine,  
 Our labors ended, Death no longer reigns o'er us ;  
 Seeking light upon earth, we receive light Divine.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY.

September 8th, 1880.

On motion, the Address was referred for sub-division and reference to Companions

RALPH E. PRIME,      A. B. KING,      JASON COLLIER.

The Grand Treasurer presented the following as his Annual

Report, which was, on motion, received and referred to the Finance Committee when appointed :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M.'S OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Grand Treasurer submits his Annual Report as follows :

Balance on hand, as per last Report.....	\$ 56.93
Receipts from the Grand Retorder.....	1,206.00
	<u>\$1,262.93</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrant 493 to Grand Master for expenses.....	\$ 24.50
“ 494 to Chairman of Committee on For. Cor.....	50.00
“ 495 to Grand Sentinel, for services.....	10.00
“ 496 Rent of Room and Safe.....	35.00
“ 497 Recorder's Salary and expenses.....	265.51
“ 498 Pay of Representatives.....	497.78
“ 499 Grand Lecturer, for expenses.....	25.00
“ 500 Printing Proceedings of 1879.....	210.75
	<u>\$1,118.54</u>
Balance in Treasury.....	\$144.39

The Grand Recorder presented the following as his Annual Report, which was, on motion, received, his action approved, and the report referred to the Finance Committee, when appointed.

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M.'S OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

The receipts of the Grand Council for the current year have been as follows :

During the Annual Assembly of 1879, as acknowledged in the printed Proceedings.....	\$1,204.50
For attaching seal to three certificates.....	1.50
Total.....	<u>\$1,206.00</u>

I have entered in the Grand Council Registry to the present date..... 3,124 names, among whom the following changes have occurred :

Suspended for non-payment of dues.....	587
Died.....	139
Dimitted.....	95
Expelled.....	1
	<u>822</u>

Leaving a registered membership in good standing of... 2,302 names.

The Grand Recorder takes it for granted that the Representatives here present have perused the printed Proceedings of our last Assembly, and having done so, naturally infers that you have observed therein the portrait of our Presiding Officer.

It will be remembered by some of you that at our Assembly of 1878, M. I. Comp. OSGOODBY was requested to furnish the Grand Recorder with his photograph, that it might be engraved and published in the proceedings of that year, but he very modestly refused to comply with the expressed wish of the Grand Council, upon the plea "that our funds might be used for better purposes."

Believing that it was the desire of the Grand Council that some fitting memento should be placed upon record, of their appreciation of the labors of the Most Illustrious Companion in behalf of Cryptic Masonry, I obtained, by strategy (for I do not like to say, by false representations), the wished for photograph, and unauthorized, had the plate engraved, and copies thereof published with our proceedings of last year.

If my action meets with your approval, then, although it may bring upon me the frowns of my superior officer, yet shall I be content.

Should it meet with your disapproval, I will then place myself upon the "Altar of Sacrifice" and there await your pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,  
*Grand Recorder.*

On motion, the reception of the Representatives of Sister Grand Councils was made the special order for 12 o'clock to day.

Rev. Companion CHARLES G. HUDSON, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented the following report of said Committee, which was, on motion, received, and ordered printed in our proceedings :

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE MOST PUSSANT GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER  
MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

COMPANIONS :

Again the changing seasons have finished their appointed cycle. The welcome call of the silver trumpet enters our ears, and, gathering from far and near, we assemble in the S. V. to bring up our work. Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, with pleasure, once more present the result of their labors. In the hours of night, when prying eyes were closed in sleep, we have taken the hours that belonged to our rest to roam through the Cryptic World

and visit places known to the select few only. There we have found arches brightly beaming and filled with faithful workmen who received us with the sword in one hand and the trowel in the other.

What we found we now present, and if there be defects in our report, and we are painfully conscious that there are many, we offer as our excuse the many and imperative duties of an intensely busy life; a life full of responsibility and care.

Our list of Proceedings, which we have received, embraces the following Grand Councils :

ALABAMA.....	2879.
CALIFORNIA.....	2880.
CONNECTICUT.....	2880. ✓
ENGLAND AND WALES.....	—
FLORIDA.....	2879.
ILLINOIS.....	2879.
INDIANA.....	2879.
KANSAS.....	2879.
LOUISIANA.....	2880.
MAINE.....	2879.
MARYLAND.....	2879.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	2879.
MICHIGAN.....	2880.
MINNESOTA.....	2879.
MISSOURI.....	2878.
NEBRASKA.....	—
NEW BRUNSWICK.....	—
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	2880.
NEW JERSEY.....	2880.
NORTH CAROLINA.....	2878-9.
OHIO.....	2879.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	2880.
RHODE ISLAND.....	2876-80.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	2879-80.
TENNESSEE.....	2879.

We desire to return our thanks for the uniform courtesy and kindness shown us when we have written for copies of Proceedings and for information. Yet there are one or two G. R's. whom we might mention, who seldom vouchsafe any answer to our inquiries, and whose Proceedings generally fail to come to hand. The position of G. R. we regard as a very honorable and important one. Next to the G. M. he has a great influence upon the prosperity, business habits and promptness of the Companions. The great majority of these Grand Recorders do their work very well, but it would be a benefit to the Rite if two or three of them were replaced by live men.

This year the Proceedings are more uniform in excellence of appearance and

arrangement. Some of them are most beautiful pieces of work, and do great credit to their editors. There is less gingerbread ornamentation about some, and less of gaudy color, but there is more of neatness, and the proof of some has been more carefully read.

Of the majority of the Proceedings we do not see how any one can complain that they are uninteresting, or that they contain nothing of importance. There are a few such, we acknowledge, with no Annual Address and no Correspondence. But the greater part are full of the all-absorbing questions of the Cryptic Rite, and the Addresses and Correspondence are valuable contributions to Masonic Literature. Since the beginning of the agitation of the so-called "Mississippi plan," the history of the Cryptic Rite has been carefully and thoroughly studied and published, so that there can no longer be any excuse for any further ignorance as to the history of the degrees, their origin, and their introduction into the various States. Many erroneous and sophistical statements have been forever refuted, and, it seems to us, the future of the Rite has been put on a firm basis.

The great question of the hour has been that of surrender of Cryptic Masonry to the jurisdiction of the Chapter. While some of the Grand Councils have dissolved most needlessly and dishonorably, as we think, and our number is less and the grand total of membership has decreased, yet the great majority have taken a most firm and decided stand against that proposition, and have protested against it most solemnly. Great honor is due to the action of the Grand Councils. The hour has raised up some remarkable men, who are a credit to the Rite, and who have rendered its future secure. We have endeavored to give all the intelligence we could, and the latest on this question, and we have made our quotations full in order that you all might be familiar with the many and unanswerable arguments against this heresy. And it is with great pleasure that we assure you that we think this evil has run its full course.

We trust, Companions, that you will all carefully read this report, and especially the quotations we have made, and we urge you to have the Proceedings read in your Councils, and cause the individual Companions to read them. In this way you will secure the spread of intelligence among the rank and file of the Rite, and cause a proper appreciation of these great questions. For the only way such propositions succeed is on account of the ignorance of Companions upon these points. They are unable to detect the fallacy of the reasons urged; and hence they blindly acquiesce in the pet theory of some Masonic charlatan. The more we can spread Masonic light and information, the greater will be the stability of our institution, our landmark will be unchanged, and this itch for constant tinkering and change will be forever stamped out.

But without further remark we begin our report :

ALABAMA—2879.

Alabama always is on hand, and makes a good beginning every time. She

is growing to a good age, and is in the prime of years and usefulness. The Annual Assembly of 2879 was the forty-second, and was held as usual in Montgomery. The G. . M. ., JAMES MILTON, was absent, and WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH, presided. The number of Councils represented was five.

The Address was brief, but what there is of it is excellent, and must be quoted :

" We must not despair. There was a time when there was no Masonry outside of England, and very little outside of London. Now it encircles the globe, and in every country Masonry may be found. In our own beloved State, after the great Morgan excitement, when a few brave and determined brethren were again anxious to renew the annual meetings, only the representatives of six Lodges, out of the many that had theretofore existed, and a few other brethren, could be gathered together ; and they were obliged to come to the conclusion that Masonry in this State had lapsed—that is had fallen in—and that the Grand Lodge had ceased to exist. But these brethren did not despair. They went to work to build up what had fallen down. And, now, on every hill-top in the State, and all along her beautiful valleys, Masonry has set up her altars; and that God, in whom we are taught to put our trust, is smiling upon our efforts. In fact, of all men, Masons should be the last to despair, because their trust being in God, they know that it is in a Being who never deserts those who make themselves worthy of His care and guidance.

" The example of Mississippi in disbanding all her Councils, has had a very pernicious effect upon the Rite in other States, and it will, doubtless, take some time to recover from it. But we shall recover and again renew our strength. In turning the degrees over to the Chapters they would be made side degrees, which may for a time be cultivated, but, like all other side degrees, they will eventually fall into desuetude, and finally be lost. Now, Companions, I beseech you not to fall into that error. If we are small and weak at present, let us look forward to the coming time when we shall be large and powerful. It is the courageous man—the persistent, the determined—that finally conquers ; not the despairing and the timid. I beseech you, therefore, Companions, if you value these beautiful degrees, never entertain the thought of handing them over to the Chapters. The Chapters already have as many degrees as they can conveniently manage. To give them two more would be to load them down.

" There is another consideration ; if our Royal Arch Companions had cared for these degrees, those of them I mean who have not heretofore cultivated them, they would now be in possession of them, and be members of regularly organized Councils ; but if they are not in possession of them, it is because they do not care for them. Therefore to turn the degrees over to them would be turning them over to those who do not value them, who do not care for them, who who would not cultivate them, and would almost certainly allow them to die out."

The report of the G. . T. . showed a total of \$242.00, and a balance of \$87.00.

A resolution to turn the degrees over to the Chapters was promptly laid on the table, which puts an end forever, we trust, to this pestilential heresy in Alabama. " Here we rest," say our Companions in Alabama, and may nothing ever move them.

It was ordered that all delinquent or lapsed Councils might be reorganized, and be fully reinstated, if they should proceed to elect officers, and begin work at any time until December, 2880.

Jewels were ordered to be purchased for the Grand Council. The dues to the Grand Council were made fifty cents for each member instead of seventy-five cents.

The appendix contains the Report on Foreign Correspondence, which is again made by our beloved Companion, DANIEL SAYRE, G. . R. ., and needs no commendation from us.

Companion SAYRE is always on time, and always presents something of value to the craft, and worthy of quotation. Under Connecticut he says :

" There are several ways of killing a Masonic body. And one of the most effectual is to be constantly reporting it is dying. That was the plan resorted to in Mississippi. It has been tried with more or less success in other States. But *we* still survive. A small number of Companions in Alabama are still faithful to their trusts ; and if they will only hold out to the end, we may still see our beautiful Rite emerge into the full splendor of a new day."

It is told of the Sandwich Islanders, we believe, that they often entertain the idea that they are going to die. When once they so think they slowly but surely pine away, with no apparent disease, and, in spite of persuasion, medicine, or assurance, they soon die. So it seems with some of our Grand Councils. They think they are going to die, and they do die. And, if they see some one having a funeral over the way, nothing will content them but to immediately cut their own throats so they may have a funeral also. We don't intend to die and we won't die. Funerals are not the order of the day in our jurisdiction.

Companion SAYRE likes old fogeysism as found in Maine, as witness the following :

"There is a good deal of old fogeysism in Maine after all. Grand Master FESSENDEN seems to have an idea that if you want to make anything prosper, you must go to work and give it a lift, and see to it that others do the same thing. In consequence of this antiquated notion of his, he does not glue the seat of his breeches to a chair, and wait for something to turn up; but he goes to work with might and main, and turns up something. And it grieves us to say that there appears to be a few others of the same sort down there. We do not know what kind of an excuse they have to give for persisting in this old-fashioned way of doing things; but, possibly, they don't know any better.

"And there is DRUMMOND, too. He is just as old fogeysish and antiquated as any of them."

We take great pleasure in transcribing the following under the review of New York, for it is well deserved:

"Companion OSGOODBY is the right man in the right place. It has been said by some one, that an army of sheep led by a lion, would accomplish more than an army of lions led by a sheep. And so it is in all the affairs of life. The man who does not believe it can be done, never does it. A competent general at the head of the most indifferent army, will accomplish more than the best army in the world led by an incompetent general. It is natural. The leader always infuses his own spirit into those whom he leads. We could prove this by illustrious examples in our own ranks, but we desire to say nothing that is unkind of those who are not present to speak for themselves. But suppose you put at the head of a Masonic body one who does not know the work, can he teach it to others? Or one whose heart is not in it, or who is indifferent, or who takes no pleasure, no interest in the success of the body that he is elected to preside over, is that body going to prosper? Clearly not. It is impossible.

"Now, this is the gist of our argument. If you want Cryptic Masonry to succeed, you must put at the head of it one who believes it can succeed, who believes that it ought to succeed, and who is determined to make it succeed. Otherwise you will be like the man who hid his talent in a napkin; he didn't believe that he could make anything by speculating and he didn't.

"It is a little singular how one bad example will extend its infection. The Grand Council of Iowa had existed for twenty-one years, that of Illinois for twenty-five years, that of Kentucky for fifty-one years, that of North Carolina for fifty-six years, and yet in a moment of hallucination they follow the bad example of Mississippi, which had existed for twenty-one years. But they are gone, and we can only shed a tear over their unnecessary departure."

If these defunct Grand Councils had been blessed with Grand Masters like our own, they would be vigorously at work to-day. Time and again have we urged upon all Companions to select the right men, and when they had found them, to keep them in the East. The Annual Address gives the tone to the proceedings. If they are pitched in the minor key, the whole body is funereal, and their song is amalgamation. But if they are pitched in the major key of hope, perseverance, work, and a steadfast determination to hold fast and preserve our Rite, and frown down all innovation, then the Companions return to their labors with re-doubled assiduity.

We think there is something in the following under Pennsylvania :

"It is evident, we think, that the dereliction of half a score of Grand Councils, which have recently surrendered themselves to the Chapters, is going to have a good effect. The history of the degrees, their derivation, and their place in the series of Masonic degrees, is being inquired

"into and examined, and they are becoming better understood, and more justly appreciated. "Cryptic Masonry is not going to die out. The Mississippi plan, or rather, Companion WALTER'S, (for it was his), will eventually be a failure; and in the near future Council Masonry will be "more highly esteemed than ever."

At the risk of making our review of Alabama too long, we must quote Companion SAYRE'S conclusion. After speaking of the lamented CORSON, he says :

"And thus we close our report with the solemn thought of Death. It is not the best frame of mind in which to bring this brief review to a conclusion, but it is natural. We have been talking about the demise of so many Grand Councils, and also of a number of dearly beloved Companions, that we feel peculiarly solemn in the presence of the many who are still living, and who may, perchance, peruse these brief pages. And, after all, why not? The young may die, the old must. And when we come to stand on the shore of that dark river, beneath whose waves we must all sink, may it be with a consciousness that we have *endeavored* to discharge our duty to the Craft!

"From the first we have never been in favor of amalgamating with the Chapter. We think it would be the destruction of the Cryptic Degrees. And we are in favor of preserving them. We think they are worth preserving. The Masonic Circle is incomplete without them. The sublime lessons they teach are found no where else in Masonry. But for those who differ from us in our estimate, we have no unkind feelings. They have a right to their opinions, as we have to ours, and we bid them go forth into the wide world of Masonry in their own way.

"There is another consideration in Masonry which is entitled to the greatest weight, and that is—STABILITY. When we come to shifting, and changing, and new arranging, there is no stopping place. If we of the present generation cannot agree as to the position of the several degrees, how can we expect that those who come after us will agree? Will they not have as much right to new-arrange as we have? Now, do not let us set our successors so bad an example.

"But if any think the Cryptic Degrees not worth cultivating, there is certainly no compulsion. We would not force them.

"Let us then stand by the old Landmarks, and especially that one which enjoins upon us the duty of obediently submitting to the advice of a majority of our Companions."

The statistics we repeat from those of last year :

Subordinate Councils.....	8
Estimated Membership.....	200
Died.....	7

WILLIAM D. WADSWORTH, Montgomery, G. M. .

DANIEL SAYRE, Montgomery, G. R. .

#### CALIFORNIA—2880.

For a number of years we have heard nothing directly from this jurisdiction. Once in a while we have seen in various reports that it still existed, but, of late, there has been a rumor that it had amalgamated with the Grand Chapter. This year we have a circular which throws no light on this rumor, but leaves us under the impression that this Grand Council is still at work. We sincerely hope it may be so.

We quote the circular entire :

"SAN FRANCISCO, April 15th, 1880.  
"At the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of California, held at the Masonic Temple, San Francisco, April 15th, Anno Dep. 2880, the following Grand Officers were duly elected and installed :

"M. P. EDWARD R. HEDGES, Stockton, G. M.  
"R. P. JOHN W. ROCK, Sacramento, D. G. M.  
"R. P. DANIEL P. BYSTLE, Shasta, G. I. M.  
"R. P. GEORGE A. MCKENZIE, Stockton, G. P. C. W.  
"R. P. WM. W. TRAYLOR, San Francisco, G. T.  
"R. P. THOMAS H. CASWELL, San Francisco, G. R. &c.

"THOMAS H. CASWELL,  
"Grand Recorder."

There are no statistics, and it is so long since we have had any data, that it would be useless to make any estimate. We hope to hear from California again, and that too before five or six years pass. Our Companions have locked their S. V. V. so closely, that we knew not whether they were all asleep like A. . ., or were dead. We wish them all success. The land that boasts so much of its natural glories, and exhibits such marvelous specimens of man's cultivation, that land ought to show some beautiful pieces of work, some flourishing and zealous Councils.

Since writing the above we have come across Companion COOLEY's report in the proceedings of Minnesota, and we add his review of California:

"We receive tidings from this jurisdiction by way of Grand Chapter Proceedings for 1878. The Grand Council and Grand Chapter have had their courtship, popped the question, confessed their love, asked consent, and are now impatiently awaiting for an answer from the General Grand Chapter to agree to their nuptials. If yea, the gordian knot will soon be tied. If nay, they will be obliged to return back to their first love. They are not so bold and dis-loyal as some of the others. They won't clope. They want to, but they won't—  
 "If Mother says they musn't."  
 "The Grand Chapter, very prudently and consistently, deferred action upon the matter until action had been taken by the General Grand Chapter."

#### CONNECTICUT—2880.

At a very late hour we were gratified by receiving the Proceedings of Connecticut, which we always prize highly. We are much indebted to G. . R. . Wheeler for his courtesy in forwarding us a copy directly.

These Proceedings are well printed, with a beautiful cover; and are well arranged. They make us realize that the Grand Council of Connecticut is reaching a venerable age, having held sixty-two Annual Assemblies.

This year they assembled as usual in Hartford, May 10th, ABRAM HEATON, G. . M. ., presided, and 19 Councils were represented.

The Annual Address is short, and relates mainly to domestic matters. Of the future of Cryptic Masonry he thinks:

"My own impressions are that Cryptic Masonry has arrived at a critical period in its existence, with the chances for its continued independence about equal, the General Grand Chapter holding the balance of power, and any action taken at their next Triennial Convocation will probably turn the scale one way or the other. On the one hand are the large number of Grand Councils which still adhere to the ancient landmarks and traditions, aided, as they doubtless will be, by the renewed interest and increased work consequent upon the return of national prosperity, and on the other hand, the force of example, *always* a powerful factor, especially if aided by any recognition from the General Grand Chapter."

With reference to Connecticut he speaks hopefully:

"So far as relates to our own jurisdiction, while there has been no material increase of work, all of the old ground has been maintained, as in the past, with a full number of skilled and zealous workmen, and as the effects of the better times are already apparent in our Lodges and Chapters, they must sooner or later be felt in our Councils, thereby affording us the hope of better things in the near future."

The other Grand Officers submitted their usual reports of their official visitations; a thing in the economy of Connecticut which we have ever looked upon with especial commendation.

Companion WILLIAM WALLACE LEE again presented the report on Correspondence. Companion LEE was briefer than usual this year, but as sensible and sharp as ever. He did not review each Grand Council at length, but summed up the general condition of the Rite, and devoted a few words to each jurisdiction. Of New York he says :

"The Proceedings of New York come to hand, as usual, gotten up in good shape, and are further ornamented with a good likeness of the man that *nearly every body looks up to*. They hold on well (OSGOODBY has great ability in the holding on line,) and they say they will keep doing so. There are no tables to indicate the number of live Councils on membership."

In his conclusion he thinks we ought not to be too severe in our characterization of the merger fellows, and we should have calm, friendly discussion and cool deliberation. He dislikes the necessity for so many dispensations, and thinks we curtail the authority of the master too much by legislation, and that there is too much prohibition.

The final remarks we give in full :

"You, who have known me these many years, know that I am not so much a stickler for forms and ceremonies as for the essentials of Masonry. I think the law is made for the Institution, not the Institution for the law : that the life is more than meat and the body than raiment ; that Masonry exists for men, not men for Masonry. So believing in these reports which I have hitherto presented, I have aimed to keep prominent the idea that our methods of life were of more importance than our legislation, even though our legislation should be the result of the most herculean labors of all the Solons and Blackstones in the Masonic institution. I firmly believe that it is the internal rather than the external qualifications we possess that render us worthy to be Masons. As a Mason, I had rather be associated with a one-armed or one-legged Mason, or one blind in both eyes, than with one graceful in form as an Apollo who is bloated by intoxicants and foul with moral rottenness. In my Masonic reading (and it has been somewhat extended,) I have often read decisions by Grand Masters that a man blind of one eye, or who has lost a finger, could not be made a Mason, but I have never yet read a decision by a Grand Master that a gambler, a licentious man, or an habitual user of intoxicants could not be made a Mason. But you ask what has this to do with the interests of Cryptic Masonry ? The outside world, knowing little or nothing of our various grades, judge of Masonry as a whole, and our institution by the lives of its members ; and rightly too. They know as little about the inside of Masonry as they do of the coiling serpent found in the Aztec ruins, and care even less. Whatever changes may be found necessary for the good of Masonry will eventually be adopted, no matter how stoutly stupid conservatism may protest. No institution can live without change ; to stand still is impossible. Let us see to it that these changes shall, by wise methods, redound to the good of our time-honored fraternity."

Yes, but who shall judge whether these changes are for the good of Masonry ? That is always the plea of every one who wants to tinker Masonry. They want to improve, and they all think it would be better for our beloved fraternity. We have heard Companion LEE talk well in condemnation of many changes which have already been made, and we agreed with him, and we think much that has been done were better undone. But we protest against any more changes. They are the bane of Masonry. Its only safety is to preserve the ancient landmarks. This constant innovation will soon make it impossible for the craftsman to travel in foreign jurisdictions.

The report of the Auditing Committee showed a total of \$229.81, and a balance of \$67.73. A tax of two cents a member was ordered.

A resolution was passed which shows a lurking desire in Connecticut to adopt the Mississippi plan. The resolution says they favor a union of Capitular and Cryptic Masonry under one organization, provided it could be effected in all, or nearly all of the jurisdictions in this country and a substantial uniformity be secured, but not until such results can be made apparent.

We think from the present indications such results will be apparent when the sun rises in the West.

Subordinate Councils.....	21
Received.....	65
Died.....	18
Membership.....	2,201

JOHN O. ROWLAND, Fair Haven, G. M. :

JOSEPH K. WHEELER, Hartford, G. R. :

#### ENGLAND AND WALES.

This year we are again indebted to Companion COOLEY, of Minnesota, for news of this jurisdiction. He says :

" We have tidings this year from this Grand Council by way of letter from Companion FREDERICK BINKES, Grand Recorder.  
 " He reports that Cryptic Masonry has not as yet made very much progress in England, but of late it has commanded more attention. At present there are only eight Councils, four in London, one in Bristol, one in Havant, one in Bolton, and one in York, the most prosperous of which is Grand Master's Council No. 1, held in London, which has a membership of about seventy. They have some good workers, and the ceremony of conferring the degrees is very much appreciated by those who take them. No Proceedings have as yet been published.  
 " Companion FREDERICK BINKES, of 2nd Red Lion Square, London, W. C., is Grand Recorder."

#### FLORIDA—2879.

The Proceedings of Florida were too late for us to review last year as their Annual Assembly comes such a little time before our own. The pamphlet is a beautiful one, and displays good taste, and bears the mark of Pensacola. We always expect to sit down to something worth reading when we take up the Proceedings of Florida.

The Tenth Assembly convened in Pensacola, June 4, 2879, M. I. : GEORGE S. HALLMARK presiding, and two Councils being represented. A quorum not being present this day, nor the next, the Grand Council was called off to convene at the order of the G. M. : . By his order it assembled on the 21st of the same month.

Various representatives of other Grand Councils near that of Florida were received. The Annual Address was brief. It says most truly :

" The fundamental principles which underlie our order are the teachings of experience in the dark ages of the past, and will continue to live while man lives and society continues as it is.  
 " Mankind has found that organizations are necessary for the promotion of moral and religious teachings; for the promotion of charity and love; for the care of the sick, the widow and the orphan; in fact, to look after and care for those who, under other circumstances, could not help themselves, and who would surely suffer, and, my Companions, an organization founded on these ever-living truths must prevail."

We sincerely regret to learn that the silent footed messenger has visited the S. V. : in the land of flowers, and with his chilling breath extinguished three bright lights.

The address pays fitting eulogy to the memory of D.:G.:M.: C. M. PIERCE, P.:G.:C.: of C.:L. C. KIRKPATRICK, and P.:G.:M.: WILLIAM MORRILL, who have left the land of the dying, and entered the land of the living.

Again we quote:

"Coming together, Companions, pledged to all that is good, pure and noble among men, let us perform our duties to the best of our ability, never forgetting that the all-seeing eye of God is upon us, scanning the innermost secrets of our hearts, and weighing well the motives which prompt and control our actions. And, my Companions, our duties close not when we leave the lodge-room; they go with us to our homes, and with us out into the world, into our everyday life, to teach men that in Masonry is love and charity, and that we are in the higher and broader sense truly our brother's keeper."

We are always glad when we read such words from the East. We would we could hear more of morality, love, charity and uprightness, and less of propositions of change, and presentation of ill-considered amalgamations. If every Companion's life were a daily exhibition of the Masonic virtues, an exhibition of deeds which speaks louder than words, our Rite would be appreciated and sought of all men. We are all coming to a solemn hour. When the Master of the vineyard shall say to the steward: "Call the laborers, and pay them their wages"—when we shall approach that door, we shall have many a serious thought, and look back over these days.

May then these opportunities and these solemn teachings of the Craft be our friends, and not our accusers. May they not appear against us, telling of lessons forgotten, teachings not practiced, opportunities wasted, and talents prostituted, but, rather, may we each receive the proud title of a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

Companion CARLOVITZ, G.:R.:, makes a full report. For the benefit of the future historian, we make the following extract from a letter from Companion Albert G. MACKEY, relating to the introduction of Cryptic Masonry into Florida. He writes:

"It was in 1852 that I organized a Council in Lake City, of which my nephew, the late EDWARD R. IVES, was the T.:I.:G.:M.: In the next year I organized a Council at Tallahassee. Governors BROWN and DUVAL and Br. Heywood are the only names that I now remember among the leading members. I think, but am not sure, that Gov. Brown was the first T.:I.:G.:M.: A month afterwards I organized a Council at Jacksonville, of which I only remember Judge Douglass and a Mr. Barrett as leading members.

"The Councils were organized by me under the authority I possessed as an Inspector-General of the 33d degree, and member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. I am sorry I can give you no more information on this subject.

"The bodies we legally formed, and their organization of a Grand Council afterwards was constitutional. In fact, I formed the three Councils for that purpose, although I had nothing to do with the subsequent formation of a Grand Council.

"Fraternally yours,

"(Signed)

A. G. MACKEY."

The financial report showed a total of \$138.00.

A new constitution and new by-laws were adopted. Resolutions were adopted in reference to the death of Companion CONSON, and a memorial page was set apart for him in connection with the other deceased companions.

In the appendix the Report on Correspondence is again from the pen of Companion JOHN CARLOVITZ, which fact of itself assures us that it is an excellent production, and well worthy of perusal. We count Companion CARLOVITZ as

one of the brightest lights of the reportorial galaxy. He reviews twenty-one Grand Councils, including our own, for 1878. He enters very fully into the question of the origin of the Cryptic Degrees, and makes an exhaustive and most conclusive argument against the Mississippi heresy. We would be glad to quote the whole, but, as we have already gone over the same ground in previous reports, we must forbear, and content ourselves with a few extracts. He thinks:

"From the appearance of the literary matter of these nineteen jurisdictions before us, by the way a pretty safe criterion as to their health and stability, and by information gained through correspondence, it is safe to assert that the now existing twenty-two Grand Councils are in a healthy state, with no visible sign that this number will in future diminish."

We fully endorse the following :

"As Royal Arch Masons, we deny that the General Grand Chapter, or any other inferior Royal Arch authority, has, under the power derived from its constituency, any right or constitutional power to invent a new degree, or to borrow from any other Rite or Jurisdiction an existing degree and make it a component part of Royal Arch Masonry; and we hold that any such action would be utterly void for such want of power; and that no Royal Arch Mason would be bound by his obligation or otherwise, to pay the least regard or attention to any such legislation; but, on the contrary, be imperatively bound by his allegiance to Masonic law, to set it at naught.

"And, as members of Masonry in general, we declare that the whole constituency of the General Grand Chapter—the whole Royal Arch Fraternity—have no right or power to despoil another long established Jurisdiction of degrees that belong to it; and that no such action would be binding on any Mason in the world; that such an attempt would be peculiarly dangerous to Royal Arch Masonry itself, inasmuch as its own existence as a separate Jurisdiction dates only from 1798, and it depends upon the same law of prescription that protects its sister Jurisdictions. Time, which has made the mark and most Excellent Master, and even the Royal Arch, *regular* degrees, from side or auxiliary degrees, or modifications of such, which they were originally, has done the same service for the Royal and Select Master. The same Great Physician that has cured the original illegality of the Royal Arch organization, and King of *successful* revolt, revolution, and independence, has done the same thing for the Councils and Grand Councils.

"Whatever may be the action of one or all of the Grand Chapters, or of the General Grand Chapter itself, all regular Council Masons, and we among the number, will ever regard those who receive the degrees of Royal and Select Master in a Chapter as clandestine, until they are healed. We shall never be present when those degrees are conferred in a Chapter; and, in all respects, all Council Masons will, under all circumstances, and at all hazards, preserve their allegiance to the Grand or Supreme Council to which it of right belongs."

Of late the muse has not descended upon any of the Reporters in the S. V. , but she has not deserted us; again she has entered the human breast, again a companion labors under the heavy load of her afflatus, and his name is CARLOVITZ. Hear him and applaud to the echo :

"Who says that Cryptic Rite is on the wane,  
 "While COOLEY is in Sota ?  
 "Brave UTLEY too, works like a man,  
 "With scissors and quill his quota !  
 "And DADMUN, *ergo*, is a brick,  
 "With his sarcastic thunder,  
 "While WALLACE wields his mighty stick,  
 "And roars, 'don't split asunder !'  
 "Gentle AUSTIN, from Indiana fair,  
 "He, too, is quite a lion,  
 "While CUNNINGHAM, *parole d'honneur*,  
 "Don't favor to graft the scion.  
 "Illustrious HUDSON, of learned fame,  
 "And OSGOODBY, the valiant,  
 "Are staunch supporters of our name,  
 "And preach—'Reform, miscreants !'  
 "DRUMMOND, of Maine, with wisdom fraught  
 "From high Olymph he thunders,

" You must not try to set at naught  
 " What has been found *profundo!*  
 " With all these lions of Cryptic fame,  
 " And many more to back them,  
 " Who says that Cryptic Rite is 'on the wane,'  
 " Step forth, and we will lick them!  
 " We'll lick them, not with club or bat  
 " With sword or pistol fashion;  
 " With words we'll enter the combat,  
 " To give them a sound thrashin'."

We wish we had more such proceedings as we get from Florida. In that Jurisdiction the zeal of a few Companions keeps the Grand Council alive, and makes the Assemblies full of interest. They are a constant rebuke to some Grand Officers; whom we know: If in every State there was the same earnestness and sacrifice, we should never hear of discouragement or a languid condition. May the Grand Council of Florida live long and increase, and may these good Companions be spared for many a year, and receive the reward they so richly merit. Here is our hand.

The statistics show as follows:

Councils.....	3
Members.....	73
Died....	2
Degrees Conferred.....	4

GEORGE S. HALLMARK, Warrington, G. M.  
 JOHN CARLOVITZ, Milton, G. R.

#### ILLINOIS—2879.

In Illinois we still behold the same curious spectacle of a Grand Council that has merged into the Grand Chapter, surrendered its control of the degrees, the two years having past in which the degrees were to be adopted by the Chapter, and yet that Grand Council assembles, elects officers who are not the officers of the Grand Chapter, publishes its proceedings, and goes through all the motions of the Grand Council. Neither dead nor alive, neither flesh nor fish, it presents one of the most curious anomalies ever seen in Masonry. It is too deep for us. We can't see through it. In the other States, where the separate existence of the Council has been surrendered, all separate action and assembly have been abandoned, and we hear nothing more from them. But in Illinois, one would really suppose there was yet a Grand Council. For your information we will report what we find in the Proceedings.

These are published in the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter. We find that the G. H. P. decides that a Chapter has no right to confer the Royal and Select Masters Degrees upon a non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason. He makes no further reference to these degrees. In the Report on Foreign Correspondence the Companion who writes it defends the action of the Chapter, and says they have not incorporated the degrees in the Chapter, but have assumed only control of them. But we shall be very much mistaken, if the companions in Illinois do not find themselves involved in an inextricable dilemma

whence they will not know how to escape. Perplexing questions and embarrassments will arise, which will tax to the utmost all the wisdom to be found in Illinois.

But to proceed. The Council part of the pamphlet informs us that the Grand Council assembled in Chicago, October 29, 2879, the day before the convocation of the Grand Chapter. PHILANDER W. BARCLAY, G. : M. : , presided, and a constitutional number of Councils were represented.

The figure-head, that is the G. : M. : , went through the idle ceremony of reading an Annual Address, which was not printed, to the great loss of the Craft, no doubt ; for we might have received some light on the conundrum of how a Grand Council can be dead and yet alive. The next thing was to elect officers, and JOHN O'NEILL, of Chicago, was chosen G. : M. : . A committee was appointed on obituaries, but, as their report is not printed, we cannot tell whether they presented a memoir of the Grand Council, or not. The G. : R. : , in a brief report, observed that his duties had been few and easily performed, which we do not doubt. The thanks of the Council were returned to the retiring G. : M. : for his able and efficient services during the past year, which was a rare piece of sarcasm ; for we doubt if he could tell what he had done. The Committee on Consolidation was continued. An "eloquent debate" was had on the condition of the order, after which the Council adjourned until October 27, 2880. *Vox et praeterea nihil.*

#### INDIANA—2879.

In pleasing contrast to Illinois, we take up next the Proceedings of Indiana, which are always of interest, where we find Companions always busily at work, and able to take care of themselves. We may sometimes have differed from them a little in the past, but we gladly pay them the honor of being sturdy defenders of the Cryptic Rite, and of being "workmen that need not be ashamed."

For the twenty-fourth time this Grand Council assembled in Indianapolis, on Oct. 24, 2879. In the East, D. : I. : G. : M. : WALTER R. GODFREY, in the absence of G. : M. : ALBERT P. CHARLES, detained by sickness of his family, presided, and opened the Grand Council in ample form, assisted by the representatives of thirty-three out of forty-five Councils under charter, and by a large number of visiting Companions.

P. : G. : M. : MARTIN H. RICE read the address of Companion CHARLES, in which he gave a faithful and clear account of his labors. In speaking of the delinquent Councils, he truly observes :

"Royal and Select Masonry will flourish better, and accomplish the end aimed at in its teachings much sooner, with twenty active, vigorous Councils, enthused with the spirit of its rituals, than by one hundred subordinates dragging out an enfeebled existence."

There had been no troubles, and peace, équanimity and good will prevailed throughout the entire jurisdiction. We greatly lament the announcement that

our venerable Companion Rev. JOHN LEECH, had departed this life October 10th, 2879. Several years he served as Grand Chaplain, and ten years ago he was elected an honorary member of the Grand Council "in consideration of his "fidelity, truthfulness and usefulness to our beloved Order."

On the question of surrender G. . M. . CHARLES, like all his predecessors, speaks with no uncertain voice. He says:

"The future of Cryptic Masonry is now attracting the attention of Royal and Select Masters. Nine Grand Councils have either surrendered up their organization and transferred the degrees to Chapters, or have taken the steps preliminary to such a consummation. Upon what legal principle such transfer is based I do not understand. The General Grand Chapter of the United States has defined what degrees shall be comprised in the Capitular system, and, as the Royal and Select degrees are not embraced therein, I fail to see what right Chapters subordinate to that body have to assume jurisdiction over Cryptic Masonry; the law is, assuredly, not with them.

"Capitular Masonry already embraces degrees enough; loaded down with the degrees now conferred in the Council they will sink to the level of side degrees and gradually drop out of existence, and the beautiful lessons and impressive truths taught by our rituals be lost. What ever may now be said of its origin and early dissemination, I believe that Cryptic Masonry should exist as an independent organization; that Grand Councils should maintain their integrity. The attempt to make the Council degrees pre-requisite to those of the commandery has been fraught with injury to them. Let us wake up to the fact that we must depend upon our own resources; let us buckle down to our work, and develop the powers that are latent in us; let us realize the truth of the homely but expressive adage that 'every tub should stand upon its own bottom,' and Cryptic Masonry will long retain the position in the Masonic system so justly due to the lessons it inculcates."

The report of the G. . T. . shows a total of \$1,401.82, and expenditures \$938.69, leaving a balance on hand of \$463.82.

After various items of business the election was held. A resolution to consolidate with the Grand Chapter was presented, but was not adopted. We trust that will be the end of such attempts in Indiana. We should have been greatly disappointed if Indiana had taken any different action. We have no idea this project will ever be revived in the Hoosier State.

Four Councils being in arrears for dues for three years, were declared to have forfeited their charters. That is right; prune off the dead branches, and clean away the rubbish. We would rather have only three Councils like Florida, than a great roll of dead Councils. We admire in all the Masonic bodies of Indiana the promptness with which the laws are enforced, and the regard which is paid to the Constitution. It sometimes seems hard to enforce the laws, and looks severe, but it is profitable in the long run. It is just as easy to do anything right and in a business like and Masonic way, as it is to let it run along, and thereby practically teach the Companions that they can neglect the laws they have promised to obey. There are times when severity is a kindness, and leniency is a crime.

A resolution to change the time of the Annual Assembly, so that it should be immediately after the close of the Grand Lodge, was reported adversely by the Committee on Jurisprudence. And we are glad of that. Change is very well. We know we live in a progressive age, when novelty is the god of the crowd, and change is the greatest recommendation any measure can have. But change is foreign to the genius of Masonry. The restless spirit of the age is constantly cropping out among Masons, and too many Masons do not think they have discharged their duty to the Craft unless they have proposed some

alteration. Alteration is the greatest enemy Masonry has to encounter, and is a hydra-headed evil that is constantly springing up in some new form. Masonry must be conservative, or perish. It must be unaltered. We must hand it down to our successors the same as it was when we received it. The proposition to change the time of an Assembly is not so very important, but it is a straw showing the way the wind blows, and indicating the restless desire to tinker and improve that has done us so much damage. Like Hercules with the hydra, let us scorch every changeful neck which is thrust out, until the serpent writhes no more. Let us not, like Eve, listen to its subtlety, until our paradise is ruined.

The following communication from Minnesota was spread upon the record :

" I desire that you present to the Grand Council of Indiana, at its next assembly, the fraternal compliments of the Grand Council of Minnesota, and to assure that body of the continued co-operation of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota in the cause for which we have long been and are now laboring. Minnesota remains steadfast to her pledge to uphold and maintain the Cryptic Degrees, and congratulates herself upon being associated in such a work with the Grand Council of Indiana.

Fraternally yours,  
" GEORGE W. COOLEY,  
" Grand Master.

Companion WILLIAM W. AUSTIN occupies 32 pages with the Annual Cryptic Review. The Companions of Indiana are particularly fortunate in having Companion AUSTIN to enlighten them as to the condition of the Cryptic world. His report this year shows that his right hand still retains its accustomed cunning, and his brilliant mind its power. He especially devotes himself to the all-absorbing question of consolidation. He pays his respects to Illinois :

" After the action of 1877, (seeking admission to the great bosom) the holding of a regular annual session, and going through the whole programme, comes as near children playing house-keeping as any act we know of. We admire the instinct of that animal in South America which, in passing from tree to tree, never lets go of one limb until it has a strong grip of the other; but if a Grand Council is going to drop to the ground, drop and get credit for nerve. We are informed that after an eloquent debate upon the condition of the Order the session was closed to meet at Chicago, October 29, 1879. If the 'condition of the Order' admits of an eloquent debate, why not give the members of the Order some of the good arguments ?"

His eulogy of Iowa begins as follows :

" ' Sweet peace, conduct his sweet soul to the bosom of good old Abraham.'  
" In a neat pamphlet of forty-two pages, twenty-four devoted to business and eighteen to Foreign Correspondence, appears the last will of this Grand Council, which having flourished for twenty-two years like a green bay tree, and been looked upon as one of the leaders in Cryptic Masonry, now lays its weary body in the arms of its step-mother, vainly hoping to be lulled to sleep by the music of ' Come, ye disconsolate.' "

We heartily endorse his verdict upon the Address of G. M. PINCHARD, of Louisiana:

" This production (nine pages) is evidently from the pen of a working officer, and were all Grand Masters of like stamina, we would have had no blind grand leaders of the blind, guiding their Companions to the haven of perfect stagnation; Ahizars who would rather court balmy sleep than be on the watch. Grand Councils, with such sentinels as Louisiana, can never die."

He gives New York for 1878 a kind and appreciative review. He compli-

ments our Grand Master most deservedly, and we thank him for his words, which we now quote :

" The address of Companion GEORGE M. OSGOODBY is a business document from beginning to end. He has been aptly spoken of as—the very pillar of the Rite—not in his jurisdiction alone, but in the country. He gives a brilliant example of what a live Grand Master can do. Instead of sitting his twelve-month in the East, figuring despair and inactivity, he, like a master workman, by example and encouragement, caused the ring of the trowel to be heard among the arches. With the determination that no Masonic tombstones should dot his pathway while Grand Master, faithful to his obligations, he visited the failing Council, and, by his cheer, encouraged them to action. His remarks to those appointed to offices will suit many other meridians.

He then quotes from the Address and the Report on Foreign Correspondence. His remarks are only the just appreciation which is due to the untiring labors of our chief. In the same strain he compliments G. M. NICHOL, of Tennessee, in language which we quote because we desire to do all we can to raise the standard of qualification for our officers throughout the Rite, and to educate our Companions to be satisfied with nothing but diligence, faithfulness and earnest enthusiasm from those whom we select to fill the positions of responsibility. He says :

" We would recommend the reading of this address to those Grand Officials who have had the nerve to labor in bringing confusion and discord among the Arches, after having been elected by their Companions to be the stay and the defense in the hour of trial and danger.

" The Committee to whom the address was referred reported :

" His zeal and interest in this department of Masonry are worthy of much praise and commendation. At many points in this Grand Jurisdiction, where Cryptic Masonry has been sleeping, if not dying, we find he has infused new life and vigor.

" Compare this record of a Grand Master, who was surrounded by the terrors of a dread disease, wasting Councils, and an impoverished country, with that of him who, in the midst of health, prosperity, and Councils with overflowing treasuries, takes to his pride the record that he was the first who had the nerve to propose a union of the Cryptic and the Capitular Degrees."

We wish we had a voice to be heard in all the S. Vs. in the land, and that these lines might be read by every Companion who wields the trowel, that all might heed our oft repeated exhortations to use great care in the selection of officers. All the troubles and embarrassments of Cryptic masonry have sprung from the propositions of Grand Masters, who have forgotten their solemn obligations, taken in the presence of the Most High, to defend and preserve the Rite. In no case where the Grand Master has done his duty, and exhorted the Companions to hold fast, has the plague of consolidation been fatal, or even obtained a hold.

Companion AUSTIN closes with an " In Memoriam " list of the defunct Grand Councils, which bears the following motto :—

" Let us be laid within thy bosom,  
" And weigh thee down to ruin, shame and death."

His last sentence is that he has an abiding faith in the continuance of Cryptic Masonry. So have we. The Rite is as immortal as any other branch of Masonry. The Fraternity has encountered in the past every form of opposition. Hate, bigotry and intolerance have been leagued with ignorance, politics, Churches and despotism to overthrow Masonry, but in vain. Political parties have gone to the polls on the platform of opposition to Masonry ;

priestly power has fulminated its anathemas against it ; ignorance and bigotry have promulgated the foulest calumnies about it ; despotic power has tried its utmost to stamp it out ; but in spite of them all Masonry has lived and flourished, and against its bulwarks every rolling wave of attack has recoiled. For Masonry is founded upon the needs of humanity. Its principals are as old as the race, and as wide as mankind. When man vanishes from an uninhabitable earth, then will Masonry cease. So long as the human heart demands friendship, brotherly love and the helping hand, so long will the highest hills and the lowest valleys be populated by the brethren of the mystic tie.

Our dangers are from within. We are wounded in the house of our friends. Forgetfulness of our teachings ; greater attention to outward display than to the practical exemplification of our principles ; over haste to initiate many candidates, and hence too little attention to the internal qualifications of those who knock at our doors ; and, especially, innovation and change, are the evils that loom up like tempest-foboding clouds in our sky. And what is true of the whole fraternity is true of the Cryptic Rite. We are passing through a dark day, but the evil has come from within. The sheckels of silver, the wedge of gold, and the goodly Babylonish garment in the tent of Achan caused Israel a temporary defeat before Ai, but when Israel was purged, she was victorious. When the S. V. V. is purged it shall again flourish. The wave of inundation has reached its devastating limit, and the tide begins to retire. Consolidation, we trust, has done its worst. The remaining Grand Councils stand firm, and in the other jurisdictions we think the Companions will in a few years see their mistake, and regain their independence and reorganize their Grand Councils, and again pursue their labors.

Be not weary Companion AUSTIN, but let your pen ever do its best against the evil and heresy of seeking the Capitular bosom. We have good company, and the brightest minds, the most powerful intellects, and the best posted Masons agree with us, and exhort us to maintain our independence.

In the amendments we notice that a member, suspended, or expelled for the non-payment of dues, may be restored to the rights and privileges of a non-affiliated Mason by the payment of his dues, or by a majority vote of the members present ; but in no case can he be restored to membership without the unanimous vote of all the members present.

Hereafter the titles of the principal officers of the Grand Council are to be, Illustrious Grand Master, Deputy Illustrious Grand Master, and Illustrious Master. In the subordinates the titles are to be, Illustrious Master, and Deputy Illustrious Master. The annual dues were increased to seventy-five cents per member.

Subordinate Councils.....	45
Advanced.....	84
Membership.....	1,453
Died.....	15

WALTER R. GODFREY, Michigan City, G. M. :

JOHN M. BRAMWELL, Indianapolis, G. R. :

## KANSAS—2879.

The Grand Council of Kansas usually prints its proceedings once in three years. This year we have a circular only, from which we glean that the Annual Assembly convened at Leavenworth, Oct. 14-15, 2879. The business was local. There are no statistics, and the list of officers elected does not give the residence or Post-office address. The proceedings will be published after the Assembly of 2880.

A. D. McCONAUGHY, G. M.  
JOHN H. BROWN, Wyandotte, G. R.

## LOUISIANA—2880.

The Proceedings of Louisiana come dressed in white, beautifully printed and well appearing. They contain the annals for two years. In our last report we stated that the printed proceedings had not yet appeared, but we had received private information, and the Address of the G. M., and we quoted from it copiously.

We will then proceed at once to the twenty-fifth Assembly which was held in New Orleans, Feb. 12, 2880. G. M. GEORGE J. PINCKARD presided, and six Councils were represented.

The Annual Address this year, like that of last year, was a most excellent production, and has our hearty commendation. G. M. PINCKARD is an excellent Grand Officer, and his words are like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." We read them with the greatest pleasure, and shall favor you with as many of them as we can possibly make room for. After a devout opening, full of sincere thankfulness to the Great Giver, an earnest exhortation to reverence, and hearty service of our Father, he comes to the condition of Council Masonry. He says:

"Since my last address I have but little to communicate to you in reference to the state of Cryptic Masonry. The reports, however, which have reached me from the several jurisdictions, are of a much more encouraging nature than for several years past. A reaction appears to have taken place, and the swelling tide of *Anti-Cryptic Surf* which, developing in Mississippi, rolling through the Central States, and spreading towards the West, even to the confines of the Pacific, appears to have well nigh spent itself, and we are at length in a position to sum up the magnitude of hopes sustained, or yet to be sustained.

"It were of little avail again to go over the ground, and discuss the legality or illegality of the proceedings of those Grand Councils, who, at the first dawn of an hour of adversity, so abruptly abandoned their work. This theme has been so lucidly dwelt upon and clearly demonstrated by many of our most able and distinguished Cryptic writers, that further discussion of the matter would be superfluous. We may, however, easily understand from it that as in the past, even so in the present, if the hour of disaster should again present itself before the Institution at large, what numbers of its so-called members would abandon it, even in the very first throes of its anguish, in its Capitular and Symbolic as well as in its Cryptic form; what multitudes would go forth from its Orients, Assemblies and Councils! Perhaps it would be well if it were again submitted to the test.

"Several of the hesitating Councils appear to be anxiously awaiting the decision of the General Grand Chapter, in reference to the so-called Mississippi plan, at its next Triennial Convocation, expecting the General Grand Chapter will withdraw from its oft-repeated declaration, that it has no control over, and knows no other than the Mark, Past, Most Excellent, and Royal Arch degrees. What the General Grand Chapter may do in the premises is a matter of mere speculation. Unhappily, there are not wanting precedents where governing bodies have capriciously ignored, upon one occasion, what upon a previous occasion has been held as a

"dogma of faith and morals. The general belief is, however, the General Grand Chapter will reiterate its former views, and refuse to entertain any propositions looking to the control of the Cryptic degrees.

"These hesitating Councils, so timorous, yet so anxious to go to the bosom should have gone long ago. They are not of us; better they had gone on the roll of defunct Councils long since. But they hesitate, fearing lest they find no paternal power to watch over them and guard them from imaginary pending disasters.

"Those timorous Councils start and shrink  
 "To cross the narrow sea,  
 "And linger, trembling, on the brink,  
 "And fear to launch away."

"We confess to a liking of the more adventurous and bold. We feel more sympathy and have more admiration for the reckless adventurers, who, when they found compeers would accept them, launched boldly forth, in defiance of law, order, the comments of their peers in general, and of the General Grand Chapter in particular.

"Not only the reports which have reached me, but the communications from the several Grand Masters, who have favored me with inquiries respecting the ritual, others with inquiries of the status of disbanded Council Masons in this jurisdiction, and others, again, on what is termed the all-absorbing question—all, without exception, clearly denotes a much healthier tone than that prevailing some two years since, and in many jurisdictions the Rite has steadily advanced in point of numbers, even more so in proportion than other branches of the order."

The beauty and sublime trust of his conclusion we commend to all, and hope you will carefully peruse it:

"In conclusion, I would again reiterate what I have heretofore so often in full confidence expressed—a faith all-abiding as the eternal rocks in the future of the Rite. A blind faith, unsustained by reason, and shallow as a summer streamlet, it may appear to some; but I do not believe it—I do not believe a word of it. I feel as certain as that I exist, the lessons enunciated amid the arches of the Crypt are not to be blasted by the enemies, or uprooted by the friends of the Rite, or made for very long a thing of recreation by those who never knew or cared for them. It has been written, all is well—*that is*—and we may have needed the lesson—we may still need it, and still more and more need it. We may not as yet have touched bottom—but that its light shall be utterly extinguished, that it shall become a toy, a plaything, an appendage, a side light for the recreation of others, perpetually, is to me an absurdity. Let us wait patiently, even though we have to wait long. But longer or shorter, remember the lesson and the promise:—*There all-perfect wisdom shall be given us to understand the eternal purposes of the Divine Architect.*"

If all the Grand Councils had been ruled by such men as PINCKARD and OS-GOODBY and others, we would never have heard of the Mississippi plan, and the black death of consolidation would never have stricken down a Grand Council. Patience, faith and an endeavor would have raised the Cryptic branch of Masonry to a level with the rest in power and influence. Before the financial panic came upon us all with its paralyzing influence, the number of Council Masons were steadily increasing, and new Councils were springing up everywhere. We had almost passed through the panic, and were ascending the upward side of the valley of adversity, when these faint hearted Companions gave up, abandoned their labors, and surrendered their separate existence. Prosperity would have returned in a few years with ten-fold greater power, and the Rite would have recovered all it had lost; but now they have by their rash timidity inflicted a wound that it will take our life-time to heal. Nevertheless it will heal, and the labors of the S. V. will be continued, and the blast of the silver trumpet will usher in the dawn of a brighter day.

In scanning the proceedings of Louisiana we find the financial report to be a total of \$140.98, and a balance on hand of \$84.48. The Committee on the

Address reported in favor of not recognizing any who were members of the Councils which have disbanded, and their report was adopted. Companion PINCKARD was re-elected, an honor which he richly deserves. We regret that there was no Report on Foreign Correspondence. For several years this has been the case in Louisiana. They used to have excellent reports. Such men as Companions PINCKARD, HORNOR, LAMBERT, FELLOWS and TODD will understand the necessity of this Report, and how much it adds to the prosperity of the Grand Council, and what an influence it has upon the individual Companions. We exhort you Companion PINCKARD not to let another Assembly go by without a report. A man of your ready pen can prepare it himself, and you have able coadjutors fully competent for the task, and who, if funds be lacking for an appropriation, will do the work as a labor of love.

We shall open the next Proceedings of Louisiana in full hope of reading an excellent Report.

Subordinate Councils.....	8
Membership.....	299
Degrees Conferred.....	15
Died.....	4

GEO. J. PINCKARD, New Orleans, G. M. :

RICHARD LAMBERT, Drawer 872, New Orleans, G. R. :

#### MAINE—2879.

Again we are under obligations to Companion DRUMMOND for the Proceedings of this Grand Council. We always are obliged to write to him to get them, and, although he assures us that the G. R. regularly mails three copies to New York, they always fail to appear.

The twenty-fifth Annual Assembly met at Portland, May 7, 2879. FESSENDEN J. DAY, G. M. , presided, and eleven Councils were represented. Companion DAY delivered an excellent Address. He says :

" With each of us under the protecting care of a Divine Providence, a year has past with its joys and sorrows, the joys for our pleasure and the sorrows for our guidance ; and, as we look over the list of members of this Grand Council and find no name erased by the hand of death, it should elicit our deepest sense of gratitude to Him who rules over all, for such inestimable kindness, and cause us to invoke His gracious favor, that the same kindness may be rendered to us the coming year, if it be in accordance with His Divine plan. \* \* \*

" Although some of our Councils have done little or no work, it affords me much pleasure to report that our returns will show almost, if not quite, double the amount of work of the year before, and, with possibly one exception, all the Councils are prepared to do good work ; not one has spoken discouragingly, but all seem hopeful for the future; from all of which I am justified in saying that we are on a better footing to-day than one year ago, and the prospect ahead is fully as bright as in the past."

Companion DAY is fully acquainted with the condition of all the Councils under his charge. He gives an account of each one and the work they have done. He recommended that Maine should take the same action as several other jurisdictions had taken, and refuse to receive or recognize any Cryptic Masons made in the Chapter.

The G. T. reported a total of \$195.95, and had a balance of \$84.14.

Resolutions were adopted declaring all Companions to be clandestine who are made in the Chapter; refusing to recognize any representative holding a commission issued by any Chapter; and revoking the commissions of Maine's representatives near the Grand Councils which have surrendered to the Chapter. A tax of ten cents per member was levied.

Companion DRUMMOND presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, covering 35 pp. It is fully equal to the reports from his pen in the past, and to speak in praise of it would be superfluous. Companion DRUMMOND is too well known among the Craft. We never consider that we have satisfactory material for our report unless we have his review. He reviews twenty Grand Councils, including our own for 2878.

Of the "two headed calf" condition of matters in Illinois he says:

"It really seems to us that our Illinois Companions are playing a very silly farce. This double-headed arrangement is the most inconsistent with our ideas of Masonic law and usage that we have ever noticed in the Proceedings of any Masonic Grand Body. The Grand Council was not willing to make the transfer of the degrees until the General Grand Chapter acted on the subject, and yet went forward and made it!

"Suppose the General Grand Chapter (as it probably will do) declines to approve the measure, what then? If so, what about those who receive the degrees in the Chapters? Suppose some Chapter chooses to keep on conferring the degrees? It is quite a complication, but it does not concern us, as persons receiving the Cryptic degrees in any Chapter or Council appurtenant to a Chapter, can never be recognized as Royal and Select Masters in Maine, no more those receiving in Arkansas or Mississippi than in Illinois. But the idea of the existence of a Grand Body in a State which recognizes the conferring of its degrees by the authority of another Grand Body of an inferior degree in the same State, is a decided novelty. We would either have gone on until the General Grand Chapter acted, or else made the transfer without any reference to its action; at any rate, we would not have gone into this acrobatic performance which beats any circus double-rider the world ever knew."

There are none so blind as those who will not see. In spite of all the reason that can be given, and the inconsistencies and anomalies of this plan, and all the difficulties which arise at once, and have been a continual trouble in the jurisdiction where the plan has been long tried, yet the advocates of this measure insist it is just the thing. It seems to be impossible to make them realize the ludicrousness of their position in Illinois. They pat each other on the back, and talk of the prosperity of the Rite and its assured existence.

Of the action of Kentucky he forcibly says:

"After a life of more than fifty years, and after surviving the 'Morgan anti-Masonic times,' this Grand Council has succumbed to 'hard times,' and at a moment when the reaction had actually commenced.

"We notice that the Grand Council without amending or repealing its Constitution, merely adopted the vote to surrender jurisdiction. We do not see but that the Grand Council is legally as much in being as ever, but this is of little consequence as long as every body treats it as dead!"

We say the action is null and void.

We have often in our reports written about the mistake and misfortune of one person holding offices in different Masonic bodies, and we have often quoted from our Companions to the same purport. Companion DRUMMOND, in reviewing Minnesota, says of the way they do things down in Maine:

"Our plan in Maine, adopted by common consent, of not electing the same Brother to one of the first four offices in more than one of the Grand Bodies at the same time, works well; and

" the same thing is quite generally carried out in the Subordinate Bodies: so that in Maine we have very few complaints that any one man is overburdened by Masonic work in consequence of being called upon to hold offices in different Bodies. The result is, that if an officer does not give sufficient time to the duties of his office, it is his own fault or misfortune, and not because he is overworked in other Bodies. In fact, there is no call in any locality for one of the higher Bodies, until there are enough Past Officers of the next lower Body to work it to advantage. We do not mean that the officers of the new body should necessarily be taken from such Past Officers, but that there should be such a reserve to draw upon, if necessary. In Maine we have been unusually fortunate in granting charters in all our Bodies. At their last annual session there was not a single vacant number on our Grand Chapter, Council, or Commandery rolls, *no charter ever having been surrendered or revoked*; at that Convocation two chapters were consolidated, leaving one vacant number on that roll. At the same time our Grand Lodge had 182 numbers on its roll, and but two of them vacant, one by revocation, and one by surrender of charter, and the latter was then restored, and the lodge has since been revived. With us the granting of a charter is a serious matter, and the chances for its permanency are well considered. But even with this record we have too many Bodies."

Life is short, and there are but twenty-four hours in a day. No man can attend to his business, support his family, and properly perform the duties of more than one office in the Masonic Bodies. The conscientious craftsman will find enough to do to commit the work, study the history and significance of the degrees, and post himself in the jurisprudence of one Body at a time. We commend the practice in Maine to the consideration of every one. If such a rule could be adopted in every State, we would have less unhealthy growth and more permanence.

New York for 2878 receives a full and courteous review. He has throughout his Report duly noted every *live* Grand Master, but, when he comes to New York, says:—

" The Grand Master (GEORGE M. OSGOODBY) delivered another of his very able and excellent addresses. We have spoken of others as *live* Grand Masters, but Comp. OSGOODBY is the very pillar of the Rite—not in his jurisdiction alone, but in the country."

He quotes extensively from the Address and the Foreign Correspondence:

We always prize Companion DRUMMOND'S remarks in conclusion, and we shall give you the benefit of them this year. We hope every Companion will read them carefully, and ponder them earnestly. He says:—

" We regret, exceedingly the premature and illegal action of those Grand Councils, which have attempted to turn the degrees over to the Chapters.

" Such a movement should not have been undertaken, except, at any rate, *upon the assent of all the Grand Councils*. No one Grand Council holds these degrees *by itself*, but *in common* with all the other Grand Councils. It follows that no one Grand Council has any *legal* or *moral* right to assent to the conferring of these degrees under any other authority than a Grand Council. A Grand Council may revoke the charters of all its subordinates and dissolve; but the transfer of the degrees to any other authority is *beyond the scope of its power*.

" What would be thought of the action of one Grand Lodge in attempting to transfer the degrees to any other Body than a Lodge? Or even to place Lodges under any other authority than a Grand Lodge? Especially what would the other Grand Chapters say to an attempt by one Grand Chapter to transfer the Capitular degrees to a Chapter held under a charter for a Lodge?

" It is self-evident that no one Grand Body, nor any number less than *all* the Grand Bodies, can do such a thing, even if all could, which we do not believe. The Grand Councils, therefore, cannot recognize Royal and Select Masters made under a Chapter warrant, or *anywhere else than in a Council, regularly chartered by a Grand Council*.

" The transfer to the Chapters has another element of weakness in it. The conferring of these degrees is beyond the scope of the power of a Chapter. It has been suggested that new Councils may be established in a State adopting the Mississippi plan; to this the answer has been made, that the Chapters would expel all engaged in such an enterprise; but no such expulsion would be legal; a Chapter cannot legally know anything about these degrees, and an expulsion for being an Odd Fellow would stand as soon as one for joining a Council. The trial of one of these nondescript Cryptic Masons for any offence relating to these degrees must necessarily be in the appurtenant Council, and he could have no appeal, for there

" would be no Grand Body to appeal to, as the Grand Chapter would be composed in part of members who had not received the degrees and if it undertook to sit as a Grand Council, it would be the same as if it undertook to sit as a Grand Lodge.

" It may now be safely assumed that the General Grand Chapter will not endorse the 'Mississippi plan.' In the face of the protest of the Grand Councils of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Louisiana, Florida, and others whose Proceedings have not been received, the General Grand Chapter cannot give endorsement, assent or countenance to the conferring of the degrees in a clandestine manner. But especially it will never consent to *adopt two systems*, one for a part of the States and another for the other States; such a course would be suicide.

" The claim formerly made, that the Chapter ever had any rightful authority over the Cryptic degrees, has been most completely exploded; and when the historical facts, which have recently come to light, shall be published (as we hope they will before the next Convocation of the General Grand Chapter), there will not be any longer the slightest pretense for such a claim.

" The effect of the action of the Grand Council of Mississippi and of those which have followed her example, is to introduce diverse systems of Cryptic Masonry, with the danger of two systems of Capitular Masonry. If die they must, they should have died decently, and not undertaken to force others to die in their company. The murder of one's self is bad enough, but when the murder of others is attempted at the same time it is infinitely worse.

" The Convention of the Representatives of Cryptic Masonry will meet at Detroit in 1880, at the time of the session of the General Grand Chapter, and we have no doubt that such measures will be taken as will place the Rite on a firmer foundation than before.

" The most annoying feature is, that these Grand Councils have succumbed just as the tide was turning; it had really reached its lowest ebb, and had begun to flow. It is sad to see a watchman desert his post; but it seems to add to the sadness to see him do so after watching so far through the night, that the coming light is already in the eastern sky."

The Proceedings of the Assembly of 2880 will not be printed until after the Convocation in Detroit and the Convocation of the General Grand Chapter. We cannot say, therefore, who the present G. . M. . in Maine is, and the statistics must be for 2879.

Subordinate Councils (one U. D.).....	13
Admitted.....	42
Membership.....	972

JOHN S. DERBY, Saco, G. . M. .

IRA BERRY, Portland, G. . R. .

#### MARYLAND—2879.

This year we have been more fortunate in getting the Proceedings of our sister in Maryland. We have a very neat little pamphlet, containing two years proceedings.

In 2878 the Annual Assembly convened in Baltimore, November 13th, EDWIN L. PARKEE, presiding, and five Councils represented. The G. . M. . laments the death of Companion LOUIS C. COON, P. . G. . Sentinel. We quote with pleasure the following :—

" The future of Cryptic Masonry in this as well as in other jurisdictions depends entirely upon the devotion of our T. . I. . M. . and other subordinate officers to the beautiful lessons taught in the Crypt. It needs only a determination on their part to faithfully perform their duties, to create an interest among the Companions, and place the institution upon a sure and firm foundation. I do not have the slightest fear as to its ultimate success and future stability, and that ere long our beautiful ritual, with its sublime and impressive lectures, as well as the historical importance of the degrees, will be fully appreciated, even by the chronic grumblers of the present day.

" Then, Companions, wait not for the morrow; look forward to no delusive hope of assistance

" or recognition from other sources ; you need it not ; you have a sure and firm foundation upon which to build. Success can only come from toil, and no incentive is necessary other than a conscientious examination of your true duty as Masons."

The Proceedings of 16 Grand Councils had been received, including our own for 2877, and the G. .M. . makes as an apology that his business had been such that he could not prepare any Report on Correspondence. But were there no Companions in all Maryland to assist him? In the great city of Baltimore could no one be found to write a brief review of these Proceedings? We think, if G. .M. . PARKER had really tried, he might have had a report, and we do not accept the apology.

The finances showed a total of \$75.28, and a balance of \$31.92. The election of officers showed an example worthy of all commendation, for, when Companion CHARLES F. ACHEY was elected G. .M. ., he declined for want of time to give the position proper attention. We remember having met with one or two such instances of conscientious declension of office, but they are rare as angels' visits. We take off our hat to Companion ACHEY, and make him our profoundest reverence as a *man* and a true Mason. We would set his statue on high in every S. .V. ., as a continual remembrance that no one should ever accept of an office, unless he can give it the attention and labor it deserves.

In 2879 this Grand Council assembled in Baltimore, on November 12th, with G. .M. . FERDINAND J. S. GORGAS in the chair, and the representatives of three Councils present. The Council was opened in Ample Form.

The Address from the East was a very good one. The G. .M. . is thankful that death had not diminished their number ; peace and harmony had prevailed. He discusses the causes of depression in the Rite ; he rehearses the amalgamation effort, and takes strong ground against it, and hopes the General Grand Chapter will be true to its past record ; and, with prophesy of future prosperity and reviving interests, he exhorts to diligence and patience on the part of the Craft.

The report of the G. .T. . showed the total to be \$96.17, with a balance on hand of \$31.87.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented a brief Report, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of 18 Grand Councils, New York, for 2878 included. They say :

" The Mississipi movement, culminating so far in the surrendering of their individuality by seven Grand Councils, is the burden that has weighed upon the minds of the friends of Cryptic Masonry ; but a feeling of relief is apparent resulting from the belief that the storm has spent itself and the worst is over. It is further believed that the deliberations of the Convention of Grand Councils at Detroit, in August, 1880, will result in great good to the Rite, and that the G. .G. . Chapter, meeting at the same time and place, will not stultify itself."

They excuse the brevity of their Report as follows :

" Your Committee regret that financial considerations prevent a general review of the proceedings with which they have been favored. To the 'Correspondence fellows,' however, they would say, that it always is a pleasure to receive their reports, and that their perusal has, and always will be a pleasure, and the same has done "a mighty deal of good" in keeping us in the knowledge that there are good and stalwart friends that we can lean against, and, when the pan of victory arises, we shall shout as loud as any one."

It is true that the "financial considerations" are important, and the reporter is worthy of remembrance for what is really no light labor; but when the treasury ebbs there should be enough love for the Craft and sufficient desire for its welfare to pen a review "without the hope of fee or reward." And we hope it will be so in Maryland. Companions, you have talent enough to be numbered with the "Correspondence fellows." Let us hear from you next time.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the policy adopted by a number of our sister Grand Councils is pronounced suicidal, and that this Grand Council join with the faithful in proclaiming 'No surrender.'"

Good for Maryland. Stand firm, sister.

We regret to learn that Companion HENRY W. WORTHINGTON, G. P. C., of W. ., who was not present, died suddenly Nov. 15, 1879, three days after his election. May he sweetly sleep beneath, in the place where he had said—"When I die, bury me here."

Subordinate Councils.....	5
Membership, estimated.....	280

WILLIAM F. COCHRAN, Baltimore, G. M. .

GEORGE L. McCAHAN, Baltimore, G. R. .

#### MASSACHUSETTS—2879.

Massachusetts' Proceedings are always neat, printed in the best taste, and well arranged. Companion HAIGH, G. R. ., is a master workman.

A special assembly of this Grand Council was held in Boston, March 11, 2879, at 2 p. m.

Companion EUGENE A. HOLTON, Grand Lecturer, with the assistance of the officers of Boston Council, exemplified the work, for which the Grand Council returned thanks, and was then closed.

The Annual Assembly convened in Boston, Dec. 10th, 2879, and was opened in Ample Form by the G. M. ., ALFRED F. CHAPMAN. The representatives of 13 Councils were present.

From the Address of Companion CHAPMAN we take delight in making some quotations:

"The Cryptic Rite derives its name from the secret vault constructed under King Solomon's Temple. Historically considered, there can be no doubt of the existence of vaults beneath the original temple of Solomon, and these were called *vaults* or *crypts*,—hence the name Cryptic in connection with the legendary story of the degrees practiced in Councils of Royal and Select Masters.

"It is known, too, that in the early ages caves, or vaults, were deemed sacred; and cave or subterranean worship was practiced by nations of antiquity in cave-temples, either natural, or formed to appear so. It is said that naves, aisles and chancels of churches, subsequently built for Christian worship, owe their origin to the use of caves for religious purposes; hence, we can readily understand and appreciate, not only the propriety of the name of the Rite, but the religious element which pervades its character."

Companion CHAPMAN has been a diligent officer, and visited the greater part

of his jurisdiction. He had witnessed the work of eleven Councils. He is in good condition to speak of the sound and healthy condition of the Rite in the jurisdiction under his care, and the evident affection that the Companions feel for it. On the question of the union of Chapters and Councils he says :

" I am clearly of the opinion, that in this Commonwealth certainly, that Rite [the Capitular] does not want to accept or usurp the functions of this, nor does this want to surrender them to it ; that has all the degrees its officers can work successfully, and this ought to take care of its own, or put them at rest. If this body, or one of its members, is sick, heal it or bury it ; but do not seek to make the disease contagious.

" I have, on other occasions, indicated the reasons which led to this admixture of degrees, and chief among them have been the fact that Councils were established where neither numbers, material nor means justified the action ; and, after an unsatisfactory and ill-deserved existence, these unhealthy subordinates have out-voted those that might have lived, thrown their respective Grand Councils off their base, and the degrees into the Chapters."

We hope you will all read his conclusion :

" If the Select Masters of the Secret Vault were justly regarded with more consideration by their brethren, because of their nearer relations to King Solomon and the two Hiram, and were thus known to possess secrets not common to all the craft, should not the Select Masters of our time as reasonably regard themselves with a just measure of satisfaction, because of the knowledge derived from their ritual, burdened as it is with a sense of man's dependence, and tuned to the words of

" ' Nearer my God to Thee.' "

" If we are Masons at heart, as well as in name, we have all the olden time necessity for belief in God, and no reason at all why our trust in Him should be abated. Our system, founded so strongly in symbolism, reaches to the Infinite, and has no finality less than His wisdom and goodness, durable as eternity.

" In the ancient mysteries the vault was symbolical of death, where at last Divine truth was to be found. In the Secret Vault, therefore, we find the deposit of truth, to fit and adorn us for the new Temple of Eternal Life.

" To this symbolism let us adhere, for whether it be true, or whether it be false, we shall each be the better instructed to—

" ' To live that when thy summons comes to join  
 " ' The innumerable caravan, which moves  
 " ' To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
 " ' His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
 " ' Thou go not, as a quarry slave at night,  
 " ' Scourged to his dungeon ; but, sustained and soothed  
 " ' By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
 " ' Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
 " ' About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.' "

We hardly need to say that Companion CHAPMAN was re-elected. The following resolution was adopted :

" Resolved, That this Grand Council does not recognize as Cryptic Masons any but such as shall have received the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in a duly constituted Council of Royal and Select Masters, working under the charter of some regular Grand Council."

The Committee on Finance reported a total of \$546.15, and a balance of \$258.30.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was presented again by our Companion, Rev. J. W. DADMUN, and is all that could be desired in a report. He plunges at once *in medias res*, whither we propose that we all follow him :

" Shall the *unity* of Freemasonry be preserved, or shall the Institution be divided into an indefinite number of independent bodies, so divergent in law and usage, that no Mason can travel outside of his own jurisdiction and be recognized as brother and companion ? These questions come home with peculiar force as we look upon the 'innovations made in the body of 'Masonry' by those jurisdictions which have consolidated the Council and Chapter degrees.

“ Those Grand Councils, which have transferred the Cryptic degrees to the Chapter, have done so in violation of Masonic law and usage. The Grand Councils which retain their organizations according to the established rules of the Order, are the only rightful custodians of the degrees; and therefore cannot recognize Cryptic Masons made in Councils appendant to the Chapter. Suppose a Grand Chapter should transfer the Capitular degrees to a Lodge, and that the Lodge should proceed to make R. A. Masons, could any Grand Chapter recognize R. A. Masons exalted in an ‘irregular Chapter?’ Every loyal Grand Council must declare all Cryptic Masons, made in other than ‘regular Councils,’ irregular and clandestine.

“ By what right can a Grand Chapter assume control of degrees not recognized by the General Grand Constitution, or by the Grand Constitution of the Order! It is evasive to answer, ‘We have not ingrafted these degrees into the Chapter.’ To all intents and purposes these Grand Chapters, which have made the Cryptic degrees appendant to the Chapter, have made them a part of Chapter Masonry. They have *formally*, by constitutional enactments, taken possession of them; ordered the officers to confer them; adopted laws and regulations for their government; rendered decisions relating thereto, which are made just as binding upon the officers and members as any laws relating to Capitular Masonry. To complete the adoption, only one thing more remains to be done, and that is, to make them obligatory on all R. A. Masons; and that has already been done by Mississippi.

“ To say the Cryptic degrees originally belonged to the Chapter, is falsifying history. They were originally side degrees of the A. and A. Scottish Rite. By common consent they were organized into independent Councils, under special rules and regulations; and it is a breach of Masonic faith for any Grand Council to surrender them to any other Masonic body without the consent of all the other Grand Councils.”

Companion DADMUN had received the Proceedings of New York for 2878, and those of 17 other Grand Councils. He confines his review chiefly to the great question of consolidation, without many remarks of his own. He says under Maryland:

“ There is a great difference in ‘bosoms,’ and a great difference in tastes; but if we are going to flee to a ‘bosom,’ we prefer to do it *legally*, then we shall not have to surrender to some ‘other feller.’ ”

He says of New York, that there is no uncertain sound from the Empire State, and he heartily seconds the call for a convention of representatives at Detroit.

In conclusion he remarks:

“ The *merging mania* has about spent its force. Only about one-third of the Grand Councils have taken decisive measures to effect a union. The other two-thirds, which include many of the oldest and strongest jurisdictions, will never consent to be sacrificed so cheaply and so ignominiously. It is degrading the Council degrees to make them mere ‘side degrees’ of a lower branch of Freemasonry, and when so made, they will be a dead weight to the Chapters, and also defeat the very object had in view, which is—as stated by the advocates of the measure—to reduce the number of Masonic bodies and simplify the Order. With the Chapter already overloaded with degrees, the addition of the Cryptic degrees will add complication and death to one or both of them. We love Capitular Masonry, and we protest against having a dead body attached to her, which will sooner or later make us cry out, ‘O, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death!’ ”

Subordinate Councils.....	23
Membership.....	2545

ALFRED F. CHAPMAN, Boston, G. M. :

JOHN HAIGH, Somerville, G. R. :

MICHIGAN—2880.

This Grand Council, numerous, earnest and prosperous, assembled in Jackson, January 19, 2880, HUGH McCURDY, G. M., presiding. Thirty-four Councils sent representatives.

The Address of Companion McCURDY was one of the best of the year, if not the best. We would make but one exception, which is too well known for us to name. We wish we could give it entire. We will transfer as much of it as we can. In the beginning he says :

“ Looking back from this eventful period, the institution of Freemasonry comes down to us in all perfection, hoary with the frost of centuries. Kingdoms have crumbled and empires have fallen—races and tribes of men have been annihilated, and scarce a tradition of them has been preserved ; yet Freemasonry to-day stands essentially the same that it was when the first temple with all its glory crowned Moriah’s height. In this the world of Masonry rejoices ; and now the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Michigan meet to renew congratulations that fraternal concord exists among the craft, and that prosperity abounds in every section of our jurisdiction. The working tools of our Rite are bright with use upon the moral temple, and all rejected material is hove over among the rubbish by that sleepless sentinel who guards his post with ‘ dragon’s watch and unenchanted eye.’ ‘ Who can best work and best agree ’ is still the proud shibboleth of the *secret vault*—the secure *corner stone* of our ancient institution. Let us hold courage and labor on.”

We are pained at the announcement of the death of Companion Rev. B. F. DOUGHTY, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council and P. P. C. of the W. . He was a prominent worker in all the Masonic bodies of Michigan, and universally respected by the craft for his manly qualities and his strict integrity.

There had been a number of questions of jurisprudence submitted, but none were deemed of sufficient importance to require reporting. This shows well for the intelligence of the Companions in Michigan.

We quote again from the Address :

“ To Royal and Select Masters is given the keystone in Masonry, more precious than is known to the vast majority of workers of the quarries ; and it has been truthfully proclaimed that to preserve and transmit our principles to those who succeed us, in the hour of low twelve, is a sacred, bounden duty we owe to Cryptic Masonry. Thus believing, we should often revert to the origin of our institution ; for, as has been said, it is only by digging to the foundation, and examining each stone minutely, that we can rightfully estimate what has been erected thereon. It is so with Freemasonry.

“ The first Grand Council which assembled at Jerusalem was composed of Solomon, the King of Israel, Hiram, the King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff—the three Grand Masters, who, unobserved by *prying eyes*, devised the whole entire plan by which the temple should be erected—how the workmen should be divided into various degrees, each class consisting of an independent body, whereby it might be recognized by the peculiar sign of that degree. Most happily, too, they combine within the power of the Council the Alpha and the Omega of Freemasonry, thereby denominating Cryptic Masonry, by way of pre-eminence, the summit and perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry. Thus, in fact, the duties, the powers, the responsibilities of a Council embrace the whole range of Ancient Craft Masonry, from the conception of the idea *in the heart*, until the candidate is in the full possession of our mysteries, or, in our own peculiar language, until he has passed the Circle of Perfection. It is in the Secret Vault, securely guarded, that the illustrious Companions are required not only to search out the truth, but to determine plans and design objects for the private as well as the general good of the craft.

“ If, therefore, Companions who constitute this class and who have passed the Circle of Perfection—who have witnessed the wisdom, strength and beauty of our principles will be but true to their obligations, and faithful to their requirements—what immense good could be accomplished. No bickerings, no strife and no conflicts could ever exist in the Masonic institution, but peace, concord and tranquility would prevail, and the only contention in the whole Masonic family of earth would be, who can best work and who can best agree. Brotherly love and charity would be happily blended together, and the life and character of a gentleman, of a faithful brother and a devoted companion, would be merged in the life and purity of a consistent Mason. With you and all illustrious Companions who have entered the *secret vault*, rests the responsibility, if confusion ever prevail in the Lodge, Chapter or Council ! Hence you perceive that the charge of a Select Master is literally true when it says to each of you, that your obligations are increased in proportion to your privileges ; and, also, let it be your constant care to prove yourself worthy of the confidence reposed in you, and of the high honor conferred on you, in admitting you among Select Masters.”

“ The degrees of E. A., F. C., and M. M., were originally Ancient Craft Masonry ; while the old constitutions gave the Master the right and authority to congregate his members into a Chapter for the purpose of conferring the Royal Arch, which originally constituted a part of the Third Degree. In elucidating the Royal Arch, it becomes necessary that other degrees should be incorporated into the Chapter, for the purpose of explaining the various parts of the

“ Temple. Hence the mark and Most Excellent Masters’ Degrees were added and conferred before the Royal Arch.

“ In process of time, it became necessary to establish a Council, whose province it should be to account for the concealment and preservation of those *essentials* of the craft, which were brought to light at the erection of the second Temple, and which lay concealed from the mystic eye four hundred and seventy years.’ Hence Cryptic Masonry was inaugurated.

“ In different countries different systems prevail to inculcate, enforce and teach Ancient Craft Masonry; but in this country it is confined to the degrees of the Lodge, Chapter and Council. Cryptic Masonry, therefore, is contained within the degrees of Royal and Select Masters, which are numbered eight and nine in the York Rite; although in a chronological point of view they are the first and last degrees; hence called the Alpha and Omega of Ancient Craft Masonry.

“ They illustrate the mysteries of Masonry, and without a full, perfect and complete knowledge of these degrees our Masonic edifice is incomplete and unfinished, or, as has been aptly said, ‘The degrees of Royal and Select Masters are polished and perfect ashlar, marked and numbered for the building.’ ”

In referring to the introduction of Cryptic Masonry in the State of Michigan, he states that Monroe Council, No. 1, of Detroit was chartered by the Grand Council of Connecticut. Two others were subsequently established, and the three Councils organized a Grand Council on January 13th, 2858, N. B. CARPENTER being elected G. M. The Grand Officers were installed by Companion G. B. ENGLE by virtue of a special dispensation issued by G. M. WILLIAM L. BREWER, of Connecticut. In 22 years this small beginning has increased to 50 working Councils and a membership of over two thousand. Companion McCURDY may well say :

“ To this record we point with feelings of pride and pleasure, in a spirit of friendly admonition to those sister Councils whose jurisdictions are fainting by the wayside and surrendering their sacred trusts to the Grand Chapters. We urge them in the spirit of all that is essential to the well being of our entire order, no longer to weary in well doing, but to gird on their armor anew, and march on to triumph. On this subject our Grand Council has a record of which we may well feel proud. We may not, therefore, renew our action of last year, as it continues on a firm and stable basis, armed with the principles of right, justice and truth, which must prevail. For those Grand bodies, which have surrendered the charters of their heraldry, we have profound feelings of sorrow; while we adjure them again to seize hold of the priceless legacy that shines so resplendent in the galaxy of Masonry. May we not hope, then, ere long to welcome these Giblemites back to their allegiance, to labor in the secret vault, and never again be caught *sleeping at their posts*.”

The beautiful and impressive conclusion of this excellent address we feel, constrained to give to you entire :

“ Delos, an island of the Cyclades, was famed in ancient times for the number and skill of its artists, and for the resplendent temple and oracle of Apollo—raised eventually as an asylum to his mother, when she was pursued from place to place by the implacable Juno. From this famous oracle came the fount of inspiration, said to be a chasm from which issued the exhilarating vapor. Over this was built the tripod of the gods, from which a populace could breathe the ascending distillations. To the inbred Mason we may not enlarge the illustration. The soul grows as truly as the Mason grows—as the tree takes in the air of the universe, aided by dew and rain; and as by its mysterious chemistry it transmits sap and fibre into wood and leaf, and flowers and fruit, and color and perfume, so does the soul of the Mason drink in living knowledge, and by a divine alchemy, as potent and with the same inherent force as that which lies hid in the germ of the acorn. The virtuous Roman truly said, ‘either let not that which *seems* expedient be base, or, if it be base, let it not be expedient.’ ”

“ If our Masonic Order were merely a thing of yesterday; if it were local or confined to one country, or to men of one faith; or if the number of its initiates were limited to this or that clime, or its capacity for good or evil devoted to selfish ends; the question of its morality and philosophy might well be consigned to one grave. Not in vain are the winged seeds of truth ever sown—God sees that they take root somewhere and grow. The truth of all this is witnessed in the past history of nearly six thousand years—their pungent facts have been figured on the breastplate of time. When our ancient brethren dispensed their charities under the form of barbarism—when they disregarded the anathemas of kings and rulers, and gathered around common altars in fraternal relations, they gave divine evidence that the order would survive the mutations of time; and, if we, brothers, shall continue to emulate the virtues of those good and faithful men, it will survive the wreck of ages yet to come.

“ Need I say more in honor of that Craft whose acts shine among the brightest in the domain

“ of good will to man ? ” Deeds of love, it may well be claimed, are the chief employment of the angels of God ; and into a soul that overflows with bounty the bright-robed messengers of Faith, Hope and Charity constantly descend. Our *Faith*, after death, shall be swallowed up in victory—our *Hope* consumed only by its enjoyment—and our *Charity* ended when we shake off mortality in the boundless atmosphere of eternal love.”

We do not wonder that the Grand Council of Michigan flourishes, and is one of the strongest and most prosperous in all the Rite, when such companions as McCURDY, UTLEY, the NOBLES, and others are found at its head. Their zeal, faithfulness and intelligence stimulate the whole body, and, while the head is such, the members can not be sick.

In the report of the G. T. we note that the total is \$1288.10, and that there remained a balance of \$673.10.

The action of last year, condemning any consolidation with the Chapter, was reaffirmed with emphasis.

We find from the resolutions on the death of Companion REV. B. F. DOUGHTY, that he was from our own State, and that he was made a M. M. at Woodhull, Steuben Co., N. Y., Nov., 1854 ; a R. A. M. in Addison in 1855 ; and was dubbed and created a Knight Templar in Penn Yan. He received the Council degrees in Michigan in 1860, and the ineffable degrees to the 32d in Louisville, Ky., during the late war. A beautiful memorial page appears to his memory.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence this year is from the pen of G. R. GARRA B. NOBLE, whose pleasant face, and warm, fraternal greeting of us not long ago in Detroit, we shall always remember. His report is full, and clear, and faithfully reproduces in an excellent manner the doings of the Crypt. He reviews 13 Grand Councils, but New York is not noticed for the reason that our Proceedings were not issued until the Assembly in Michigan was past. We have already so protracted our review of Michigan to such an extent, that we must content ourselves with the following extract from the conclusion :

“ We see no reason to be discouraged ; but, on the contrary, from the correspondence herewith laid before you, a strong determination to preserve inviolate the organizations of the Grand Councils, and firmly believe that the action taken by our late sister Grand Councils, in relation to consolidation with the Chapter, will sooner or later have to be retracted.”

We congratulate the Grand Council of Michigan, and we rejoice in its prosperity. May it always stand in the van of the Cryptic host.

Subordinate Councils.....	47
Exalted .....	63
Died .....	16
Membership .....	2000

DAVID WOODWARD, Clinton, G. M.

GARRA B. NOBLE, Detroit, G. R.

#### MINNESOTA—2879.

Minnesota sends us a nice thick pamphlet such as we like to receive, full of good things, well arranged, and nicely printed. She sends out no Proceedings, to remind one of a lean and hungry Cassius, or looking as though they had gone through a Dr. Tanner fast of 40 days.

The Tenth Annual Assembly was opened in Ample Form, October 13, 2879, in St. Paul, by G. M. : GEORGE W. COOLEY. Besides the officers, permanent members and visiting Companions, the representatives of four Councils were present.

Companion COOLEY read an excellent Address. This being the tenth Assembly, he reviewed the history of the Grand Council. He states that the representatives of 3 Councils, chartered by Iowa, met and organized the Grand Council of Minnesota, Dec. 12, 2870. Of its success he says :

“ During a portion of our history, in common with other Masonic bodies, we have experienced a period of depression peculiarly incident to the Cryptic Rite, but never has there been observed any inclination to abandon the degrees, or to unite with any other body. Steadily has the order continued to grow, and the uniform purpose of mind to uphold it and maintain it, that exists in our subordinate bodies, is good evidence that the labors of our predecessors have not been in vain.”

He had issued a circular directing that any Companion might visit in Minnesota, if he had regularly received the degrees in a Council, although the Council has since united with the Chapter ; any Companion, who has received the degrees under a Chapter warrant, must be healed before he can be affiliated; no Companion made under a Chapter warrant can visit; any Companion, made in a Council before it was united to the Chapter, may affiliate without a dimit, upon this dispensation of the G. M. : ; a dimit granted under a Chapter warrant can not be recognized. This circular was endorsed by the Grand Council.

With reference to the consolidation plan, which he considers at some length, he says very truly :

“ The conferring of a degree in any Masonic body, upon a candidate who will be considered clandestine in three-fourths of the States, is an injustice and a deception, which is not defended or sustained by any of the teachings of the order.

“ If there is a lack of interest manifested at any time in any Masonic body, and there appears no disposition to revive it, then the best plan is to let it rest for a while, and not attempt to force it into a temporary activity which will be surely and speedily followed by a relapse more demoralizing than the original complaint. By what method of reasoning the advocates of the consolidation scheme attempt to reconcile their action with the obligations of Cryptic Masons I can not conjecture. It has occurred to me that to assist, even by the presence, in the conferring of a degree in any other place than a duly constituted Council, was contrary to the rules.

“ Again, what is to hinder this or any other Grand Council from organizing subordinate Councils in Wisconsin or Iowa ? I do not apprehend any such proceeding, but you will observe the many ways in which confusion may be introduced into the craft by this short-sighted policy of consolidation.”

In his conclusion he makes several most excellent observations, similar to what we have often urged, but so tersely stated that we feel constrained to quote them. They are things which can not be too often repeated, and they should be interwoven into the very being of every Companion of the Crypt. He says :

“ There are several subjects pertaining to the regulation and good government of subordinate Councils, and the welfare of our order, to which I also desire to call your attention. In the management of Councils, as well as all other Masonic bodies, so much depends upon the officers that I cannot help urging upon you to secure for the important positions those members who will devote their time and ability to the proper fulfillment of their trust. Do not elect a companion to an important office unless he is capable of filling it. The theory of rotation in office, and gradual advancement, is a very good one, provided the companion is qualified ; but to place one in the East, or any other coveted or responsible position, only because he has served in an inferior office, when you have reason to believe he is not fitted for it,

"is alike an injury to him and the Council. By electing to the position of Master an incompetent companion merely as a compliment, is as unjust as it is unwise, and has been one of the principal causes of the delay in the advancement of the Rite. A companion, who accepts an office, should only do so with the understanding that he intends to work, and fill the position with honor to himself and credit to the Council. I feel that I cannot too forcibly urge this point, especially in regard to the principal officer, for when in his hands you place the emblem of authority, you give him the power to make your Council what it should be, or to destroy the interest that is so essential to its welfare. But, although he has this power, he must be sustained. After the night of election every companion should consider it his duty to be present as often as he can and assist in the work. If every member of a Council, whose business will permit, would be present one evening every two or three months, there would be plenty of support, and little danger of lacking a quorum.

"The Proceedings of the Grand Council should be read in Subordinate Councils, until the members are fully acquainted with the condition of the Order and the actions of the Grand Body. This, I fear, has not been done in some cases, and I mention it, in hopes that the suggestion will be acted upon during the coming year. The Recorder of Subordinate Councils should also submit to the Grand Recorder, immediately after election, a full list of the names of the officers elected, in order that he may communicate direct with them when he is required to do so."

Companions, if any of you have skipped this extract above, go back and read it carefully every word. It is of vital importance.

An assessment of twenty-five cents per capita was made to defray the expenses of printing the Proceedings. A resolution was adopted in favor of a Convention at Detroit, and authorizing the G. M. to represent the jurisdiction. The report on finances showed a total of \$76, and a balance of \$22.50. We are very much pleased to see that Companion COOLEY was re-elected G. M. When a Council can secure such a man at its head, he should be kept there. Rotation in office is proper enough, but don't rotate too fast when you have the right man in the right place. Memorial pages are set apart for Companions WALTER, MORRILL and CORSON.

Companion GROVE B. COOLEY, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, speaks his little piece for the fourth time, and a right good little piece it is. It is a report as is a report. It covers 51 pp., and is full, complete and filled with good things. We hope we may read his reports for many years.

We copy his report of the way consolidation works in Mississippi, where the "pesky" plan originated:

"All the light we have received from Mississippi in regard to Cryptic Masonry has been through the Grand Chapter Proceedings for 1879; and that light is but very dim. It would seem from the Grand Secretary's report to that Grand Body, that but few Chapters work the Cryptic degrees; that many Royal Arch Masons are not yet in possession of them. The Grand Secretary says:—If our Grand Lecturer could visit and instruct the Chapters, these degrees would be generally worked. But a majority of the Chapters require instruction also in the Capital degrees; and it is hoped that some plan will be devised that will justify our Grand Lecturer in giving at least a good share of his time to the work. The very style of the office indicates the dispensing of light; and there are many dark corners that should be illuminated by his presence.

"The Grand Chapter refused to provide for paying the Grand Lecturer; so those dark corners still remained unilluminated. Just as we expected. The old lady has to spend so much of her care and time upon her own family that she has none to devote to these poor orphans."

We are glad enough to hear of the manner the plan works in Mississippi, and so it will work every where. *It must fail.*

New York receives an excellent review of five pages. He quotes much from the Address and the Foreign Correspondence. At the beginning of the notice he quotes as a motto:

"The wise and active conquer difficulties  
 "By daring to attempt them; sloth and folly  
 "Shiver and shrink at the sight of toil and hazard,  
 "And make the impossibility they fear."

We were so much interested by the review of Texas that we include it:—

"We learn, by way of Companion W. F. SWAIN, of the Committee on Work in the Grand Chapter of Texas, how the Cryptic Degrees are conferred in that State. About fourteen years ago Cryptic Masons got very much discouraged in that jurisdiction, and by a 'concordat' of Grand Council and Grand Chapter the Council degrees were turned over to the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter. The title acquired by virtue of the concordat, was that of custodian and guardian of the Subordinate Councils. By it the degrees of Royal and Select Master were only to be conferred in Councils of Royal and Select Masters, appendant to the Subordinate Chapters. No Royal Arch Chapter within that jurisdiction can confer within its bosom the Royal and Select Masters' degrees. The Council is no part of the Chapter. So far as the work is concerned it is a distinct body. A candidate puts into the Chapter his petition for the Royal Arch and appendant degrees. That petition includes not only the Mark, Past, Most Excellent and Royal Arch, but also the degrees of Royal and Select Master. He pays for all the degrees at once, and if elected, is duly elected to receive the whole. After he has received the Royal Arch degree in the Chapter, he may receive the Royal and Select Master degrees if he so desire; *no compulsion about it.* His standing as a Royal Arch Mason is not at all affected by it one way or the other. It is left entirely to his *own free will and accord.* But should he so desire, a Council meeting is called, opened in due form, *Old Style*; the Royal and Select Masters' degrees conferred, and the Council closed in form. The Chapter has nothing to do with the work, but yet is the custodian of the whole business.  
 "The officers of the Chapter may or may not be the officers of the Council. In case they have taken the Council degrees, then they are *ex-officio* the officers of the Council; but if they have not taken the Council degrees, then the members of the Council elect their officers. In those places where Councils existed prior to the concordat, the larger portion of the Royal Arch Masons have received the Cryptic degrees; but in those places where no Councils existed, but very few ever get them. The Cryptic degrees are not pre-requisite to the Chivalric in Texas.

"Whatever the advantage be  
 "We must confess we fail to see."

Once more from this Report so full of information we quote concerning Virginia. He says:

"We are under obligations to Companion WILLIAM B. ISAACS, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, for information in reference to Cryptic Masonry in that jurisdiction.  
 "By resolutions adopted by Grand Council and Grand Chapter, December 17th, 1841, the Cryptic degrees were turned over to the Chapter and for a long time the degrees in the Chapter were conferred in the following order, to wit: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Master, Select Master, and Royal Arch. But subsequently the order was changed so that now they are conferred as follows, to wit: Mark Master, Past Master, Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch. The Chapter is first opened in the Royal Arch degree, and then labor dispensed with, and a Lodge or Council opened, as occasion requires; all, of course, being under the supervision of the Chapter.  
 "Virginia and Texas are not accountable to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, never having joined the compact, and are therefore independent of its discipline."

We would be glad to give Companions COOLEY'S "Summed Up," where sittith upon Pegassus, and soars to the stars. He is a son of the Muses, and we crown him with laurel as Cryptic Laureate and Chief Cryptic Reporter.

The Proceedings of Minnesota are always read with pleasure, and are full of information. They show what a few determined, earnest and zealous Companions can do. Minnesota is especially happy in her Grand Officers.

Subordinate Councils.....	4
Passed the Circle.....	16
Membership.....	246

GEORGE W. COOLEY, Minneapolis, G. M. .

GROVE B. COOLEY, Minneapolis, G. R. .

## MISSOURI—2878.

The latest tidings we have from Missouri are of 2878, when that Grand Council was still living. But what action was taken at the Assembly of 2880 we do not know.

The fourteenth Annual Assembly was held in St. Louis, October 11, 2878. The G. M., WILLIAM R. PENICK, was absent on account of sickness in his family, and the D. G. M., B. P. BAILEY, presided. Eight Councils were represented.

In our last report we gave much of the substance of the proceedings, but now add further details. The Address of Companion PENICK was read. He dwells upon the languishing condition of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri, and attributes it to a great degree to the agitation of the question of surrender. He quotes from our report for 2877, and from a number of Proceedings on that subject, and thinks that the action of Mississippi has not met with the approval that was expected, and that the extracts he gives will very much discourage them. After the quotations he adds:—

“ With the above facts before me, I cannot recommend the adoption of the Mississippi plan, or any other plan that would place the Royal and Select degrees in the Chapter, while the Chapters confer the degrees of Past Master and Most Excellent Master. If the General Grand Chapter would make some disposition of these two degrees, and grant permission for the Royal and Select Masters degrees to be conferred where they properly belong, with the Royal Arch, I would heartily approve such a plan.”

He then adds the following very sensible words, recommending that, which if it had been done in the first place, would have rendered all this agitation unnecessary. They are the following:—

“ As it has been decided that the Grand Encampment will not make the Council degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, and it is very probable that the General Grand Chapter will not take charge of them, I do not see that we can do anything but go to work in earnest and try to infuse new life in our Councils and preserve the organization as it is. If you will place a decision of that kind on record, the officers of the Councils will have encouragement to learn the new work, who have refused to do so heretofore under the impression the degrees would be turned over to the Chapter. Royal Arch Masons will come forward and take the degrees who have postponed taking them for the reason that they expected soon to take them in the Chapter, *free*. Members of Councils will pay their dues, who have thought for some time it was useless to do so—and for the same reason some of the Councils will pay their Grand Council dues.”

How well does the above show what an injurious effect all this useless agitation has had, and how Cryptic Masonry has been most crippled by its own friends. In spite of the exhortation of the G. M., a committee was appointed to confer with a committee from the Grand Chapter on the subject of consolidation: But what has been the result of their labors we cannot state. A memorial page was set apart for Companion CORSON of New Jersey, who was the representative of Missouri in New Jersey.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence was not prepared at the time of the Assembly, but was written afterwards, and appears as an appendix. It is from the pen of the G. R., Companion J. W. LUKE. New York for 2878 is noticed among the others. He confines himself from financial reasons to a brief account of the transactions of each Grand Council. From the finis, how-

ever, we make a short extract of our Companion's excellent ideas. They are these:—

" P. S.—We wish we could have concluded with the end, but cannot forbear a postscript.  
 " The cause of the apathy existing in so many Councils is attributed in the greatest measure to supineness on the part of Grand Officers. To some extent this is no doubt the case, if we are allowed to judge from reading addresses year after year, in which Grand Masters acknowledge that they have been unable to visit Subordinates, for reasons satisfactory, of course, to them, but they hope that their successors will do better.  
 " It seems to us that this is the effect and not the cause. Grand Officers and Illustrious Masters, when first inducted into office, are almost always determined to do something to rouse members to a greater interest in the Cryptic degrees; but, like all rash youths, they soon find that they have over-rated the task, and are gradually drawn into the meshes which have bound others who have preceded them.  
 " Laxity of discipline has, no doubt, contributed solidly to the contemptuous indifference so prevalent, and if there is any course that would rouse the twenty-seven sleepers, it would be to weed out, without delay, all drones from Subordinate Councils, strike from the rolls all Councils that did not show signs of renewed life, and if enough faithful ones were not found to form a Council, and enough Councils to constitute a Grand Council, let those that remain true, consolidate with organizations that are alive.  
 " The idea of pre-requisite we do not favor. It would be only making a gateway which must be passed through, once for all, and in a few years we should only have added to the evils we are now complaining of, by an increased number of dummies, who have paid their fees but nothing more."

He gives a table of Grand Councils and membership, in which he makes a membership in the country, in the Cryptic Rite, of 22763.

Subordinate Councils.....	16
Membership .....	315

B. P. BAILY, Fulton, G. M.  
 W. H. MAYO, St. Louis, G. R.

NEBRASKA.

We were not able to give any tidings of the Grand Council of Nebraska last year. Our remembrance is that the last news we gave you of this jurisdiction was that the question of consolidation with the Chapter was referred to the vote of the several Subordinate Councils. No announcement was made of the result of the vote, and no Proceedings or Circulars were received.

But from the Report of Companion DRUMMOND we learn that he finds from the Grand Chapter Proceedings, that at the Assembly in 2878 a merger was effected, and provision made for the dissolution of the Grand Council and all of its Subordinates. The Grand Chapter voted to publish the Proceedings of the Grand Council, one hundred copies of those of 2876, which had already been published, and the usual number of those of 2877 and 2878.

This Grand Council was small, having, we think, four Subordinate Councils and, perhaps, 200 members. During some six years only one Council was established, and the membership increased very slowly. Yet its Proceedings were always very nicely printed, and excellently arranged. They were prepared for binding, and showed that they were prepared by an intelligent Companion. But the infection of the surrounding Grand Councils, Iowa, Illinois, and the steps taken in Missouri, were too strong for the Companions to resist,

and they ignobly gave up the conflict, after having struggled so long. But there is no need of saying anything more. The deed is done and must stand, unless the General Grand Chapter declare it null, until the Companions become so disgusted with the plan (as they assuredly will,) and return to their first love. May the day soon come when the Grand Council of Nebraska will be re-organized.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

For a number of years we have been obliged to give the invariable report that there was no news from this Grand Council. Several times we wrote to Companion GOODWIN and he always answered that no Assembly had been held. This Grand Council has been dormant since 2872, when the last Assembly was held. Companion DRUMMOND says in his last report, that he had lately received letters, which made him think that measures will be taken at an early day to resuscitate it, or to transfer the allegiance of its Subordinates to some other Grand Council.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE—2880.

From New Hampshire we have received a well printed pamphlet, which states that this Grand Council assembled for the nineteenth time in the city of Concord, May 17, 2880.

HARVEY L. CURRIER, G. M., presided, and six Councils were represented.

The Address of Companion CURRIER was long but excellent; it was a full narration of his doings, and shows him to have been a live Grand Master. He had made many and extensive visitations, and carefully reports the condition of each Council, which in the main was very good. He also submitted the report of the visitations of the G. P. C. of the W., and adds:

“It will be seen by the above reports that while some of our Subordinate Councils are alive and active, others are languishing, not because there is no real merit in Cryptic Masonry, but because the officers who have been placed in command have been sleeping at their posts. No one should accept an office unless he is willing to do his duty, and do it well, sickness or unavoidable accidents only interfering, and I would in all kindness say to the officers of the several Councils in this jurisdiction, that if you expect your Councils to prosper and flourish you must be required to do your duty or make room for those who will.”

He recommends that some means be taken to increase the revenue of the Grand Council so as to enable the Grand Officers to visit more widely throughout the jurisdiction. This was a very sensible recommendation. Nothing can prosper upon a niggardly basis, and every Grand Council should most certainly send out its officers frequently. Every Subordinate should receive a visitation officially at least once a year from some of its Grand Officers. All expense in this direction will add to its numbers, interest, energy and success, and repay to the Treasury all that is expended with manifold interest.

He recommends action to authorize Councils to confer the degree of Super Excellent Master upon Companions residing within their jurisdiction who had

received the degrees of Royal and Select Master in States where the Super Excellent Master's degree was not recognized. By resolution this recommendation was adopted.

He reported a decision, which was approved, in which he states that a Cryptic Companion, who was the only Council Mason in his town, had desired him to confer the degrees on enough Companions to petition for a dispensation, and thus save the fees of joining a Council and then petitioning for a dispensation. He decided that even a Grand Master could not confer the degrees except in a regular and duly constituted Council, and then only on candidates who had been duly elected to receive the same.

Here we beg leave to differ from the G. . M. . and the Grand Council of New Hampshire. We think a Grand Master has the right to make Cryptic Masons on sight. Such authority the G. . Masters of New York have exercised in the past, and we have seen it done. It is at times necessary, and in the case under consideration it would have led to the formation of a new Council. And while it is a power which should be sparingly exercised and with great discretion, we think it is an important and often necessary prerogative.

In another case he had decided, that if a Council were to be removed, the T. . I. . M. . must summon every member of the Council to be present at a stated assembly for the purpose of considering the subject of removal, and, if they decided to remove they must present a petition to the Grand Council signed by not less than three-fourths of the members of the Council, and approved by the two nearest Councils. On this decision the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence said there was nothing authorizing any such requirements, and that the Grand Council had never fixed any limitations to its power to remove the seat of a Council.

We think the committee reported very sensibly. We don't like too much red tape. We fear the tendency all through the fraternity is to increase the amount of red tape, and to make too many laws. Our jurisprudence is becoming every year more extensive, and it is already too extensive and unwieldy. There seems to be such an itch for legislating and hedging everything around with restrictions. We are departing more and more from the simplicity of the fathers. A band of brothers and companions, whose aim is brotherly love, relief and truth, should be as simple as possible, and the less there is of law, the smaller the numbers of decisions, and the less cumbrous all our methods of procedure, the more completely and excellently shall we carry out the aims of our organization. We shall think that our representatives do their full duty if they pass no more laws, and make no more alterations. We wish a good many regulations had never been made. Let well enough alone.

A number of appointments had been made of Grand Representatives near New Hampshire, and a number had been appointed to represent that jurisdiction near other Grand Councils.

He pays a fitting tribute to the memory of Companion JOHN M. HAYES, T. . I. . M. ., of Andonirane Council No. 3, who died January 10, 1880, at the age of fifty-six years.

Of the "Mississippi plan" he thinks that that action was wrong and wholly uncalled for, and recommends that all such be considered clandestine. He also gives in full the call of Companion DRUMMOND, of Maine, for a convention in Detroit in August, and recommends the sending of a representative "in order to defeat the plans of those companions who have basely violated their vows and betrayed their trust." He also recommends the appointment of a Committee on Foreign Correspondence as soon as the finances of the Grand Council will admit. But meantime we think some Companion ought to be willing to perform the labor gratis.

The Grand Council adopted a large number of resolutions. One to change the dues to the Grand Council from fifteen to twenty-five cents a member. Another for the present, authorizing an assessment to meet the expenses of the Grand Council. Another in favor of electing earnest officers and those who are qualified and who will learn the work. Another appointed two delegates to the Convention at Detroit.

We give two resolutions in full :

"*Resolved*—That this Grand Council unequivocally condemns the action of any of our sister jurisdictions favoring the so-called 'Mississippi plan,' and declares that the successful advocacy of such a policy will be fatal to the perpetuation of these degrees in their purity and sublimity wherever such 'plan' be adopted.

"*Resolved*—That this Grand Council hereby enters its solemn protest against the merging of the Cryptic degrees into the hands of any Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and, also, hereby declares that any person who receives the Cryptic degrees under such authority, are clandestinely made, and cannot be received with fraternal greetings within this jurisdiction, either as visitors or applicants for affiliation."

Good for New Hampshire.

Another resolution provides for Foreign Correspondence. We hope hereafter to find this most important report in the Proceedings of New Hampshire.

The report of the G. . T. . showed the total to be \$123.10, and the balance on hand \$26.35.

The report of the Committee on Councils and Correspondence acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of a number of Grand Councils, including our own for 2879, and says the most fraternal feelings exist between this and the other Grand Councils, and "*especially* with the Grand Council of the State of New York." That's true, every word of it, and we most heartily salute New Hampshire. May prosperity attend you, may you never decrease, and may the consolidation serpent never enter your S. . V. .

Subordinate Councils.....	8
Membership.....	745

FRANK D. WOODBURY, Concord, G. . M. .

GEORGE P. CLEAVES, Concord G. . R. .

NEW JERSEY—2880.

From New Jersey the Proceedings come again, but we sadly miss one voice, and the heart cries out for

" The touch of a vanished hand,  
And the sound of a voice that is still."

There is a sad gap in the ranks, and the crossed pens are draped in mourning. We were able to announce to you last year the great loss that Masonry had sustained in the death of Companion THOMAS J. CORSON, but we were not able to give any particulars, nor to give any data of his life or the positions he had held in the craft. We hoped the Proceedings of this year would furnish them, but they do not. They speak of his death and give resolutions of respect. We suppose full particulars had been given in the transactions of the other Grand Bodies in New Jersey, and it did not occur to them to put them in the Council Proceedings.

Companion CORSON was G. : R. : for many years, and was a P. : G. : M. : , and in the other Grand Bodies he had held office. He struggled gallantly for over a year against spinal disease, but was forced to succumb to that Power which layeth the mightiest low. From all the Grand Jurisdictions of every grade comes one voice of sincere sorrow and universal regret. He had endeared himself to every heart, and was respected, honored and loved by all. In nearly every copy of the Proceedings a memorial page is inscribed with his name. No other deaths in the craft have produced a more profound impression than his and Companion GOULEY'S.

The twenty-second Assembly was held in Trenton, January 20, 2880. FRANK A. FENTON, G. : M. : , presided, and five Councils were represented.

The Address was devoted entirely to local matters, showing that Companion Fenton has been a live Master, and has endeavored to visit his Councils, and that too in the face of many difficulties. For instance, one master of a Council had never made any reply to the communication of the G. : M. : about visiting his Council, and there was very good evidence that the letter had been received. We judge that nearly all the lack of prosperity in New Jersey, in the two or three Councils where it does exist, is due to the officers of the Councils, and the sooner they are kicked out the better. He notes that he had appointed Companion CHARLES H. THOMSON as Grand Representative of New Jersey, near New York.

Companion CHARLES BECHTEL, G. : R. : , had received the Proceedings of twelve Grand Councils, but those of New York had not then been printed, and were not on hand. There is a great difference in the several jurisdictions as to the appearance of the Proceedings. Some we receive in six weeks after the Annual Assembly, some in five months, and some we get in a year or two after repeated requests. We have had some little experience in this matter, and we think that two months should be amply sufficient, under ordinary circumstances, to print the Proceedings and have them ready for circulation.

The report on finance showed receipts of \$263.49 and a balance of \$4.08

The Constitution, General Regulations and Rules of Order, which were reported at the last Assembly, were adopted. One year more of grace was allowed to two Councils to bring up their past dues. The Companion, who failed to pay any attention to the letters of the G. : M. : , was virtually reprimanded, and,

if all his ilk could receive similar treatment, and have their names published in the transactions, we would either have fewer inefficient Masters or less aspirants for the position.

There was no Foreign Correspondence, and there has been none for several years. A committee was appointed, and we hope they will perform their duty. It is a mistaken policy which omits this report on account of financial economy. There can be a short report at least, treating of the important questions, if not going into detail. *More light* is what all the Councils need, and more light is the surest way to awaken their interest and arouse their enthusiasm.

Subordinate Councils.....	7
Membership.....	326

ARCHIBALD J. WARK, New Brunswick, G. M.  
CHARLES BECHTEL, Trenton, G. R.

#### NORTH CAROLINA—2878-79.

We notice in several Reports on Foreign Correspondence that the Grand Council of North Carolina is put upon the list of defunct organizations. But we are glad to say that it has not yet consolidated with the Grand Chapter, although it has been looking that way for some time. We have the Proceedings for two years in one.

In 2878 the Assembly was held in Winston, and three Councils were represented. No Address was delivered, and the statement was made that nothing had been done. No business was transacted, and no report made by the Committee on consolidation.

The fifteenth Assembly was held in Durham, June 4, 2879, G. M. VAN ORSDELL presiding. Three Councils were represented. The Address occupies half a page. It states that progress has entirely ceased. But this Grand Council has not made any progress since we have known anything about it. The number of Councils has not increased, very little work has been done, and every year has brought only lamentation and regrets. There must be something lacking. The great State of North Carolina ought certainly to support Cryptic Masonry. Have our Companions there tried? Have they done their duty? Have they made any effort? We do not know, and we would not judge harshly, but we know that where there is a will there is a way, If the officers would try, they might attract the attention of Companions to the Rite, and obtain candidates.

The receipts of cash were \$51.70 and there was a balance of \$50.40.

A resolution was adopted approving of the Mississippi plan, and a committee was appointed to take into consideration the propriety of dissolving the Grand Council, to report at the next Assembly. By this time they have probably made their report. We do not know what it was, but we hope they have chosen to dissolve rather than to go into the Chapter. Far better to do so. Yet we do not think it is necessary to dissolve. Let the G. M. make official

visitations ; let the other Grand Officers do the same ; let the Masters lecture upon our Rite in their Councils ; let the Companions talk-up the Rite outside and show the necessity of taking these degrees ; let efforts be made to organize new Councils. If something like this were done, five years would see the Grand Council of North Carolina as strong as any.

There was no Foreign Correspondence, and never has been any.

Subordinate Councils.....	3
Membership .....	117

SIDNEY E. ALLEN, Winston, G. M. .

DONALD W. BAIN, Raleigh, G. R. .

#### OHIO—2879.

In the Buckeye State we found the S. V. . all alive with workmen, and the ring of the trowel was loud and clear. None were asleep; none were faint; but all were hard at work; while a constant stream of craftsmen were bringing beautiful pieces of work into the sanctuary. It is indeed refreshing to visit such a Grand Council, to behold the evidences of prosperity, and see what zeal can do. And, if one Grand Council can do so well and be so prosperous, why cannot every one be equally successful, or successful in like degree. Such jurisdictions as Ohio, or Michigan, or Indiana, or Massachusetts, or Maine, or New York, are a constant rebuke to the halting and surrendering Companions, and are a standing proof what zeal, energy and determination can do. It is true that circumstances are not equally favorable in every State, but the Councils we have mentioned above have had their discouragements and trials, and yet have persevered through them all. They have *tried*, instead of lamenting ; they have chosen *live men* for officers, instead of mere figure-heads ; they have *held fast and persevered*, instead of surrendering ; they have done their duty, instead of leaving it undone ; they have done their best with the Rite as it was, instead of tinkering and proposing endless changes.

It is no wonder they prosper, and demonstrate the ability of the Cryptic Rite to stand alone. And we repeat that there is no reason why every Grand Council should not enjoy the like success to-day. If in Ohio the Grand Officers had done as those of Mississippi or Illinois did, the Grand Council of Ohio would be extinct to-day, or be a stagnant, lifeless thing. Let every one ask himself the reason of their prosperity, and he will find the answer very plain. And who is to blame that it is not so in every State? The answer is equally plain.

The forty-ninth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Ohio convened in Akron, October 16, 2879, at 10 o'clock A. M. Companion ORESTES A. B. SEUTER, G. M. ., presided, and forty-nine out of fifty-six Councils were represented. Two Councils were under dispensation.

The Address of G. M. . SEUTER was long and able. He had received the

bond of the G. T. for \$3,000. He had resigned his commission as Grand Representative of the Grand Council of Illinois. And we do not see how he could have done otherwise. Several questions had come before him for decision. Two Councils in Cincinnati had desired to be united, and asked for a dispensation to do so, and he had directed them to summon an Assembly for the purpose, and by an almost unanimous vote (less than nine dissenting), to petition the Grand Council for permission to unite. This was approved.

The following question had been submitted :

" A Companion Royal Arch Mason, while a resident of Chicago, petitioned the Council of that city to receive the degrees, and in due time was elected. Before he could receive the degrees he removed to Cincinnati. The Chapter and Councils of Illinois having lately consolidated, he cannot receive the amount of the fees for conferring the degrees, though they (the Chapter) are willing to confer the degrees of R. and S. M. upon him at any time that he shall present himself. He is desirous of becoming a member of our Council. Can the Chapter with which they were consolidated grant us permission to confer the degrees ?

" Is a Companion entitled to visit a Council in Ohio, he having received the degrees of R. and S. M. in a Chapter of R. A. M. in a State where consolidation has been effected ? "

Companion SEUTER gives in full a letter of G. M. OSGOODBY, whom he consulted on the above questions, who, he says, is distinguished not only in the practice of our country's laws, but is eminent as a Masonic jurist. The decision on the questions was, that the Companion must petition the Council in the same manner as if he had never petitioned in Illinois.

To the second question he answered that the Companion could not visit a Council in Ohio.

In answer to other questions he had decided, that a Companion having been regularly made in a Council of R. and S. M., but now hailing from a Chapter owing to consolidation, could not visit a Council in Ohio. Also, that, after a Companion is healed and elected in a Council by ballot, he becomes a member of that Council, and as such cannot visit a Chapter while the said Chapter is attempting to confer the degrees of R. and S. M., or is alleged to be open in the degrees of R. and S. M.; and the standing of the healed Companion in the Chapter, where they are unlawfully and clandestinely conferring the degrees of R. and S. M., is affected only so far as these degrees are concerned.

Also, that it is lawful to receive a petition from a Companion R. A. M. from a State where there are no Councils of R. and S. M., it being understood that he petition the Council nearest his residence; and that a petition can be received from an unaffiliated R. and S. M. hailing from a State where the Grand Council has ceased to exist. Also, that Cryptic Masons from Ohio can not visit a Chapter while it is clandestinely conferring the Council degrees; nor can they allow themselves to be examined in the Cryptic degrees by a committee sent from a Chapter of R. A. M.

A question was asked, stating that Jeffries Council, of Newport, Ky., refused to surrender its charter, although the Grand Council had merged into the Chapter, and desiring to know if a member of Jeffries Council could visit a Council in Ohio. To this question he answered that Jeffries Council had no

legal existence, and a member of it could not visit until that Council received a charter or dispensation from the nearest Grand Council.

On this decision the Committee on Jurisprudence differed with the G. . M. ., and their report was adopted.

They said :—

" Your Committee are of the opinion that Jeffrey Council having been legally created, the members acquired, by the changed relations which they have assumed under the charter, the right to a continued existence in that form ; unless by their own action they consent to waive or surrender that right. The Grand Council of Kentucky, having been merely a representative body, had such powers only as were granted to it by their Constitution, among which, while the right of self-destruction might be included, clearly the right to destroy the rights or existence of the distinct bodies whom it represented was not included, except it was by the consent of those bodies. And we conclude that, in view of the refusal of Jeffrey Council to consent to that act of suicide, it still remains a legal Council, and, under the courtesy which should prevail among Masons, its members should be permitted to visit Councils under this jurisdiction. Any other view would place this Grand Council in the position, in view of other decisions, of refusing to recognize some Kentucky Royal and Select Masters because they did surrender their charters, and others because they did not surrender their charters."

This is a specimen of the endless complications which arise, and will continue to arise, under the Mississippi plan. The above decision is on a very puzzling question, and whatever may be the opinions of the Companions as to the status of Jeffrey Council, it is a most powerful argument against consolidation with the Chapter. It shows that the plan and its results are evil, and only evil continually.

Once more. A question was asked, whether a Companion could send a vote in a sealed envelope to his Council, when he could not be present. The decision was that he could not, but that he must be present in order to vote.

Dispensations had been granted for two new Councils. In one of the Councils the Recorder had tendered his resignation to take place at a certain date, but the G. . M. . decided that a Companion, having been duly elected and installed in an office, can not resign that office during the term for which he was elected.

We think that is right, for we have been so taught, but we know of a jurisdiction, not far from Ohio, which had decided that an officer, even a W. . M. ., can resign.

The former G. . T. . of this Grand Council being bankrupt, the claim of the Grand Council was proven, and a percentage of the claim had been received. The report of the G. . T. . showed receipts \$1,397, and a balance of \$113.48. The By-laws were amended so as to pay the member one dollar for every twenty-five miles of travel instead of one dollar and a half.

We were much disappointed by the brevity of Companion CUNNINGHAM'S Report on Foreign Correspondence. Instead of the feast of good things to which he has usually treated us, he occupies this year only four pages.

He reviews nine Grand Councils only, including New York for 2878 ; and gives nothing but the statistics and the names of the G. . Masters and Recorders. We trust Companion CUNNINGHAM will bestir himself and do better the next time, for he knows how as well as any one.

A resolution at the last Assembly directed a circular to be forwarded to each Council in the State to take a vote on consolidation with the Chapter. The

report of the vote showed that out of 2,601 members only 516 voted in favor of the plan.

A resolution was offered tendering the control of the degrees to the General Grand Chapter, whenever the interests of Masonry may be benefitted by such a consolidation. The resolution was indefinitely postponed. Thus the Mississippi plan was buried in Ohio, and there were no mourners. May its ghost never arise to disquiet the S. V. :

Subordinate Councils.....	59
Under Dispensation.....	1
Advanced.....	109
Membership (paying members) .....	2,125

ORESTES A. B. SENTER, Columbus, G. M. :

JOHN D. CALDWELL, Cincinnati, G. R. :

#### PENNSYLVANIA—2880.

Pennsylvania held her thirty-fourth Annual Assembly in Phoenixville, February 18, 2880.

MARK RICHARDS MUCKLÉ, G. M. :, presided, and upon call of the roll it was found that ten Councils were represented. From the excellent Address of Companion MUCKLÉ we take great pleasure in making quotations. We are glad to report to you such words as these :

“ The reports which come to us from our various subordinates will present a fair condition of prosperity in the gradual, select and healthy acceleration of companions to our numbers, which is of infinite more importance than a more speedy increase with a corresponding lukewarmness and ultimate disproportionate falling off in numbers. What we really most desire is a more active participation of the members in the labors devolving on the subordinate Councils, and if the proper spirit does not manifest itself within their respective bodies, all the suggestion or encouragement given by the Grand Council and its officers, will be like so many idle words or hours expended on an unprofitable experiment. It is true that a want of uniformity in the work may have in a slight measure been the cause of considerable of the lack of interest which we have been for some years endeavoring to cure in some of the subordinates ; but we believe that the actual evil exists more in ambitious individuals having themselves elected to positions of honor and trust, who never knew the work of the three degrees, and what is still worse, never intended learning the same, to enable them to properly perform the functions of the position to which they desired to be elevated or were elected. This should not be tolerated, and the better judgment of the members should prompt them to scrutinize carefully, and select competent and well-skilled craftsmen in the body to perform the labors in the S. V. to the satisfaction of the craft, and at the same time as an honor to its officers.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 “ The subject of the greatest importance to be presented at this session for your serious consideration and decision, will be the report of the Committee on Work. This Committee have been diligently at work for nearly the period of two years, and consists of three companions from three different localities in our vast jurisdiction ; selected first, on account of their proficiency in the work ; and, secondly, from the various localities distant from one another, on account of some diversity in the work.”

We make no apology for the following long quotation, and we hope it may be read in every Council in New York. He says :—

“ On the subject of surrendering of charters of State Grand Councils to Grand Chapters we have but little more to state. Pennsylvania has taken her stand and will remain firm as the Rock of Ages in her faith and decision on this point. She has repeatedly asserted her true and

"tried doctrine on the subject. One of its Grand Masters, some years since, while dwelling on this theme, announced that these remarks have been made, that Pennsylvania may place herself right upon the record in opposing every scheme whose tendency would be to place the Council degrees under the control of Grand Chapters, or the Scottish Rite. The time of the Grand Chapters is fully occupied in controlling the degrees of Capitular Masonry, while the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, in 1849, passed a resolution waving all their right, title and interest in the degrees of Cryptic Masonry. Hence we regard the question as finally and fully settled; and whenever I have been addressed on this subject as your Grand Master, I have invariably declared that the Grand Council of Pennsylvania will never disband its organization, or surrender her power or authority to any body of Masons, but will preserve her organization, if for no other reason than that within the S. V. we can procure the G. O. W., in its purity, and preserve it intact, with the attending ceremonies, without being corrupted by Masonic charlatans, whose highest ambition is to narrow our landmarks and ceremonies to their own misconceived ideas of religious belief.

"In perusing the history of Cryptic Masonry in the U. S., we learn that not a single State received its authority from a Grand Chapter; but it appears that somewhere between the years 1817 and 1824, some half a dozen individuals traveled about through various of the States, in the character of perigrinating Masonic pedlars or tramps, conferring degrees represented to be those of R. and S. Masters, and instituting Councils therein; which action was ultimately checked when the State organizations stepped in and assumed complete control of the same. This subject has brought to light much elaborate literature both in prose and poetry; and I am happy to state that Pennsylvania comes in for a good share of credit for the bold and deliberate stand she has assumed in the premises. When such distinguished Masonic historians and authors as Companions PIKE, MACKAY, DRUMMOND, COOLEY, OSGOOD, and others, endorse our sentiments on these grave subjects, which have been agitating Cryptic Masonry for years, in addition to our own researches and experiences, you may safely depend upon it, we can not be far from the right. We sincerely pity the prodigals, and sympathise for them in the homeless condition in which they have seen proper to place themselves."

Companion MUCKLÉ reports that he has filled up the list of Grand Representatives near other jurisdictions.

The report of the condition of the Treasury shows an amount of \$2,741.79 and a balance on hand of \$1,970.27, with \$1,500 in 4 per cents. We are sincerely glad to see so many shekels in the chest. A reduction of twenty per cent. was made in the dues for 2880. A resolution was adopted asking the Grand Officers to make more official visitations, and we were well pleased to see a committee bring in such a resolution.

We are sorry to say that the Committee on Correspondence made a verbal report only. A correspondent with the ability of Companion MEYER should dispense light and information every year.

Companion MUCKLÉ declined a re-election.

The Committee on work reported, and their report was adopted as the standard work. Pennsylvania has always refused to adopt the uniform work of the Convention, but has preferred her own, which she could not make all her own Councils use. We hope she will succeed now, and be at least uniform with herself.

The statistics show that during the past year the warrants of six Councils were *ipso-facto* suspended by not making returns for two years or more. Hence the following statistics represent the Councils actually at work:

Subordinate Councils.....	19
Received.....	15
Membership.....	1,492

WILLIAM J. FORDNEY, Lancaster, G. O. W.

CHARLES E. MEYER, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, G. O. W.

## RHODE ISLAND—2876-2880.

The Proceedings of the Grand Council of Rhode Island are printed about once in four or five years, on account of financial straits, and between times they send out a circular.

The pamphlet in hand is a well printed and well arranged piece of work, and contains the Constitution and By-laws, names of members, &c.

The Sixteenth Annual "Convocation" was held in Providence, March 16, 2876, ALBERT H. CUSHMAN, G. M., presiding. Three Councils were represented out of five. The Convention work was exemplified and adopted as the standard work of the jurisdiction. It was given into the custody of the G. R., with directions to disseminate the same. Companion JOHN F. ADAMS, of Pawtucket, was elected G. M., and WALTER BLODGETT was re-elected G. R.

The Seventeenth Convocation met in Providence, March 12, 2877. Four Councils represented.

Amendments to the Constitution were adopted, that the first six Grand Officers should be elected, and the remainder appointed; that the first five officers of subordinate Councils should be elected, and the remainder be appointed; that in no case shall the annual dues paid to the Grand Council be less than \$10.00; and that the titles of the officers be made to correspond to the Uniform Work.

During the year, four had been greeted, nineteen had died, and the membership was 695.

The pre-requisite question was left to the discretion of the first four Grand Officers.

Companion ADAMS was elected G. M., and WILLIAM R. GREENE, G. R.

The Eighteenth Annual Assembly met March 11, 2878; all five Councils represented.

The returns showed thirty-nine greeted, nine died, and 717 members. Companions ADAMS and GREENE were re-elected.

March 10, 2879, the Grand Council assembled for the nineteenth time; all five Councils represented.

The returns showed: greeted eight; died 23; membership 707.

The commissions of thirteen Companions were presented as Grand Representatives near Rhode Island.

The work was exemplified.

The Address deplored the action of the Grand Councils which had surrendered, and lamented the death of I. Comp. CHARLES H. TIFUS.

AMOS A. PEVEY, of Woonsocket, was elected G. M.

The Twentieth Annual Assembly of the "Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" met March 8, 2880, in Providence. Only three Councils of the five were represented.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, STILLMAN WHITE, Chairman,

was brief, preferring to sum up in a few words the condition of matters, rather than make an extended report. We differ with the Companions, for if they had not had the extended reports of others to consider, they could not have made the excellent resume which they did. They had received the Proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Councils, among which we notice New York for 2878-9. We shall quote the greater part of the report, even though it may be a practical repetition of what we have already written, for it is well stated, and has some new thoughts. They say :—

" We are at a loss to understand how any well informed Companion can, in the face of the obligations he has solemnly taken upon his honor, ever consent or acquiesce in the transfer of the Cryptic degrees to the Chapter. We agreed 'not to assist or to be present at the conferring of the degrees except in a regular Council.' And as the General Grand Chapter defines what degrees shall be comprised in the Capitular System, and as the Royal and Select degrees are not embraced therein, we fail to see what right Chapters subordinate to that body have to assume jurisdiction over Cryptic Masonry. The law is assuredly not with them. A Grand Council can die, but can not give authority over that which is not exclusively its own, but belongs to other Grand Councils in common with it. Whatever may now be said of the origin of Cryptic Masonry, we believe that it should exist as an independent organization, and that Grand Councils should maintain their integrity.

\* \* \* \* \*

" Let us arouse to the fact that we *must* and *can* entirely depend on our own resources, feeling that the energy expended in arguing the 'to be or not to be' of the question, if directed in the right course, is sufficient to develop the powers that are latent within us; by so doing Cryptic Masonry will long retain the position in the Masonic system so justly due to the lessons it inculcates. We feel that with the coming of better times the prospects of Cryptic Masonry are brightening, and from the Proceedings received and from various reports in Masonic publications of later date the prospects are decidedly encouraging.

\* \* \* \* \*

" We gather from this controversy what seems to us to be several uncontrovertable facts, and they are these :—

" 1.—That no such movement as relegating the Cryptic Degrees to the Chapter should have been undertaken except upon the assent of all the Grand Councils.

" 2.—That no *one* Grand Council has any legal or moral right to assent to the conferring of those degrees under any other authority than a Grand Council.

" 3.—That a Grand Council may revoke the charters of all its subordinates and dissolve, but the transfer of the degrees to any other authority is beyond the scope of its power.

" 4.—That Grand Councils can not recognize Royal and Select Masters made under a Chapter warrant, or anywhere else than in a Council, regularly chartered by a Grand Council.

" 5.—That the threat of those Chapters, who have adopted the Mississippi plan, to expel all for misdemeanor who should attempt to start a new Grand Council in their jurisdiction would be an illegal proceeding, as many composing the Grand Chapter would know no more of Cryptic Masonry than any other outside body, and would have no jurisdiction over a Royal and Select Master regularly made.

" 6.—It is safe to assume that the General Grand Chapter will not endorse the Mississippi plan in the face of the protest of all the remaining Grand Councils, for it can not endorse, assent to or countenance the conferring of the degrees in a clandestine manner, nor can it consent to adopt two systems, one for part of the States and another for other States; that would be the height of folly.

" 7.—That the claim formerly made that the Chapter ever had any rightful authority over the Cryptic Degrees has been most completely controverted by historical facts which have come to light, showing the origin and the introduction of the degrees; these facts prove that the Chapter never had any authority whatever over the degrees.

" 8.—Lastly, we gather that the life manifest in the various jurisdictions is governed more or less by the 'fergency and zeal' of the Grand and Subordinate Officers. How many times have we witnessed the revival of a body by placing a set of officers in charge who had some life and energy, and it seems to us that we are remiss in our duty in this jurisdiction, if we, who have the interest of Cryptic Masonry at heart, do not put our shoulders to the wheel and move the team along at a lively pace."

Success attend the Grand Council of Rhode Island.

Subordinate Councils..... 5  
Greeted..... 27

Died .....	23
Membership .....	706

AMOS A. PEVEY, Woonsocket, G. M.  
 WILLIAM R. GREENE, Providence, G. R.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA—2879-2880.

As we foretold to you in our last report the Grand Council of South Carolina is defunct. We said last year all that was necessary, and will merely relate the order of the funeral rites. If we remember right, the proposition for a union with the Grand Chapter came from that body.

At the Annual Assembly in Charleston, March 12, 2879, a Committee was appointed to confer with a similar one from the Grand Chapter, and the reason was assigned that one of the principal causes of decline was the multiplication of Masonic bodies, and the fallacy was reiterated that the Cryptic degrees were a part of the degrees conferred in the Chapter. Every one, who has posted himself in the history of these degrees, knows that this last assumption is false; that they never were conferred in the Chapter, and never were a part of its degrees. Because they may treat of related subjects is no sign that they were originated together, or by the same persons, or formed a part of the same system.

They also adopted a resolution of willingness to make the transfer on just and equitable terms, and appointed the three highest officers to affect the transfer and report at the next Assembly.

So, on February 11, 2880, at the Annual Assembly, with seven Councils represented, the transfer was completed. The conditions of the surrender do not differ materially from those which we have copied previously in the former cases of surrender. We will not, therefore, copy them. The first article is a little differently. It provides that, pending the action of the General Grand Chapter, the Cryptic degrees shall be communicated subsequent to the Royal Arch; but after the assent of the General Grand Chapter, (which they seem to be sure of,) the degrees shall be properly conferred.

As a token of appreciation, and a reward for his betrayal of his trust, a jewel was voted for the G. M. They then shed some crocodile tears and made "addresses of regret at the necessity of dissolving this Grand Council," and the Grand Council of South Carolina was formally announced as dissolved.

This was another of these un-Masonic and dishonorable surrenders consummated. And it was done with just as little necessity as in any case of any other Grand Council. When we contrast this action with the zeal and perseverance of Florida, Rhode Island, New Jersey, that with no greater membership and just as much occasion to give up, still bravely hold their own, and "never say die," our esteem for these recreant Grand Councils falls to the lowest ebb. We ask ourselves; why in South Carolina there was not a proportionate prosperity with that of Ohio, Michigan, Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania,

or New York, and who is to blame that there was not? We think the answer is easy, and the reason is plain. The worst enemies of Cryptic Masonry, and its only enemies are in the S. V., and the Cryptic Rite is wounded in the house of its pretended friends, yes, its own members, and these only. They only are to blame, not hard time; not too many bodies; nor any other sophistical reason. From all such deliver us.

#### TENNESSEE—2879.

The Proceedings of the Grand Council of Tennessee for 2879 have not been published.

Companion JOHN FRIZZELL, G. R., writes us that they will not be published until after the Assembly of 2880. He also says that he is of the opinion that Tennessee will then join with those Grand Councils that propose to establish a General Grand Council.

We give the statistics of last year :

Subordinate Councils.....	45
Membership.....	1,230

JOHN FRIZZELL, Nashville, G. R. :

#### CONCLUSION.

The time of our Annual Assembly is so near at hand that we will add but a few words in conclusion. We have completed our review. We have heard of the action at Detroit. We finish our report more hopefully than we began it. The low, lowering cloud has broken, and the light breaks in. We feel more like writing words of cheer. Not that we despaired before, not that we gave up and thought the Rite would be abandoned, but we think it will now have greater prosperity, and in every jurisdiction its honorable future will be assured.

The action of the General Grand Chapter at Detroit, and that of the Convention will no doubt be fully given in the Address of our Grand Master. We will not take room to repeat them. We can not deny that it was a critical time for Cryptic Masonry. Many of the Grand Councils had already surrendered the degrees to the Grand Chapters, and others wished to do so. Strong influence was brought to bear on the G. G. C. to have it prove false to its past record, and permit the Mississippi plan to be adopted, or at least, to take no action to prevent it. But the critical point is past. The G. G. C. has reiterated its past decisions, and has declared that it has nothing to do with the Cryptic degrees. The Address of the G. G. H. P., Companion FRIZZELL, gave no uncertain sound on that point, and his recommendations have been adopted.

If the G. G. C. had sanctioned the Mississippi plan, the result could not have failed to be most disastrous to the Cryptic Rite. The weak and

vacillating Grand Councils would have adopted that plan, and the most destructive confusion would have reigned in the Rite. Every thinking mind can easily see what the result would have been. But that has been averted. The weak Grand Councils will now either go to work and develop themselves, as they might have done long ago, if they had only thought so and tried, or they will go down and dissolve. And they ought to dissolve honorably, if they can not sustain themselves. The vacillating Grand Councils will now go earnestly to work, and cease this endless tinkering and proposing to change, which has done so much harm in the past. There will be no more looking to the Chapter for help. There will be no more sophistry in that direction. They must themselves swim or sink, and if they will not swim we say let them sink, as they ought to.

We do not need any outside help. Like children fully able to walk, who call for a helping hand and will not try to walk until it is denied them, so we have been calling for a helping hand when we did not need any. We can live and thrive if we will. We have the ability in ourselves to prosper. Nothing ever succeeds without work, and Cryptic Masonry is not going to be an exception. If we are not zealous, patient and faithful, nothing else will galvanize us into life. If we do our duty; prize our Rite; talk about it as the noblest, best and most necessary part of Masonry to complete a thorough understanding of it; and above all, elect earnest, zealous, practical officers who will be up and doing, Cryptic Masonry will get along well enough, and will not require to be fostered by the Commandery or held on the "bosom" of the Chapter. Don't let us hear any more whining, or any more lamenting. If any Grand Council cannot live, why die, and we will shed a few tears over you, and set apart a memorial page, and put up a monument over you. But let us see first what you can do. Don't let any Companion think we are going to build up something as large as a Grand Lodge. We are the Select, the Royal few, who have sifted out the chaff and kept only the golden grain. We may not be engines of a thousand horse power, but we can work just as ceaselessly, just as faithfully, and perhaps do a great deal better work.

The question now comes up, what will be done in those jurisdictions where they have adopted the Mississippi plan. It cannot be continued any longer. The Grand Chapters cannot continue to exercise control over the Councils. We sincerely hope the Grand Councils in those States will reorganize, and go to work. If these prodigals will return to the Cryptic fold, we will see them while yet a great way off, and go out and fall on their necks and welcome them back with rejoicing. We shall await their action with great interest. We think their action was very unwise, but we suppose they were honest and thought they were doing for the best. So we will not reproach them, but ask them to remember in the future and not do it again.

Another important question is that of a General Grand Council. Will nine Grand Councils ratify the action of the Convention? We would advise it by all means. You will recollect, Companions, that some years ago we favored a General Grand Body for the Cryptic Rite. We gave our reasons then, and we

think now that the events of the past four years have shown them to be good. We found almost no one to agree with us. On every hand there was jealousy of such a body and a fear that the State Grand Councils would lose some of their prerogatives. They urged the multiplicity of Grand Bodies, and the expense and other arguments of a like character. But now we think there is a change of opinion to some extent, and we have hope that the Grand Councils will ratify in sufficient numbers.

If we had formed a G. : G. : Council at the time it was broached before, the Mississippi plan would not have done so much injury. We say now, as we said then, that the Cryptic Rite needs some grand, central rallying point; a bond of power and unity between us. A G. : G. : Body would supply that. It would be an authority to which disputed points could be referred. It would tend to that great desideratum—uniformity of work. It would increase the communication between the jurisdictions. Each State would not stand isolated, and free to run into any disastrous vagary. With Masonry, isolation and a want of unity of interest is as fatal as it was to the Grecian republics. In Greece each city was a separate state, full of jealousy of the others, and all the power, intellect and valor of Greece was frittered away in intestine feuds. Each State easily fell a prey to the invader, so that the glorious age of Grecian history was confined to one generation. All history warns us, to be willing if need be, to sacrifice for the common good, and to be knit together by a great central power. As we desire the future prosperity, power and splendor of Cryptic Masonry, let us lay aside our conflicting opinions, and join in one great jurisdiction, which will make us what we are, the summit and perfection of ancient craft Masonry.

And now, Companions, we bring our labors to a close. The future of our Rite looks brighter, and we bid you be of good cheer, and stand fast. Let no herald with tidings of discouragement cause your zeal to wax faint.

The Great Master has spared us through all these years that we have been giving an account of the Rite. How many who were the wisdom, strength and beauty of the Rite, when we first took up the reporter's pen, are now no more in the S. : V. : HARRIS, DANFORTH, PLATT, GOULEY, MORRILL, WALTER, CORSON and NORMAN, and many others. What a list of names. What a galaxy of talent. The young may die, the old must die, and the wisest knows not how soon. The vacant places of our Companions warn us that it is not for us to hope to escape from the common doom of man. Speedily do we hasten to the end of these cares and labors. Let us strengthen the bands of fraternal love; incite our hearts to duty and our desires to true wisdom. Let us exercise Charity, cherish Hope, and walk in Faith.

CHARLES G. HUDSON,  
Chairman.

J. G. BARKER,  
JOHN N. MACOMB, JR.

The several officers appointed by the Grand Master to visit the various Councils under this jurisdiction, presented a report of their labors, which reports were received and ordered on file.

The Special Committee on the Grand Master's Address presented the following report, which was received, and their recommendations adopted.

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee on subdivision of the Address of the Grand Master, and its appropriate reference, report :

We have considered the Address, and recommend that so much of the Address as refers to R. I. Comp. NORMAN, and his decease, be referred to a Special Committee of three.

So much of the Address as refers to the action of the General Grand Chapter of R. A. M's. on the merging of the Cryptic and Capitular Rites, together with the proceedings of the Convention of Royal and Select Master's held at Detroit, with the prospective plan of a General Grand Council, be referred to a Special Committee of five.

So much as refers to the decisions of the M. I. G. M. be referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

So much of the Address as refers to the merging of Peekskill, and Sing Sing Councils, and the application of Nepperhan Council to hold assemblies at Mount Vernon, and of King Solomon's Council as to its removal to Poughkeepsie, be referred to the Committee on Warrants and Dispensations.

So much as refers to the members of Seneca Council who have been elected in Corning Council, be referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

Respectfully submitted,

RALPH E. PRIME, }  
ALEX. B. KING, } Committee.  
JASON COLLIER, }

The Representatives of the following Grand Councils were announced, received, and cordially welcomed to this Assembly of the Grand Council :

Alabama,  
Georgia,  
Louisiana,  
Minnesota,  
New Brunswick (Can.),  
Ontario (Can.),

Connecticut,  
Indiana,  
Maine,  
Maryland,  
New Jersey,  
Pennsylvania.

Florida,  
Kansas,  
Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire,  
Ohio,  
Rhode Island,  
Vermont.

Together with

R. I. ALBERT G. GOODALL, representative of Grand Council of England, Wales, &c.

R. I. THOMAS GLIDDON, representative of Grand Council of Michigan.

The M. I. Grand Master appointed the following Committees :

*On Credentials and Returns.*

Comps. GEO. VAN VLIET, A. OPPENHEIMER, and S. D. WADHAM.

*On Warrants and Dispensations.*

Comps. THOMAS DARLING, JOHN W. MERRIAM, and B. F. ADAMS.

*On Constitution and By-Laws.*

Comps. JOHN J. MARTIN, JOHN L. BROTHERS, and A. B. WOOD.

*On Grievances and Appeals.*

Comps. ALEX. B. KING, W. MORGAN LEE, and PETER J. KEENAN.

*On Finance and Accounts.*

Comps. JOHN W. COBURN, W. H. WYMAN, and L. K. GOLDSMITH.

*On Unfinished Business.*

Comps. JOHN OMBONY, MARK C. FINLEY, and HENRY C. WELTON.

*Special Committee on the death of R. I. Comp. Norman.*

Comps. THOS. GLIDDON, Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER, L. H. RAYMOND, and J. D. MONELL.

*Special Committee on General Grand Council.*

Comps. G. FRED. WILTSIE, RALPH E. PRIME, JOHN N. MACOMB, Jr., JOHN G. BARKER, and A. D. ROBBINS.

*Special Committee on Time and Place for holding the next Annual Assembly.*

Comps. L. K. GOLDSMITH, A. B. KING, and P. W. VERHOEVEN.

On motion, the hours for meeting during this present Assembly were fixed at 10 o'clock, A. M., and 3 o'clock P. M.

On motion, the election of Officers for the ensuing year was made

the special order for to-morrow morning, immediately after the opening of the session.

On motion, it was decided to continue the session of to-morrow morning until all the business of this Annual Assembly shall have been concluded.

Comp. JOHN N. MACOMB, Jr., offered the following resolution, which was received and referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws :

*Resolved*, That any Subordinate Council within the jurisdiction of this Grand Council may confer upon any Royal and Select Master in good standing, hailing from the jurisdiction of a Grand Council in which the degree of super-Excellent Master is not worked, the said degree of S. E. M. :

The Grand Council was then called from Labor until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, September 8th, 1880, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session. Officers and Representatives as at the morning's session.

The minutes of the morning's session were read and approved.

The Committee on Credentials and Returns presented the following report, which was on motion, received :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee on Credentials and Returns report, that in addition to the Grand Officers and permanent members of this Grand Council, the following Councils have made returns and paid dues, and their Representatives as designated below, are entitled to seats in this Grand Body:

COLUMBIAN.....	No. 1.	Lewis H. Raymond.....	T. I. M.
".....	" 1.	Wm. F. J. Pierce.....	P. C. of W.
UNION.....	" 2.	L. K. Goldsmith.....	T. I. M.
BROOKLYN.....	" 4.	B. F. Adams.....	"
ADELPHIC.....	" 7.	John W. Coburn.....	"

BLOSS.....	" 14.	James Aitken.....	Dep. M.:
" .....	" 14.	Alex. B. King.....(Proxy for)..	T. I. M.:
BRUCE.....	" 15.	Jason Collier.....	T. I. M.:
SOUTHERN TIER.....	" 16.	S. D. Wadham.....	"
BUFFALO.....	" 17.	A. Oppenheimer.....	"
DORIC.....	" 19.	John W. Merriam.....	"
		Thos. Glidden.....	P. C. of W.:
KEYSTONE.....	" 20.	John L. Brothers.....	T. I. M.:
DE WITT CLINTON .	" 22.	Wm. M. Scott....(Proxy for)..	"
ONTARIO.....	" 23.	John N. Macomb, Jr.....	"
DUNKIRK.....	" 25.	W. H. Wyman.....	P. C. of W.:
PALMYRA.....	" 26.	Mark C. Finley.....	T. I. M.:
		George McGown.....	P. C. of W.:
UTICA.....	" 28.	Henry C. Welton.....	T. I. M.:
KING SOLOMON....	" 31.	Wm. Morgan Lee.....	"
PENTALPHA.....	" 36.	Thos. Darling.....	"
KONHOCTON.....	" 40.	Isaac J. Merrill.....	"
CORNING.....	" 53.	A. D. Robbins.....	"
PEEKSKILL.....	" 55.	John Ombony.....	"
HUDSON.....	" 62.	J. D. Monell....(Proxy for)..	"
SING SING.....	" 64.	Peter J. Keenan.....	"
" .....	" 64.	Ebenezer Fowler.....	Dept. M.:
ITHACA.....	" 68.	A. B. Wood.....(Proxy for)..	"
NEPPERHAN.....	" 70.	Ralph E. Prime...(Proxy for)..	T. I. M.:
" .....	" 70.	G. D. Pond.....	Dept. M.:
ALPHA-OMEGA.....	" 71.		

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,	} Committee.
A. OPPENHEIMER,	
S. D. WADHAM.	

A letter from Comp. A. C. WOOD, Past T. I. M. of Central City Council No. 13, located at Syracuse, relative to the resuscitation of that Council was received, and referred to the M. I. Grand Master when elected, with power to remit the Grand Council dues (now in arrears) of that and such other Councils as desired to revive on such basis.

The Committee on Warrants presented the following report, which was on motion received, and their recommendations adopted:

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK:

Your Committee on Warrants and Dispensations report, That the request of the Councils at Sing Sing and Peekskill, with regard to merging the two Councils into one, be granted by this Grand Council upon the surrender of the Warrant of Sing Sing Council No. 64, in which event the members of said Sing Sing Council shall become members of Peekskill Council No. 55.

That Nepperhan Council No. 70, located at Yonkers, be authorized to hold stated assemblies at Mount Vernon (Westchester County), as well as at Yonkers; providing, however, that its Annual Assembly for the election of officers shall be at Yonkers, and provided its present jurisdiction be not affected thereby, and that the Grand Council may at any time repeal their action in thus granting said privilege.

That in the matter of King Solomon's Council, No. 31, no action is necessary on the part of this Grand Council, as your committee are informed that the warrant of said council provides for their meeting in either Newburgh or Poughkeepsie.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS DARLING,  
JOHN W. MERRIAM, } Committee.  
B. F. ADAMS.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals presented the following report, which was on motion, received :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S.  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Your Committee on Grievances and Appeals report : That no case of grievance has been submitted to them for their consideration.

Peace and Harmony prevails throughout the jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. KING,  
W. MORGAN LEE, } Committee.  
PETER J. KEENAN.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws presented the following report, which was on motion received and their recommendations adopted :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S.  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee on Constitution and By-Laws report : That they have examined the decisions of the M. P. Grand Master, as reported in his address, and deem them correct exponents of the law of Cryptic Masonry, and recommend their approval.

On the resolution offered by Comp. MACOMB we are of the opinion that as the S. E. M. is not a regular degree, it can be conferred on any Companion whenever greeted.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. MARTIN,  
JOHN L. BROTHERS, } Committee.  
A. B. WOOD.

The Special Committee on the formation of a General Grand Council presented the following report, which was on motion received and their resolutions adopted:

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK:

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the organization of a General Grand Council for the United States, report, That, as is well known to every Companion, the merging of the Cryptic degrees with those of Royal Arch Masonry is a subject that has occupied more or less attention in every triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter for more than a quarter of a century. It has also been brought before many, if not all of the Grand Councils and Grand Chapters of the several states, and while uniformly disallowed by the General Grand Chapter and by a large majority of the Grand Councils and Grand Chapters, yet several of the Grand Councils yielded to the infatuation, and the Grand Chapters were accessory to the destruction of these beautiful degrees.

It also appeared that the disease was growing, and that a strong effort was being made in the General Grand Chapter to induce that distinguished body to endorse the plan, and to aid and abet the nefarious designs of men who having sworn to support, were about to wilfully destroy this portion of our beautiful Masonic Edifice. Such was the state of the question at the time of the meeting of the Convention of the Cryptic Rite held during the last triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter.

Some Grand Councils having by the above mentioned action vacated their respective jurisdictions, it was deemed necessary by the representatives present to take aggressive action towards the occupation of such vacant territory, and no plan seemed to be left for them but the organization of a General Grand Council.

After mature deliberation and a thorough discussion of the subject, this work was finally completed, and we congratulate the M. P. Grand Council of the State of New York (not less than the General Grand Council itself) that her M. I. Grand Master has been accorded the second place in that distinguished list of Masons who have laid the foundation of a monument which is to perpetuate Cryptic Masonry, and which will one day be considered the first step towards making these beautiful degrees pre-requisite to Knighthood.

Your Committee has received a copy of the Protest of the Grand Council of the State of New York to the General Grand Chapter, also a copy of the proceedings of the Convention of Royal and Select Masters heretofore referred to, and would recommend that they be printed with your proceedings.

Your committee would further recommend the adoption of the following :

*Resolved.* That the Grand Council of the State of New York does hereby *ratify and accept* the constitution submitted by the convention, as the constitution of the General Grand Council of the United States, and that the Grand Recorder be directed to notify the General Grand Recorder of such action.

Respectfully submitted.

G. FRED. WILTSIE, JOHN N. MACOMB, JR., A. D. ROBBINS, JOHN G. BARKER, RALPH E. PRIME.	}	Committee.
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The Grand Council was then called from Labor until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

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THURSDAY, September 9th, 1880—10 o'clock, A. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session.

Officers and representatives as before.

The minutes of the afternoon session of yesterday were read and approved.

The time (as fixed by special order) for the election of officers for the ensuing year having arrived, the Grand Master appointed as Tellers companions B. F. Adams and Thomas Darling, when the Grand Council proceeded to the election, with the following result :

(GEO. M. OSGOODBY was re-elected Grand Master, but declined.)

CHARLES W. BROWN, of Flushings, elected.....	M. I.	Grand Master.
JOHN J. MARTIN, of Albany,	" R. I.	" Dep. Master.
THOMAS GLIDDON, of Rochester,	" "	" P. C. of W.
DAVID B. HOWELL, of New York,	" "	" Treasurer.
GEO. VAN VLIET, of	" "	" Recorder.

The Grand Master made the following appointments :

JOHN L. BROTHERS, of Buffalo,.....	as R. I.	Grand C. of the G.
P. W. VERHOVEN, of New York.....	" "	" C. of the C.
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, of Ithaca.....	" "	" Marshal.
Rev. JOHN G. WEBSTER, of Palmyra.....	} "	" Chaplains.
" JOS. BRADFORD CLEAVER, of New York..		
JOHN N. MACOMB, Jr, of Branchport.....	" "	" Lecturer.
W. MORGAN LEE, of Poughkeepsie.....	" "	" Steward.
JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN, of New York .....	" Ill.	" Sentinel.

*Committee on Foreign Correspondence.*

Comps. Rev. CHARLES G. HUDSON,                      GEORGE M. OSGOODBY,  
and HENRY C. WELTON.

The Grand Officers (elected and appointed) were duly installed by M. I. GEO. M. OSGOODBY, assisted by M. I. G. FRED. WILTSIE.

The Special Committee on the decease of R. I. Comp. CHARLES NORMAN, presented the following report, which was, on motion, received and their resolutions adopted :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as alludes to the death of R. I. CHARLES NORMAN, of Rochester, Grand Principal Conductor of Work, report : That the encomium pronounced upon the life, character and ability of the deceased, by our M. I. Grand Master is in every particular just, and shows a due appreciation of the faithfulness of duty performed by one who knew him intimately and apprehended clearly the promise of greater usefulness had life and breath been spared to the illustrious Companion, whose death we now mourn, for CHARLES NORMAN was a young man, full of energy and courage, and in his studious habits, genial tempera-

ment, and commendable devotion, the Cryptic Rite had a most useful expounder and convincing advocate.

Brief, as was his career, we, his survivors have the gratifying satisfaction of recording that "his deeds live after him" and the lesson of the hour is, that we endeavor with our might to carry on the grand work which he so earnestly and intelligently laid out for himself, and toiled assiduously to perform. As a further mark of honor to the lamented CHARLES NORMAN, your Committee submit the following for your adoption.

*Resolved*, That the suggestion of the Grand Master to send a copy of the Proceedings of this Grand Council for the years 1878, 1879 and 1880 to the widow, son and parents, suitably bound and inscribed, as a memorial of our love and esteem for the deceased.

*Resolved*, That the chair of the Grand Principal Conductor of Work remain vacant, and clothed with the emblem of mourning until the election of a successor.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Council hereby tenders to Comp. H. H. WARNER, of Rochester, N. Y., its cordial thanks for so generously supplying the splendid steel plate engraving which adorns the proceedings of this Grand Body for the year 1879. This thoughtful proposition to perpetuate the memory of our loved companion was as beautiful in conception, as it was unanticipated and gratifying to the Cryptic Masons everywhere, therefore do we, the more immediate associates of the lamented NORMAN, put upon record our high appreciation of this testimonial to the deceased.

Faternally submitted,

THOMAS GLIDDON,	} Committee.
JOHN G. WEBSTER,	
L. H. RAYMOND,	
J. D. MONELL.	

The following amendments to the Constitution, proposed at our last Annual Assembly were taken up for action, and adopted:

Amend the Constitution by striking out the words "Deputy Grand Master" wherever they occur, and by substituting in place thereof "Grand Deputy Master."

Amend Section 1 of Article I, so that when amended it shall read: This Grand Council shall be composed of a Grand Master (whose style is Most Illustrious), a Grand Deputy Master, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Chaplain, Grand Lecturer, Grand Marshal, Grand Steward, (the style of all of whom is Right Illustrious), Grand Sentinel (whose style is Illustrious), all Past Grand Masters and all Masters, Deputy Masters, and

Principal Conductors of the Work, for the time being, of the several Councils under its jurisdiction, with all Past Masters of such Councils, who shall have been installed as such prior to January 1st, 1881, so long as such Past, Grand or Subordinate Officers, shall remain members of any Council under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council.

Amend Section 4 of Article I, by inserting after the words "Grand Principal Conductor of the Work" these words, viz.: "Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Work, Grand Lecturer, Grand Marshal and Grand Steward.

Amend Section, 36 of Article III by adding to it, at the end thereof, the words, Provided, that when any member shall be, or become a resident in the jurisdiction of another Grand Council, a dimit may be granted to him to direct, and without compliance with the foregoing provisions.

The Committee, on Unfinished Business presented the following report, which was, on motion, received :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee have labored assiduously to find some material upon which to display their willingness to perform the duty assigned them, but their researches have not been crowned with success.

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN OMBONY,  
MARK C. FINLEY,  
HENRY C. WELTON. } Committee.

The Special Committee on Time and Place for holding the next Annual Assembly, presented the following report which was, on motion, received and their recommendation adopted :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee recommend the Third (3) Tuesday in September, 1881, at 10 o'clock A. M. as the time, and the City of New York as the place, for holding the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council.

Respectfully submitted,

L. K. GOLDSMITH,  
A. B. KING,  
P. W. VERHOEVEN. } Committee

M. I. G. FRED. WILTSIE offered the following :

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Grand Council be tendered to our retiring Grand Master for his many efforts in behalf of Cryptic Masonry during his four years of service, and that a Committee of three be appointed to procure and present him with a suitable memorial, which was on motion, adopted; and Companions G. FRED. WILTSIE, THOMAS GLIDDON and JOHN W. COBURN, appointed as such Committee.

The Committee on Finance and Accounts presented the following report, which was received and their recommendations adopted :

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK :

Your Committee have examined the accounts of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer and find them correct.

We recommend the payment of the following amounts :—

For Salary of Grand Recorder.....	\$250.00
“ Expenses “.....	90.84
“ “ Grand Master.....	30.00
“ Contribution towards printing Gen'l. Grand Council Constitution.....	10.00
“ Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.....	56.00
“ Grand Sentinel for Services.....	10.00
“ Rent of Room and Safe.....	35.00
“ Pay of Representatives.....	506.96
Total.....	\$988.80

We also recommend that the Grand Recorder be authorized to have printed 500 copies of the Proceedings of this Assembly for the use of the Grand Council.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. WYMAN,  
JOHN W. COBURN, } Committee  
L. K. GOLDSMITH, }

On motion, Companion RALPH E. PRIME, was excused from attendance to-day.

On motion, the Grand Master was requested to apportion the jurisdiction to the several Grand Officers for visitation.

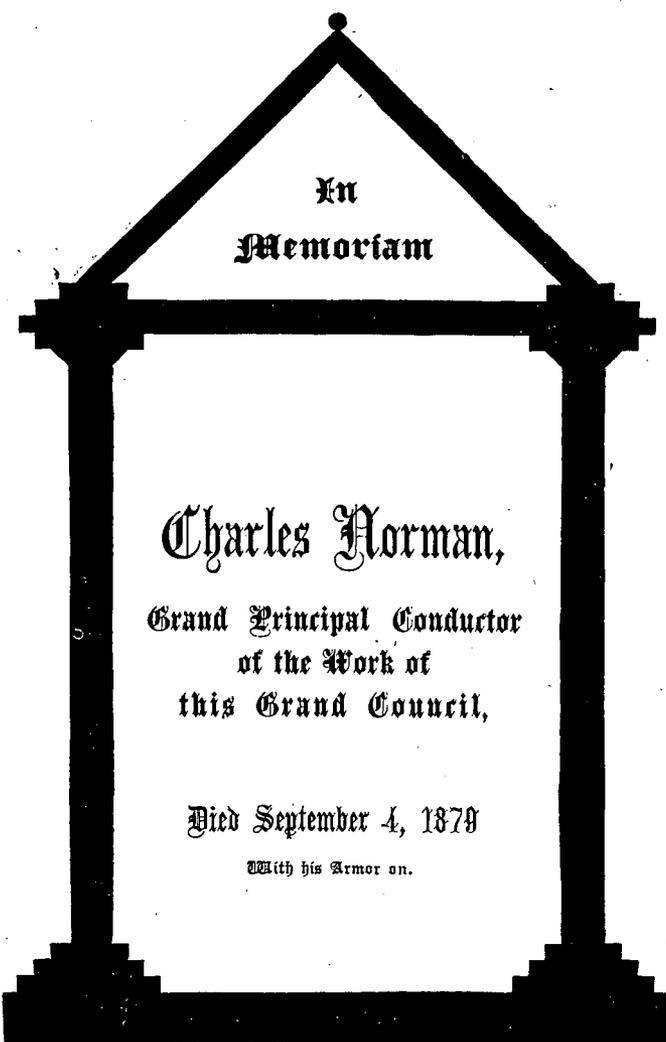
No further business offering, these minutes were read and approved and the Grand Council closed in ample form.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Van Hook".

*Grand Recorder.*

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The next Annual Assembly will be held in the City of New York, on Tuesday, September 20th, 1881, at 10 o'clock A. M.



An  
Memoriam

Charles Norman,  
Grand Principal Conductor  
of the Work of  
this Grand Council,

Died September 4, 1878

With his Armor on.

## OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

NAME.	No.	MASTER.	DEPUTY MASTER.	P. C. OF W.	RECORDER.	WHERE LOCATED.		DATE OF MEETINGS.
						CITY, OR TOWN.	COUNTY.	
COLUMBIAN .....	1	L. H. Raymond.	T. Cunningham.	W. F. S. Thiers.	P. W. Verhoeven.	New York.	New York.	.....
UNION .....	2	L. K. Goldsmith.	J. V. B. Green.	G. H. Winslow.	Philander Reed.	New York.	New York.	4th Saturday.
BROOKLYN .....	4	B. F. Adams.	J. B. Harris.	J. C. Heineman.	Wm. K. Smith.	Brooklyn.	Kings.	.....
ADELPHIC .....	7	Jno. W. Coburn.	Wm. Downes.	Isaac Greenbaum.	Geo. Van Vliet.	New York.	New York.	2d Saturday.
BLOSS .....	14	Egbert H. Dyer.	James Aitken.	Robt. Stiles.	W. F. Robertson.	Troy.	Reusselacr.	1st Friday.
BRUCE .....	15	Jason Collier.	Lorin King.	Ferry Stowell.	V. N. Douglas.	Lockport.	Niagara.	1st & 3d Wednesdays.
SOUTHERN TIER .....	16	S. D. Wadham.	David S. Dorr.	F. E. Cleveland.	P. L. Hinman.	Elmira.	Chemung.	3d Monday.
BUFFALO .....	17	A. Oppenheimer.	Girard McVicar.	Cyrus K. Porter.	Stephen M. Evry.	Buffalo.	Erie.	2d Thursday.
DORIC .....	19	J. W. Merriam.	Chas. L. Field.	Thos. Gliddon.	John Alexander.	Rochester.	Monroe.	1st & 3d Wednesdays.
KEYSTONE .....	20	J. L. Brothers.	Benj. A. Provost.	W. A. Woodson.	John H. Bosher.	Buffalo.	Erie.	3d Saturday.
DE WITT CLINTON .....	22	John J. Martin.	Wm. H. Whish.	Geo. L. Cooper.	J. E. Allanson.	Albany.	Albany.	3d Thursday.
ONTARIO .....	23	J. N. Macomb, Jr.	John T. Schoon.	Wm. E. Hayes.	S. N. Anthony.	Geneva.	Ontario.	1st Monday.
DUNKIRK .....	25	S. M. Smith.	W. Zimmerman.	W. H. Wyman.	Charles Blood.	Dunkirk.	Chautauqua.	1st Wednesday.
PALMYRA .....	26	M. C. Finley.	Chas. Deys.	Geo. McGown.	E. W. Cumings.	Painyra.	Wayne.	2d Monday.
BATAVIA .....	27	Lucian R. Bailey.	D. W. Tomlinson.	John Thomas.	A. N. Cowdin.	Batavia.	Genesee.	1st & 3d Friday.
UTICA .....	27	Henry C. Welton.	E. G. Brown.	E. Russell.	Edw'd B. Cash.	Utica.	Oneida.	Last Friday.
KING SOLOMON .....	31	W. Morgan Lee.	Theo. W. Davis.	C. H. Halstead.	Sam'l K. Rupley.	Poughkeepsie.	Dutchess.	3d Monday.
CRYPTIC .....	37	Chas. H. Sturges.	R. C. McEwen.	Geo. H. Gillis.	L. R. Cushing.	Saratoga-Spgs.	Saratoga.	2d & 4th Friday.
KONHOCTON .....	40	Isaac J. Merrill.	Wm. H. Shepard.	Chas. B. Mowers.	V. Brother.	Bath.	Steuben.	4th Friday.
CORNING .....	53	A. D. Robbins.	T. S. Pritchard.	Richard S. Hill.	Geo. Hitchcock.	Corning.	Steuben.	.....
PEEKSKILL .....	55	John Ombony.	Jas. Terwilliger.	Robert Brown.	T. J. Hodgkins.	Peekskill.	Westchester.	2d Monday.
HUDSON .....	62	W. H. Scoville.	A. Bush.	H. Kertz.	J. D. Monell.	Hudson.	Columbia.	.....
SING SING .....	64	Peter J. Keenan.	Ebenezer Fowler.	Jos. Holloway.	R. M. Lawrence.	Sing Sing.	Westchester.	1st & 3d Friday.
ITHACA .....	68	F. C. Sherman.	J. M. Kimball.	A. W. Force.	A. B. Wood.	Ithaca.	Tompkins.	2d Monday.
NEPPERHAN .....	70	Lyman Cobb, Jr.	G. D. Pond.	Jos. M. Tompkins.	John E. Murphy.	Yonkers.	Westchester.	1st & 3d Wednesdays.
ALPHI-OMEGA .....	71	Robt. H. Brown.	Geo. W. Barrell.	Albert S. Warner.	R. Titus Coan.	Albion.	Orleans.	.....

REPRESENTATIVES  
 OF OTHER  
 GRAND COUNCILS NEAR THE GRAND COUNCIL  
 OF NEW YORK.

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ALABAMA,.....	Thomas H. Floyd,.....	Utica.
CONNECTICUT,.....	G. Fred. Wiltsie,.....	New York.
FLORIDA,.....	John F. Baldwin,.....	"
GEORGIA,.....	P. W. Verhoeven.....	"
INDIANA,.....	Hawley Klein,.....	Buffalo.
KANSAS,.....	John D. Williams,.....	Elmira.
LOUISIANA,.....	Philander Reed,.....	New York.
MAINE,.....	G. Fred. Wiltsie,.....	"
MASSACHUSETTS,.....	John J. Martin,.....	Albany.
MICHIGAN,.....	Thomas Gliddon,.....	Rochester.
MINNESOTA,.....	Alexander B. King,.....	Troy.
MARYLAND,.....	George M. Osgoodby,.....	Buffalo.
NEW HAMPSHIRE,.....	Geo. Van Vliet,.....	New York.
NEW BRUNSWICK, CAN.,.....	G. Fred. Wiltsie,.....	"
NEW JERSEY,.....	G. Fred. Wiltsie,.....	"
OHIO,.....	Darwin E. Morgan,.....	Buffalo.
ONTARIO, CAN.,.....	James McCredie,.....	"
PENNSYLVANIA,.....	Robert Macoy,.....	New York.
RHODE ISLAND,.....	Charles W. Brown,.....	Flushing.
VERMONT,.....	Charles Craig.....	Lockport.

REPRESENTATIVES  
 OF THE  
 GRAND COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
 NEAR OTHER GRAND COUNCILS.

---

ALABAMA,.....	Benjamin F. Pope,.....	Mobile.
CONNECTICUT,.....	James S. Gould,.....	Bridgeport.
FLORIDA,.....	James A. Chaffin,.....	Milton.
GEORGIA,.....	R. W. Smith,.....	Athens.
INDIANA,.....	Luciene A. Foote,.....	Crawfordsville.
KANSAS,.....	David Brockway,.....	Topeka.
LOUISIANA,.....	Rev. Thomas D. Lawson,.....	Bastross.
MAINE,.....	Josiah H. Drummond,.....	Portland.
MASSACHUSETTS,.....	William Porter Anderson,.....	Boston.
MICHIGAN,.....	J. Shaw Noble,.....	Monro.
MINNESOTA,.....	Geo. W. Cooley,.....	Minnneapolis.
NEW BRUNSWICK, CAN.,.....	D. R. Munro,.....	St. Johns.
NEW HAMPSHIRE,.....	H. P. Gliddon,.....	Dover.
NEW JERSEY,.....	Marcus Higginbotham,.....	Jersey City.
OHIO,.....	Henry Newbegin,.....	Circleville.
ONTARIO, CAN.,.....	Daniel Spry.....	Toronto.
RHODE ISLAND,.....	A. H. Cushman,.....	Providence.
VERMONT,.....	George H. Bigelow,.....	Burlington.

## RECEIPTS AT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, 1880,

Sept. 8, 1880 —From Columbian Council, No. 1, for dues to August 1st, 1880.....							\$ 21.00
"	"	"	Union	"	"	2,	23.50
"	"	"	Brooklyn	"	"	4,	34.00
"	"	"	Adelphic	"	"	7,	77.00
"	"	"	Bloss	"	"	14,	130.00
"	"	"	Bruce	"	"	15,	22.50
"	"	"	Southern Tier	"	"	16,	47.50
"	"	"	Buffalo	"	"	17,	62.00
"	"	"	Doric	"	"	19,	130.00
"	"	"	Keystone	"	"	20,	81.50
"	"	"	De Witt Clinton	"	"	22,	109.50
"	"	"	Ontario	"	"	23,	27.50
"	"	"	Dunkirk	"	"	25,	31.00
"	"	"	Palmyra	"	"	26,	24.00
"	"	"	Batavia	"	"	27,	22.50
"	"	"	Utica	"	"	28,	52.50
"	"	"	King Solomon	"	"	31,	29.50
"	"	"	Pentalpha	"	"	36,	13.00
"	"	"	Konhocton	"	"	40,	17.00
"	"	"	Corning	"	"	53,	15.50
"	"	"	Peekskill	"	"	55,	14.50
"	"	"	Hudson	"	"	62,	36.50
"	"	"	Sing Sing	"	"	64,	16.50
"	"	"	Ithaca	"	"	68,	23.50
"	"	"	Nepperhan	"	"	70,	20.00
"	"	"	Alph-Omega	"	"	71,	23.00
Total.....							\$1,105.00

## OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

Elected and appointed Sept. 9th, 1880.

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CHARLES W. BROWN, .....	M. I. L.	Grand Master.
JOHN J. MARTIN, .....	R. I. L.	" Dep. Master.
THOMAS GLIDDON, .....	"	" P. C. of W.
DAVID B. HOWELL, .....	"	" Treasurer.
GEO. VAN VLIET, .....	"	" Recorder.
JOHN L. BROTHERS, .....	"	" C. of the G.
P. W. VERHOEVEN, .....	"	" C. of the C.
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, .....	"	" Marshal.
REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, .....	}	" Chaplains.
REV. JOSEPH BRADFORD CLEAVER, .....		
JOHN N. MACOMB, JR., .....	"	" Lecturer.
W. MORGAN LEE, .....	"	" Steward.
JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN, .....	Ill.	" Sentinel.

Grand Master's address—No. 5 Bond Street, New York City (or P. O. Box 123, Station A.)

Grand Recorder's address—"Masonic Temple," cor. 6th ave. and 23d sts., New York City.

(Next Annual Assembly, Sept. 20th, 1881.)

FROM THE  
MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL  
OF  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK.

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*To the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States :*

FRATERNAL GREETING :

In the current history of Masonic events, transpiring in this country, we are informed that an attempt is being made to induce your General Grand Body to usurp the prerogatives of the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters, and to assume jurisdiction and control over the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, without having first obtained the unanimous consent of the Grand Bodies which are the rightful custodians and owners of such degrees.

Were this a mere idle rumor wafted to us by the common hearsay of the times, we should not allow it a resting place in our thoughts, nor to engross our attention in the deliberations of this Grand Council, but it makes its appearance before us authenticated by the deliberate action of Grand Chapters under your jurisdiction, aided and abetted by certain Grand Councils of the Cryptic Rite. It has made its appearance in the proceedings of your body from time to time heretofore, and to these occasions, and your action upon them, we fraternally desire to call your attention. Before doing so at length, however, we desire to state that the immediate cause of our action at this time is the fact, that action by your General Grand Body in its proceedings at the triennial held at Buffalo, N. Y., in August, 1877, upon the report of your able committee, appointed to take into consideration the agreement that had been (illegally, as we insist) entered into between the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi and the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of that State, was postponed until the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter, to be held at Detroit in August, 1880 ; and we therefore come to you to present our solemn protest against any action of the General Grand

Chapter being taken which will in any way tend to approve of the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in or under the sanction of any Royal Arch Chapter within your jurisdiction. This Grand Council insists, and will ever maintain, that such degrees cannot be legally conferred under any authority whatever, emanating from any source whatsoever, other than the authority of a Council duly organized and working under a dispensation, warrant or charter, issued by the authority of a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters; and at the annual assembly of this Grand Council, held at the City of New York, in September, 1878, resolutions expressing its sense upon this subject were unanimously adopted, and the same are to be found upon pages 4-5 of its printed proceedings, a copy of which is herewith presented to the General Grand Chapter.

The resolutions, as adopted, have been in substance enacted by the majority of the Most Puissant Grand Councils of the several States, and are as follows:

The committee on merging the degrees of the Cryptic Rite with the Chapter Degrees offered the following report, which was, on motion, received, and their recommendations adopted:

TO THE M. P. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M.'S. OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK:

"Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as alludes to the condition of the Cryptic Rite, and the efforts being made in other jurisdictions to transfer the rights and prerogatives over the Cryptic Degrees into other hands, thereby surrendering and abandoning their several Grand Councils, respectfully report: That they have given a careful examination to the subject in all its bearings, and unanimously conclude to endorse the remarks, statements and recommendations of the Grand Master:

"Your committee, therefore, offer the following resolutions for the consideration of this Grand Council, and urge their adoption:

"1. *Resolved*, That the Grand Master be authorized to revoke the commissions of its present representatives to such Grand Councils as have taken action with a view to surrendering their power over the Cryptic Degrees into the hands of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

"2. *Resolved*, That this Grand Council hereby refuses to recognize as a lawfully entitled representative, any Companion with a commission issued by a Grand Royal Arch Chapter claiming authority over the Cryptic Degrees.

"3. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to protect the interests and rights of Cryptic Masonry against the encroachments now threatening the disruption of many Grand Councils by an usurpation of authority, coupled with an assumption of power not contemplated by the constitutions and usages of Cryptic Masonry.

"4. *Resolved*, That this Grand Council unequivocally condemns the action of any of our sister jurisdictions favoring the so-called Mississippi Plan, and declares that the successful advocacy of such a policy will be fatal to the perpetuation of those degrees in their purity and sublimity, wherever such plan be adopted.

"5. *Resolved*, That all delegates to the contemplated National Convention of Royal and Select Masters in the City of Detroit in August, 1880, be respectfully urged to organize a concerted plan of action for the United States with a view to perpetuate the Cryptic Rite in its purity, and also to establish uniformity in the ritual of the degrees, and this Grand Council hereby requests the chairman of the National Convention held at Buffalo in August, 1877, to call a meeting of representatives of the several Grand Councils who shall not have adopted the Mississippi Plan, to be held at Detroit in August, 1880, for a free interchange of opinions and action thereon.

"6. *Resolved*, That this Grand Council hereby enters its solemn protest against the merging of the Cryptic Degrees into the hands of any Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and also hereby declares that any person who receives the Cryptic Degrees under such authority are clandestinely made, and as such, cannot be received with fraternal greeting within this jurisdiction, either as visitors or as applicants for affiliation."

Fraternally submitted,

THOMAS GLIDDON, }  
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, } Committee.  
JOHN L. BROTHERS, }

A committee was duly appointed at the annual assembly of our Most Pius-  
sant Grand Council, which was held at the city of New York in September,  
1879, to present to this Grand Chapter this protest and the views of such Grand  
Council, and as you will see by reference to the proceedings as printed of such  
assembly at pages 23, 84, 89, a copy of which proceedings is herewith pre-  
sented to this General Grand Chapter. In obedience to the trust reposed in  
such committee, and to fulfill its duties, we appear before you with this com-  
munication. We now beg leave to call your attention to the action which has  
heretofore been had from time to time by your Grand Body, and which in and  
of itself alone will establish the sole and only right in these degrees of Royal  
and Select Masters in the Grand Councils of the Cryptic Rite. No one Grand  
Council can transfer jurisdiction over these degrees to any other body except  
to a like Grand Council of the Rite itself. If a Grand Council commits suicide,  
we insist it cannot devise its degrees to a different body of Masonry, the right  
to confer them then lies with other Grand Councils who may step in and oc-  
cupy as territory not under the jurisdiction of any particular body. In other  
words, we insist that it requires the unanimous consent of all the Grand Coun-  
cils of the land to transfer the custody of these degrees to any other branch of  
Masonry. By our researches we find that the first notice by the General Grand  
Chapter of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters which made its appearance  
in the proceedings of your Body, was at the General Grand Convocation held at  
the city of New York in September, 1829, when a communication upon the  
subject of these degrees was made to that Body, and which was noted upon  
page 94 of the reprint of General Grand Chapter Proceedings, and a committee  
was appointed thereon. It does not appear that there was much, if any, con-  
sideration of the subject at that convocation, the only desire evinced being to  
prevent the constitution of Councils of Royal and Select Master Masons (the  
importance and value of these degrees was thus conceded as a part of the Am-  
erican system of Masonry) in different parts of the country by persons having  
no authority to do so, and even these persons we are not informed, were allowed  
a hearing in the General Grand Chapter to establish their right and authority  
to constitute such Councils. A sort of Star Chamber inquisition, and which  
resulted in the adoption of a report made by the committee appointed, which  
is to be found at page 96 of such proceedings, and is as follows :

“TO THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER :

“ *Whereas*, It is satisfactorily proved to this General Grand Chapter that  
the constitution of Councils of Royal and Select Master Masons in different  
parts of the United States, by sundry persons has been without any legitimate  
authority ; and

“ *Whereas*, Those degrees are conferred in some Chapters under the au-  
thority of the General Grand Chapter ; and

“ *Whereas*, It was proved that it was the only and sole intention of the  
Most Excellent Companions from whom those degrees emanated that they

should be conferred under the authority of the Royal Arch Chapter ; therefore

*Resolved.* That this General Grand Chapter cordially recommend to the different Councils of the United States to adopt measures to place those degrees under the authority of the State Grand Chapter.

*Resolved.* That authority be, and is hereby, granted to the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, to make such arrangements as shall be found necessary for conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in Royal Arch Chapters : provided, always that no Grand Chapter, within the limits of which is a Grand Council, shall authorize the Royal Arch Chapters under its jurisdiction to confer such degrees without the consent of such Grand Council.

(Signed),

“JOEL CLAPP,  
Per order.”

Notwithstanding the adoption of these resolutions we are constrained to the opinion that the General Grand Chapters never had in fact, or, with an understanding of the case, ever assumed to control the degrees of Royal and Select Masters, for upon further investigation we find that, regardless of this series of resolutions, at the same convocation the General Grand Chapter made divers amendments to its constitution which still retained the same provisions under which it had previously and from its organization been governed in relation to the degrees it assumed to control and have rightful jurisdiction of. See sections 7 and 8, of this amended constitution, at page 101, which only recognize as belonging to Capitular Masonry and as constitutional degrees those of Mark Masters, Past Masters, Most Excellent Masters and Royal Arch Masons. And by section 9 was provided : “No Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter shall be permitted to confer any degree in Masonry not recognized as a constitutional degree, nor to establish any society of Masons not recognized as a constitutional body ;” and the same restriction was in substance engrossed into article iv, in relation to State Grand Chapters, see sections 3, 4 and 5, pages 102-3, which only recognizes the four degrees above enumerated in 7 and 8 as constituting Capitular Masonry. These same constitutional provisions had been in existence, substantially, from the organization of the General Grand Chapter, and we refer you to the different amendments, from section 10, of the first constitution, adopted January 26, 1798, at page 12, section 4, of article i, at page 19, of the amended constitution, adopted January 10, 1799 ; and also sections 4, 5 and 6, of article ii, at pages 20-1 ; also sections 1, 2 and 3, of article iii, at pages 22-3. See also amended constitution of January 9, 1806, section 4, article i, at pages 32-3 ; also sections 4, 5 and 6, of article ii, at pages 34-5 ; also sections 1, 2, 3 and 12, of article iii, at pages 35-6-7. Then, again, we find a committee of the General Grand Chapter was appointed (see page 79) to inquire and report upon the subject of what measures were expedient for adoption to ensure uniformity of work in the conferring of these constitutional degrees of Capitular Masonry, and this committee made their report at page 81, whereby they found and reported in substance under and referring to section 4, of the first article of the constitution, that it was made the duty of the first four officers of the Grand Chapter to perfect themselves in the work of these degrees, and to prescribe the mode of

work for the subordinate Chapters. Tracing through the proceedings of this General Grand Body, we find that the next time the subject of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees came up it was in a communication from the General Grand Secretary, on the occasion of the twelfth convocation, at New Haven, Connecticut, September 10, 1844, and which are set forth in full at page 174 of such reprint, and which are so important in the information therein contained that we quote in full: "The matter of Royal and Select Master Masons' degrees still continues to be a subject of anxiety and irritation in the Southern and Western States, and the conferring of them in some instances a matter of private emolument. It will be recollected that this subject was brought before you at the session in 1829, and, as was supposed, definitely settled. It seems, however, that notwithstanding the undersigned has taken much pains to promulgate the order of the General Grand Chapter in the premises, there are those who are still uninformed as to the present regulation touching those degrees, or are disposed to disregard it. It will be seen, by reference to the printed minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Alabama, in 1843, on page 10, that that body has determined that they will not recognize Royal and Select Masters who have received those degrees in Chapters of Royal Arch Masons. The same subject has been brought before the Grand Chapter of Ohio, as will be seen by reference to the printed minutes of the body of 1842, on page 17; and, again, in 1843, as will be found on pages 5 and 7, of the printed minutes of their proceedings in that year. A Grand Council of the State of Alabama also formed, as it is believed, long since the regulation above alluded to, has taken action on this subject and determined that they will not receive such Companions as may have received those degrees in Chapters as will be found on page 15 of the pamphlet first above mentioned."

From a communication received from Comp. Alexander T. Douglas, under date of March 18, 1844, it will be seen that a certain Edwin Cruben, a Royal Arch Mason, in violation of the regulation aforesaid, is traveling from place to place, assuming a right to confer these degrees upon individuals when and where it may best suit his pleasure or convenience. Such itinerant impostors are an hindrance to the well-being of Masonry, and serve to destroy its usefulness.

The General Grand Chapter referred this portion of its Secretary's report to a select committee of three (pages 176-9), and its report after amendment was adopted, and it is to be found at pages 197-8, and is as follows:

"TO THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES:

"Your committee appointed on so much of the communication of the General Grand Secretary as relates to State Grand Councils, and the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters, report:

"That it appears from documents referred to your committee there is not such uniformity in conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in the United States as would be desired by this Grand Body. Your committee find that in some States the degrees are conferred by Chapters, in other States they

are conferred by authority of Grand Councils. They also find that individual companions claiming authority separate and aside from any regular constituted Masonic body, are conferring in various directions these important degrees. This latter course your committee believe to be without correct legitimate Masonic authority, and should receive the decided disapprobation of this General Grand Chapter. It is to be lamented that the authority to confer these degrees should be matter of disagreement between the Councils and Chapters. Your committee find that this subject came before this body at its communication at New York in 1829. A preamble and resolutions were then adopted, which are approved by your committee, and which they recommend for the guidance of the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this General Grand Chapter, and which they beg leave to incorporate in this report. They are as follows :

“ *Whereas*, It is satisfactorily proved to this General Grand Chapter that the Constitution of Councils of Royal and Select Master Masons in different parts of the United States by sundry persons has been without any legitimate authority ; and

“ *Whereas*, These degrees are conferred in some Chapters under the authority of the Grand Chapter ; and

“ *Whereas*, It was proved that it was the only and sole intention of the Most Excellent Companions, from whom those degrees emanated, that they should be conferred under the authority of Royal Arch Chapters ; therefore be it

“ *Resolved*. That this General Grand Chapter cordially recommend to the different Councils in the United States to adopt measures to place the authority of conferring those degrees under the authority of the State Grand Chapters.

“ *Resolved*. That authority be and is hereby granted to the several Grand Chapters under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, to make such arrangements as shall be found necessary for conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in Royal Arch Chapters under their jurisdiction ; provided, always, that no Grand Chapter, within the limit of which is a Grand Council, shall authorize the Royal Arch Chapters under its jurisdiction to confer such degrees without the consent of such Grand Council. Your committee learn there is some discrepancy in the order in which the degrees of Royal and Select Masters are conferred in some of the Chapters. In some they are conferred previous to that of the Royal Arch Degree, which your committee consider wrong ; and, hereafter, to produce more uniformity in our work, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

“ *Resolved*. That it is the sense of this General Grand Chapter that the conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters should be subsequent to that of the Royal Arch Degree.

(Signed),

By the Committee.”

This report it will be observed wholly ignored the constitution of the General Grand Chapter, in its recommendations for the degrees to be conferred by Chapters, and the only thing of value in the report or the action of this General Grand Body upon it, is the fact that it exhibits the solicitude of the Body to have the degrees conferred with such “uniformity” as these “important degrees” demanded for the full understanding of the valuable lessons inculcated by them. And the further fact that these degrees of Royal and Select Master are thus recognized by the General Grand Chapter as a portion of the Masonic System as, even in those days, it had attained in America.

The next time this subject came before the General Grand Chapter was

September 11th in its session of 1850, at Boston, Mass., when a committee was appointed, not upon the expediency of assuming the Royal and Select Masters' degrees as a part of Capitular Masonry, but to consider the expediency of having organized a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters (see page 247). This committee made its report, which was verbal, and adopted, and is recorded at page 281, by which they reported that it was inexpedient for the General Grand Chapter to take any action on the subject of forming a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters. The reasons given, for there must have been some given, are not recorded, but we can well presume what they were, *i. e.*, that the General Grand Chapter had no ownership or control over the degrees as in the new constitution adopted at this Convocation, sections 6, 7 and 8 of article i, contain the same provisions that we have referred to as being adopted at the Convocation of 1829, and the same provisions were re-enacted in relation to State Grand and Subordinate Chapters, as the Constitution of 1829 had before contained, in effect, disclaiming any authority over the Royal and Select degrees (see pages 285-6-9). At the next triennial Convocation, held September 14th, 1853 at Lexington, Kentucky, this subject of Royal and Select Masters' degrees was again (see pages 295-302) brought before the General Grand Chapter, and a committee comprised of the eminent and peerless Masonic jurist P. G. G. H. P. John L. Lewis, Jr., as Chairman, associated with M. E. G. Companions Raymond, of Massachusetts; Shoemaker, of Michigan; Joslyn, of Rhode Island, and Schley, of Georgia, each of them accomplished Masons, and forming a combination of masonic experience and knowledge which could not be excelled at this day, were appointed to consider and report upon this subject. While this committee were in consideration of this subject referred to them, that distinguished and erudite Mason, Albert G. Mackay, submitted for the consideration of the Body the following preamble and resolution, which was referred to the committee of which Judge Lewis was chairman. Preamble: "*Whereas* the members of this General Grand Chapter have received the degrees of Mark, Past and Most Excellent Master and the Holy Royal Arch only, and in that order in the several Chapters in which they were exalted, and have not as Royal Arch Masons been instructed in any other and intermediate degrees, therefore :

*Resolved.* That this General Grand Chapter will not sanction the conferring of any other than the above degrees in the Chapters working under "its jurisdiction" (see page 306). Other resolutions of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi on this subject were referred to the same committee. While these subjects were still in the committees' hands, another committee was appointed (see page 310), consisting of M. E. G. Companions Swigert, of Kentucky; Kopper Joslyn, of Rhode Island; Elliott, of Indiana, and Merrick, of Arkansas, to take into consideration the question, "What are the degrees referred to as the constitutional degrees of the 9th Section of Article II in the General Grand Constitution?" but before this committee had made a report, the constitution was amended in such a way as to explicitly settle the question, and this committee was discharged without a report being made by it (see pages 337-8)."

The committee to which we have referred, of which M. E. G. G. H. P. John L. Lewis was chairman, and to which had been referred the preamble and resolutions offered by M. E. Companion Mackay, and also the resolutions presented from the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, made its report, which after consideration was fully agreed to and adopted. And which as they set at final

rest the claim of Royal Arch Chapters to any jurisdiction over the degrees of Royal and Select Masters we present in full (as contained at pages 315-6-7):

“ TO THE M. E. GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES :

“ The undersigned, a special committee, to whom was referred the subject of the degrees of Royal and Select Master, commonly called the Council Degrees, respectfully report :

“ That they have examined the several very able reports and resolutions which have been made upon the subject of these degrees in various State jurisdictions, and attentively considered the positions taken by them, and have availed themselves of the light and information which they shed upon the history, character and value of them. The subject is one which has claimed a large share of the attention of the fraternity for many years, and loud calls are made upon this General Grand Body to definitely settle the various questions which have grown out of the discussion. We have regarded these demands as rightly and properly urged, and have aimed to arrive at such conclusions as are just as well as satisfactory ; and, although we cannot flatter ourselves that we have entirely succeeded, yet, as a reflection of the views of companions, we think it will meet the just expectations of the large number and give offence to none. The important question is that of jurisdiction, and to that single point we have directed attention. We have not aimed to reconcile contending claims, as from the conclusion to which we have arrived it is not necessary. We regret to state that past action and past legislation on the part of this Most Excellent Body has given rise to many misapprehensions and induced the belief that the Royal and Select Masters' degrees were within the pale of the jurisdiction of Royal Arch Masonry, and hence, looking at this body as the common head, Grand Chapters and Subordinates of this body have come to the conclusion that they were under their control where Councils did not exist.

“ But when we come to trace the common source of title, we are unable to discover how this body has or ever had any rightful jurisdiction over them, and it must be borne in mind that it is incumbent on this body to prove title affirmatively and conclusively, and not to rely upon the weakness of the title of any other claimant. We think there will be found an utter failure of proof on this point. And when we examine the General Grand Constitution and find no allusions to these degrees, and, on the contrary, a distinct recognition of the four degrees conferred in Royal Arch Chapters, and these alone, and that Comp. Royal Arch Masons are affiliated with us throughout the land, without reference to their possession of them, we are irresistibly led to the conclusion that no governmental jurisdiction in Royal Arch Masonry has any control over them. And if this strong position needed any confirmation in the existing state of things in the Fraternity, we shall find that in those States where they are cultivated to any considerable extent, they are under the government of Councils where these degrees and no others are conferred, and there we are content to leave them.

"The conclusions to which we have arrived will render it unnecessary to examine any of the other questions which have grown out of the discussions relative to these degrees, for, if we have no jurisdiction, we have no right to pass upon them, and we do not here assume to say who has jurisdiction, but only to state that in our judgment we have not. The subject has been examined so thoroughly and elaborately, and the features of it have been so thoroughly canvassed by the whole Fraternity, that we have not deemed it expedient to recapitulate any of the various positions which have been taken, and to defend or deny them. We trust that this Most Excellent Body will concur with us in opinion that the demands of justice and the claims of expediency both require a settlement of the whole matter, and that it be hereafter excluded from the consideration of the Royal Arch Masons as such.

"We subjoin the following resolutions, expressive of our conclusions, for the consideration of the General Grand Chapter :

"*Resolved.* That this General Grand Chapter and the governing bodies of Royal Arch Masonry, affiliated with and holding jurisdiction under it, have no rightful jurisdiction or control over the degrees of Royal and Select Masters.

"*Resolved.* That this General Grand Chapter will hereafter entertain no question or matter growing out of the government or working of those degrees, while in their present position.

Respectfully and Fraternaly submitted,

JOHN L. LEWIS, JR.,  
EDWARD A. RAYMOND,  
J. A. D. JOSLYN,  
PHILIP T. SCHLEY,  
AMAND P. PFISTER.

Lexington, September 16, 1853."

The question was stated on agreeing to said resolutions, when Comp. Gilman, of Maryland, moved that they be laid on the table; which motion was disagreed to; the resolutions were then considered and agreed to.

During the same convocation the Constitution was amended, by striking out the entire ninth section of article one, and by inserting in place thereof as follows: "The only degrees recognized by this General Grand Chapter to be conferred in Chapters under its jurisdiction, are Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason, and no Royal Arch Mason who shall have regularly received said degrees shall be excluded from the rights of such by reason of his not being in possession of any other so-called degrees." See page 332 when the amendment was offered, 336 when it was adopted, and 351 when it is included in the Constitution printed as amended.

In the Triennial Convocation of 1865, when the Constitution was again amended, this section nine was preserved in tact (see page 44) and so likewise was it at the Triennial Convocation of 1868 (see page 46), and also in 1871 (see page 53), and in 1874 (see page 105), and in 1877 (see page 147), at each of which Convocations the Constitution was amended as the wisdom of the General Grand Chapter directed.

At the last Triennial held at Buffalo, in 1877, the subject of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees again came up upon the action of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, which had assumed to enter into a contract for the transfer of those degrees to it, from and by the Grand Council of that State. And a special committee (see page 69) consisting of M. E. G. Comp. McCurdy of Michigan, Howry of Mississippi, Romney of Massachusetts, Buckner of Kentucky, Holbrook of New Hampshire, Achey of Maryland and Pollard of New York, was appointed to take into consideration this agreement of bargain and sale. This committee fulfilled its duties and six of its number united in a report which was as follows :

“ TO THE GENERAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER :

“ 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 Masters, 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, 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, those of Mark Master, Past Master and Royal Arch Masons as specified in Sec. 9 of Art. 1 of the Constitution.

“ For these reasons we recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be not granted.

“ All of which is fraternally submitted.

JOHN R. HOLBROOK,	HUGH McCURDY,
JAMES D. POLLARD,	GARRETT D. BUCKNER,
CHARLES W. ROMNEY,	CHARLES F. ACHEY.”

This report was not signed by M. E. Comp. Howry, for the reason that he being one of the parties to the bargain between the two Grand Bodies of Mississippi, could not stultify himself even though the constitution was followed to the letter by this report of the able committee, which he had discovered containing six obstinate members. On motion of the father of the “ Mississippi Plan,” Comp. Walter, the consideration of this report was made a special order for the ensuing Friday at 3 P. M., and at that hour the entire subject was postponed until the next Triennial Convocation.

A memorial, similar to the action of Mississippi, was presented from the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, and took the same course, *i. e.*, postponed to the Triennial of 1880.

This embraces the entire action of the General Grand Chapter upon the subject of these degrees of Royal and Select Masters down to the present, and from this action, taken as a whole, we cannot but take the position that the General Grand Chapter has never had any jurisdiction whatever over these degrees, and has no legal Masonic right to assume any control over them.

But upon the action of the General Grand Chapter alone we do not rest

our case. We propose now to examine the action of State Bodies and opinions of the most able and distinguished of our Masonic jurists, those who are accomplished in the knowledge of Masonic principles and landmarks.

We ask your attention to note the fact that not a single Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the United States under your jurisdiction, except Michigan, ever assumed by its constitution, when first organized, to have jurisdiction or control in any degree whatsoever over the degrees of Royal and Select Masters, and Michigan soon renounced it as we shall show. The pretence that there is any jurisdiction for this latter day doctrine has arisen from the fact, that an interested motive has invariably been hid behind the scenes, and which has actuated the advocates of the plan now presented of merging Capitular Masonry with Cryptic Masonry.

Is there not sufficient intrinsic value and importance, we ask you, in your broad magnificent realm of Capitular Masonry without an attack upon the lesser field, but none the less beautiful possessions of the Cryptic Rite? Will you under the pretense of advancing Royal Arch Masonry despoil the Grand Councils of their prized jewels?

In 1843, the Grand Chapter of Alabama determined that it would not recognize as Royal and Select Masters those who had received their degrees in Royal Arch Chapters.

In the year 1850, at the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of New York (see page 477 of reprint of proceedings) in compliance with the authority of this Grand Chapter conferred upon him (as see pages 468-9-70 proceedings of 1849) the Grand High Priest used the language: "The conferring of the degrees of Royal and Select Master in chapters which was referred to the Grand Council at the last annual session, I have taken much pains to inform myself respecting, and regret to differ with some of my associates on the subject. I made inquiries of the members of the Council in the City of New York, and find they date their formation as far back as 1807 by the Grand Consistory, and from them or their Grand Council have emanated all the Councils in this, and many in other States, as will be seen from their report which I now present to the Grand Chapter, with a full statement of their progress to the present time, and a protest against this Grand Chapter conferring or authorizing the conferring of these degrees. As this Grand Chapter has no wish or desire to assume authority not conferred by the constitution, I hope the representative to the General Grand Chapter in September next may be instructed to obtain, if possible, some definite action by that body respecting these degrees, and forever set at rest the right to confer them." This portion of the Grand High Priest's address was referred to a committee (page 478), of which M. E. Comp. Hatch, who brought the subject before the Grand Chapter (page 468) was made the chairman. The committee's report was made and a resolution was adopted in relation to these degrees, by which the Grand Chapter declined the usurpation of jurisdiction over them, and the subject was directed to be brought before the General Grand Chapter for its consideration (pages 495-6), with what effect is seen by its action in the

adoption of the report presented by the committee of which P. G. G. H. P. Lewis was chairman, and the amendment of the constitution of the General Grand Chapter in 1853 hereinafter set forth.

In 1851 the Grand Council of Kentucky entered a protest against any interference with the Royal and Select Masters' degrees by the General Grand Chapter. *Now*, it supinely acknowledges that inefficient Grand officers have caused its untimely death, assisted at its obsequies and erected a broken column over its remains.

In 1851, at the convocation of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, its Subordinate Chapters were by it forbidden to confer the Royal and Select Masters' degrees on the ground of no jurisdiction, and which is in striking contrast with its present position, but "stolen waters are sweet," and appear to be in full accord with its appetite at present.

In 1852 the Grand Chapter of Mississippi adopted a resolution "advising all Royal Arch Masons within its jurisdiction not to receive the Council Degrees—those of Royal and Select Master—except from a legally constituted Council," disconnected from a Chapter. Consistency is a jewel, but where is the consistency in its then action and present position? Probably this Grand Chapter was not then indebted to the Grand Council and had no interested motive in seeking the destruction of these degrees or their transfer and adoption by the custodians of Capitular Masonry.

In 1853 the Grand Chapter of Louisiana adopted this resolution: "That in the opinion of this Grand Chapter, the degrees of Royal and Select Master should be left solely to the jurisdiction and control of a Grand Council in the several States," and this was prior to the organization of a Grand Council in that State, and this portion is still maintained by the Grand Bodies of this State. In 1853 M. E. Willis Stewart of Kentucky, then General Grand King of the General Grand Chapter, said: "I consider the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch as the only constitutional degrees, under the jurisdiction or control of the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

The Grand Chapter of Missouri in 1853 occupied the same position, and which was upward of ten years before a Grand Council was organized in that State. The Grand Chapter of Indiana took the same position that year, and which was also before the organization of a Grand Council in that State. The Grand Chapter of Connecticut during the same year adopted a resolution to the effect that it was not necessary or expedient for it to take any different action from that above indicated in relation to those degrees, but at this time and for about twenty-four years prior, these degrees had been conferred in this State under the authority of a Grand Council.

In the Grand Chapter of New York, its committee in this year occupied the like position, but said it will be the duty of this Grand Chapter, and all of its subordinates and constituents to abide by the decision of the General Grand Chapter in the premises whatever that may be.

In this year also we again hear the voice of Kentucky through its Grand

Chapter, at a time when it had not surrendered to the voice of miscegenation. It spoke decisively, as follows : " What right has the General Grand Chapter to decide as to the constitutionality of these degrees (the Royal and Select Masters) the encampment degrees, or any other degrees *over which she has no jurisdiction, and which are above or higher than those over which she has jurisdiction,*" (the italics are ours). The Grand H. P. of the Grand Chapter of Illinois in 1852 recommended that the Grand Chapter *assume* the control of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees, until such time as it can be shown to their satisfaction that another constituted body of Masons have a better legal title to them than they had, " not to assume the control of them because they were the lawful custodians, but by virtue of strength to seize upon the degrees and hold them until some one could describe the property, prove title, pay charges, and take them away ; this course would have probably been adopted by this Grand Chapter then, had they not discovered when they attempted to pocket the dazzling jewel that there was already a regular council in that State, constituted by authority of the Grand Council of Kentucky, which having possession, dared to and did maintain its right thereto, so this Grand Chapter wisely left the subject to be settled by the General Grand Chapter.

In 1853, the Grand Chapter of Michigan took the position that it had no jurisdiction over the Royal and Select Masters' degrees, although its constitution had assumed the right of jurisdiction. This was the calm, deliberate conclusion, upon full consideration of the subject, and that it was eminently honest and masonically just, none will deny.

In 1853, that accomplished Mason, whose name is hailed in every land where masonry has found a resting place, and whose gifted talents have been used in the advocacy and advancement of the cardinal principles of masonry in many lands and in many languages, whom the brethren have ever delighted to honor as their tribute to his worth as a man and a mason ; then the M. E. Albert Pike, in treating of the subject of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees, concludes his report to the Grand Chapter of Arkansas upon the subject, in these words : " Whatever may be the action of one, or all of the Grand Chapters, or of the General Grand Chapter itself, all regular Council Masons, and we among the number, will ever regard those who receive the degrees of Royal and Select Master in a Chapter as clandestine until they are healed," and this enunciation of a leading mind was adopted by the Grand Chapter.

In 1854, the Grand Chapter of New York, by its committee, speaking upon the subject of the amendment of Section 9, Article 1, of the constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and in connection with that of the Council Degrees, said : " In this respect, so far as that, or any other individual jurisdiction is concerned, we regard the amendment as highly expedient and proper, upon the ground that these Council Degrees do not belong to the Chapter."

In 1854, the Grand Chapter of Connecticut adopted a resolution of congratulations to the several Grand Chapters of the United States upon the then recent action of the General Grand Chapter in reference to the degrees of Royal and Select Master as forever settling the question of jurisdiction.

At the convocation of the Grand Chapter of New York, in 1855, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of New York was recognized, and the attention of Royal Arch Masons, in that jurisdiction, were reminded of the action of the General Grand Chapter upon the subject of the Council Degrees and of their independence of the control of Grand or Subordinate Chapters.

M. E. Edward S. Dana, as Grand H. P., of Vermont in 1878, speaking to his Grand Chapter (with its approval) of these degrees says: "The Cryptic Degrees were conferred in this country earlier than the Capitular Degrees," and quoting from the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Connecticut for 1878, with approved speaking of the question of Merger: "Were there no present Council organizations, it would, we think, present a far different question; but with our present organization of forty Grand Councils, their sudden dissolution would bring about a state of confusion and disorder, that we think would prove injurious both to Capitular and Cryptic Masonry. We believe that at present there is more uniformity in the working of the Council Degrees than in any other branch of Masonry, and can see no good reason for the change."

The Grand Chapter of Michigan placing beyond cavil the fact that it had receded from its first constitutional provision at its organization as a Grand Chapter, whereby it assumed to confer the Council degrees, adopted the report of a committee comprised of two of its ablest representatives, *i. e.*, G. B. Noble and George Hill, at its convocation in 1878, as follows: "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 the Grand Chapter of Mississippi in assuming possession of those, conflicts with the constitution of the General Grand Chapter, we therefore cannot approve of their action."

In 1877, the Grand Chapter of Kansas adopted a resolution in disapproval of any proposed act of the General Grand Chapter, or of the Grand Chapter of Kansas introducing the degrees of Royal and Select Master into its present system of Capitular Masonry.

In 1877, the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts adopted a resolution which was adverse to the assumption by the Grand Chapter of the Council degrees.

In 1878, the Grand Chapter of Canada expressed its decided opposition to the Council degrees being placed in the bosom of the Chapter.

The same year the Grand Chapter of Ohio expressed its disapproval of a coalition between Councils and Chapters.

Many others of the Grand Chapters have placed themselves upon record upon this subject in opposition to the merging of these degrees, but not having their respective proceedings at hand to refer to, the year and language as used, we will leave their views to be presented by their own representatives; nor is it necessary to multiply the opinions of distinguished Masonic writers and thinkers.

We submit, however, that the assumption of the Cryptic degrees by the

action or sanction of the General Grand Chapter, or of its Subordinate Grand Chapters, would be of incalculable injury to all the different branches of Masonry in the American system, devoid of honor, of Masonic justice and equity, and contrary to the principles of Masonic jurisprudence.

It is claimed and urged by the originators and most zealous advocates of the Mississippi plan, and we quote from the address of the inventor himself upon that subject, to the Grand Body over which he then presided in Mississippi, wherein he says: "The Royal Arch degree, stripped of most of its real beauties by the severance of the Royal and Select degrees from it, proves of but little attraction to its recipient. Dissatisfied with the exalted degree, he seeks no further advancement in Ancient Masonry, and without any knowledge of the real beauty and value of our (the Cryptic) degrees he hastens to the \* \* \* \* Encampment." This is a full and frank admission of the value, beauty and importance of the Cryptic degrees, coming from the one who, of all others, was the leader of those who are seeking this alliance. But there was another reason, actuating these Companions in their labors in this State. The Grand H. P. of the Grand Chapter, in his address in 1876, states the fact that Capitular Masonry was not prospering in that State. The Grand Treasurer reports that a large indebtedness was hanging over it of several years standing, constantly increasing, and of which he says: "I fear under our present system we will never be able to pay it." This, together with the fact which has become a part of the Masonic history of that State, and of this Mississippi plan, that the Grand Council of that State had a credit balance, was, in fact, prospering, and was also the creditor of the Grand Chapter in a large amount, which by the adoption of this miscegenation plan would enure to the credit of the Grand Chapter as well as relieve it from the payment of its indebtedness, was the secret lever that induced this union of Chapter and Council. Not satisfied with this relief only, examine further and we see what is expressed in the report of the committee on Subordinate Councils as follows: "Your committee on Subordinate Councils submit the following report: Considering our present condition as a Grand Body *going out of existence*, and there being no peculiar question referred to us, we recommend that the Grand Recorder be authorized and required to collect as near as possible all the back dues, due this Grand Body, and as soon as practicable \* \* \*." The joint action of the two Grand Bodies required these dues to be paid in. Why? So that the Grand Chapter could get the benefit, not only of the relief from its indebtedness of \$400 and interest and the sequestration of the property of the Grand Council, but also force the Subordinate Councils who had been the subject of bargain and sale, without even the privilege of voting on the question, to contribute to this treasury that the Grand Treasurer has spoken of and to which we have called your attention, and to show the financial success of this scheme we have only to refer to the report of this same Grand Chapter for 1879, when the Grand Secretary reported, exhibiting the principle which actuated this Body. We quote:

"During the recent epidemic I was authorized by our M. E. G. H. P. to

“ contribute of the Grand Chapter funds to general relief ; but the country, “ and indeed the world, were contributing so liberally, and *I was so anxious to be “ able to report that we had an actual cash balance in the treasury I did not draw the “ warrant as authorized.”*

And now, let us see how this union has succeeded. By the report of the Grand Lecturer of Mississippi, in 1878, it will be seen that the Council degrees can be worked in Chapters if the Grand Chapter will hire a man to go around the State and do the work. In the language of a distinguished man, who has been a member of the General Grand Chapter for many years, “ This is a refreshing condition of things after we had been assured so positively that this “ merging was to so beautifully revive the interest in Cryptic Masonry.” It is well to let provision be made by the General Grand Chapter for the employment of a corps of wet-nurses to perambulate the country and nurse the bodies if it assumes the control of these degrees.

But it is unnecessary to add precedent to precedent, authority to authority, argument to argument, for the assumption of the degrees of Royal and Select Master by the General Grand Chapter, or any other body, will never be submitted to by the Grand Council of New York, or by the majority of the Grand Councils of the United States.

No compromise can be made upon this subject.

We stand upon our rights, and so standing dare to, and will ever maintain them. We simply and only ask that in masonic justice we be not robbed of our prized jewels ; that there be no action had which will cause a masonic warfare which, with all the rancor and bitterness that has ever characterized such exhibitions, must tend inevitably to the permanent injury of every branch of masonry. We, therefore, respectfully and fraternally represent that the Grand Council, which we have the honor of speaking for on this occasion, solemnly protest against any interference with the rightful masonic possession by the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the several State, of the degrees of Royal and Select Master.

And with assurances of high masonic esteem, we remain

Fraternally yours,

*Geo. M. Osgoodby*

M. I. Grand Master of Grand Council of R. and S. Masters  
of New York and Chairman of Committee.

Attest :

*W. Van Hook*

Grand Recorder and Secretary of Committee.

At a convention of Royal and Select Masters, held at the City of Detroit, on Monday evening, August 23, 1880, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

RESOLVED, That this Convention of Royal and Select Masters, representing the Grand Councils of the following States and jurisdictions :

ALABAMA,  
GEORGIA,  
LOUISIANA,  
MICHIGAN,  
NEW JERSEY,  
VERMONT.

CONNECTICUT,  
INDIANA,  
MAINE,  
MINNESOTA,  
OHIO,

FLORIDA,  
KANSAS,  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
RHODE ISLAND,

do hereby cordially endorse and adopt the protest of the Grand Council of New York to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States, against any usurpation by it, or by any of its constituents, Grand or Subordinate, of the control or jurisdiction of the degrees of Royal and Select Masters, and that we will severally, as Grand Councils, abide by our rightful possession, ownership and jurisdiction of these degrees regardless of any other Masonic Body, and will treat as clandestine all who receive these degrees under any authority, other than that granted by a regular Grand Council, disconnected from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,

President.

Attest :



Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION  
OF  
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

HELD IN THE

CITY OF DETROIT, AUGUST 23d, 24th & 25th, 1880.

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JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, OF MAINE,

*President.*

GEO. VAN VLIET, OF NEW YORK,

*Secretary.*

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*To the M.: Ill.: Grand Masters of  
Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters:*

M.: ILL.: COMPANIONS:

The Convention of Royal and Select Masons, held in Buffalo in 1877, adjourned to meet upon the call of the President.

I have been requested by Most Ill. GEORGE W. COOLEY, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Minnesota, in accordance with instructions of his Grand Council, to call a meeting of the Convention in 1880.

Concurring in his views, I hereby give notice that a meeting of that Convention will be held in Detroit, Michigan, on the twenty-third day of August, A. D. 1880, at 8 o'clock in the evening.

It is earnestly desired that all the Grand Councils be represented. If no session of any Grand Council is to be held before that date, it is desired that the Grand Master will take measures to be represented; this can properly be done, as the purpose of the convention is consultation, and its action only advisory.

That we have arrived at a most important era in the history of Cryptic Masonry, is evident from the situation. The degrees are now conferred in four different ways.

1. *In Chapters, as a part of the regular series of degrees.*

In this class are Virginia and West Virginia, where the degrees are con-

ferred before the Royal Arch, the order being Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Master, Select Master and Royal Arch. A Grand Council was formed in Virginia in 1820, which, yielding to a claim based upon a gross error, in 1841 surrendered the degrees to the Grand Chapter and dissolved.

2 *In Councils appurtenant to Chapters, but otherwise independent of them.*

In this class is Texas, whose Grand Council was dissolved in 1864; since that time, the degrees have been conferred in Councils of a *quasi* voluntary character, claiming to be held under the authority of a Chapter warrant, but entirely separate from the Chapter itself, without control by any Grand Body.

3. *In Councils appurtenant to Chapters, and under the control and authority of Grand Chapters.*

In this class are Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and Wisconsin. These Grand Councils have formerly dissolved, but, previous to their dissolution, they surrendered the degree (so far as they had the power) to their several Grand Chapters, which accepted the trust and are now undertaking to confer and control the degrees.

The Grand Council of Illinois, in like manner, voted to surrender the degrees to the Grand Chapter, but still claims to be in existence.

Measures, looking ultimately to the same end, but not fully consummated, have been taken by the Grand Councils of California, Missouri and North Carolina.

I understand that the Grand Chapter of Nevada (where there has never been a Grand Council) contemplates authorizing its Chapters to confer these degrees in "appurtenant Councils," and the same thing is favored in Oregon: by whose "surrender" they propose to obtain this authority I am not advised.

Several of these Grand Chapters are awaiting the action of the General Grand Chapter, and I have no doubt that an effort will be made at its next Convocation to adopt the amendments to the Constitution offered by our Mississippi Companions, and now pending, and thus, by endorsing what is known as the "Mississippi Plan," assume control of the Cryptic degrees.

4. *In Councils, under the jurisdiction of Grand Councils.*

In this class are Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Vermont, in the United States, and England, Ontario and New Brunswick, abroad.

This unparalleled confusion in the entire polity of the Rite, and necessary conflict even in the rituals of the different jurisdictions, peremptorily call for action to secure uniformity, or for the entire abandonment of the degrees, by the existing Grand Councils.

Experience shows that united action can be secured only by general consultation; and a Convention is the only method of having that.

The more important questions growing out of the situation are the following :

1. Shall the Grand Council system of organization be continued? If not, shall the degrees be abandoned, or the "Mississippi Plan" adopted?
2. If the Grand Council system is to be continued, what measures (if any) shall be taken to prevent a conflict between the Grand Councils and the General Grand Chapter?
3. What rule shall be adopted as to the *status* of those who receive the degrees in Chapters, as well as of those who have received the degrees in regular Councils, but have assisted in conferring the degrees in other Bodies, or been present when they were thus conferred?
4. What rule ought to be adopted in relation to the jurisdiction in States, &c., in which no regular Grand Council exists?

The enumeration of these questions, of course, in no manner precludes the consideration of others.

Experience has shown that the comparatively brief time during which a Convention can remain in session, does not give opportunity for work by committees upon subjects under consideration; and the necessity of committee-work, to secure proper action by any deliberative body, is universally acknowledged: indeed, it may be safely said that the action of the last two Conventions failed to exert its due influence in consequence of the failure to prepare in advance measures for consideration.

To obviate the danger of ill-considered action, I take the liberty of designating Companions to prepare, and have ready for presentation at the opening of the Convention, reports upon the four questions above stated, for the consideration of the Convention, with resolutions embodying such action as they shall recommend should be taken in relation thereto.

- 1.—GEO. M. OSGOODBY, Buffalo, New York.  
GEO. W. COOLEY, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
WILLIAM W. AUSTIN, Richmond, Indiana.
- 2.—EDWARD S. DANA, New Haven, Vermont.  
GEO. L. MCCAHAN, Baltimore, Maryland.  
WILLIAM WALLACE LEE, West Meriden, Conn.
- 3.—CHARLES E. MEYER, Philadelphia, Pa.  
GEO. J. PINCKARD, New Orleans, La.  
HUGH MCCURDY, Corunna, Michigan.
- 4.—WILLIAM M. CUNNINGHAM, Newark, Ohio.  
JOHN S. DERBY, Saco, Main.  
JOHN HAIGH, Somerville, Mass.

Inasmuch as no provision has been made for the expenses of the meetings of committees, I trust the Companions will *at once* proceed, by correspondence,

to interchange views, and prepare reports upon the subject committed to them : there is ample time for that purpose.

I hope, also, no one of the Companions will ask to be excused, because he may not be a member of the Convention, or not able to attend it, inasmuch as the committees above announced are not committees *of the Convention*, but of *my own*, to assist me in presenting to the Convention matters for its action. And if any of the Companions prefer, they may submit their report to me, and I will have it presented to the Convention by the presiding officer. It would aid very materially, however, in the deliberations of the Convention, if each committee would print its report and circulate copies in advance of the meeting.

Seasonable notice will be given in what hall the Convention will meet : only Companions from jurisdictions in which a regular Grand Council exists will be admitted to participate in the Convention, until it shall otherwise order.

Companions, the time has come for decisive and *final* action in one direction or another: let us, therefore, come together and consult freely, deliberate fully and act wisely, to the end that when we separate, the united approval of our several Grand Councils shall crown our efforts, and the future of the Cryptic Rite be irrevocably settled.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,

President of the National Convention of R. & S. Masters.

Portland, Maine, March 10, 1880.

## PROCEEDINGS.

DETROIT, MICH., August 23d, 1880.

Pursuant to a call made by M. Ill. Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, a number of Royal and Select Masters assembled at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Detroit, Michigan, on Monday evening, August 23d, 1880, Anno Dep., 2880, M. Ill. Companion Josiah H. Drummond acting as Chairman.

On motion, George Van Vliet was chosen as Secretary.

On motion of Comp. O. A. B. Senter of Ohio, a committee of three on credentials was appointed, the committee consisting of Comps. Orestes A. B. Senter, of Ohio, George B. Cleaves, of New Hampshire, and Garra B. Noble, of Michigan.

The Committee on Credentials submitted the following report :

That the several Grand Councils were represented by the Companions hereinafter named, which report was received and accepted, and the committee continued during the session :

Alabama—Comp. William D. Wadsworth.

Connecticut—Comp. John O. Rowland.

California—Comps. Henry S. Orme, William M. Petrie, and R. E. Hedges.

Lafayette Council, of Washington, D. C. (admitted to representation by a vote of the Convention).—Comps. James P. Pearson, proxy, and J. C. Allen.

Florida—Comp. George M. Osgoodby, proxy.

Georgia—Comp. Charles R. Armstrong.

Indiana—Comps. Walter R. Godfrey, John M. Bramwell and Thomas B. Long.

Kansas—Comps. Albert D. McConaughy, Dwight Byington, Edwin D. Hillyer and James C. Bennett.

Louisiana—Comp. George J. Pinckard.

Maine—Comps. Josiah H. Drummond and Edward P. Burnham.

Maryland—Not represented.

Massachusetts—Comps. Alfred F. Chapman and John Haigh.

Minnesota—Comp. George W. Cooley.

Missouri—Not represented.

Michigan—Comps. Hugh McCurdy, D. Burnham Tracy, Garra B. Noble, David Woodward and David Bovee.

New Hampshire—Comps. George P. Cleaves and John J. Bell.

New Jersey—Comps. John Wolverton and George Scott.

New York—Comps. George M. Osgoodby, John N. Macomb, Jr., and George Van Vliet.

North Carolina—Not represented.

Ohio—Comps. Orestes A. B. Senter, Rev. Thomas J. Mellish and John D. Caldwell.

Pennsylvania—Not represented.

Rhode Island—Not represented.

South Carolina—Comp. C. F. Jackson.

Tennessee—Comp. Benjamin F. Haller.

Vermont—Comps. Alfred A. Hall and William Brinsmaid, proxy.

On motion of Comp. George M. Osgoodby, of New York, Comp. George J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, was chosen as Vice-

President of the Convention, and it was then resolved that the present officers be continued during the session.

Comp. George W. Cooley, of Minnesota, presented the following, which was, on motion, received, accepted and ordered printed with the proceedings :

MR. PRESIDENT AND COMPANIONS :

When the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Minnesota, at its last assembly, passed a resolution instructing its chief officer to request our President to issue a call for another convention of Cryptic Masons, it did so with the belief that from the representations made to it the Order would be greatly benefitted by an assembly held at this time.

For many years we have been contesting the so-called Mississippi plan, among whose advocates we read the names of those from whom we had a right to expect earnest and hearty co-operation in our work ; and their failure to support us has resulted in the loss of about one-fourth of our Grand Councils and the demoralization of several more.

Nor has the evil stopped here ; the influence of their action has been felt and observed in jurisdictions whose Grand Councils have been earnestly engaged in the promotion of the welfare of the order, and in many States a few discontented companions have started a movement, which, but for the determined stand taken by others, would have resulted in adding more names to the list of sleeping sentinels, or, at least, have lessened the force which it now becomes our duty to hurl against any and all opposition to the maintenance of our rights and our privileges as Cryptic Masons.

We not only ask that our position as an independent Order shall be recognized by other branches of Masonry, but it is our duty to demand that we, and we alone, shall have full and supreme control of all that pertains to the degrees of Royal, Select and Super Excellent Masonry, a right that we have earned by years of patient toil in the secret vault, a right legitimately acquired from Scottish Masonry, and a right that we propose to maintain just as long as a few jurisdictions that I might mention will stand side by side with the Grand Council of Minnesota.

I do not apprehend that any other State will endeavor to follow the advocacy of the merging scheme ; I do not believe that those who have the subject under consideration will ever act upon it to our detriment ; nor do I believe that the leading spirits in Capitular Masonry will consent to receive among them Masons who so quickly desert their post of duty, or that they will become willing tools in the hands of men who are so anxious to shift the responsibility of supporting so many grand bodies, whose " excessive multiplication " has given them such uneasiness.

The subjects to be brought forward for our consideration at this time are few, but involve points of vital interest. The action of some Grand Councils

in disbanding has thrown into our midst companions to whom we owe a duty as Masons, and yet who owe to us an allegiance which they cannot as readily absolve themselves from as did the Councils of which they were members. Peculiar cases will continue to arise, and good policy requires that the action of this convention shall be such as to render strict Masonic justice, tempered with brotherly love. Already in the jurisdiction from which I hail, as well as several others, questions have arisen regarding the status of certain companions of uncertain standing, which questions have been readily disposed of, and the report of the committee to whom was referred such matters will be looked forward to with great interest.

As an opponent of the Mississippi plan, I pledge the Grand Council of Minnesota to any action, consistent with our obligations and our duty, that has for its aim the perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry, and I may add that as long as three subordinate Councils exist in that State the pledge shall be kept.

To argue the question of our sole and exclusive right to these degrees would, in view of the reports soon to be presented, be superfluous. We are now in rightful possession of them, and under no circumstances should we listen to any proposition having for its aim their surrender to any other Masonic body.

Since my connection with the order I have observed in many jurisdictions, and especially in Maine, New York and Pennsylvania, a persistent and growing determination to hold by all the force at command, those rights to which we honestly believe we are entitled, and never to surrender them either to the General Grand Chapter or to the subordinate Grand Chapters.

Cryptic Masonry having passed its lowest ebb, is not now on the decline; Grand Councils are not disbanding on account of financial failure.

Is New York unable to maintain an organization? Is Pennsylvania? Maine? Minnesota?

Florida, with a Grand Master who had some energy and determination, placed the weakest of our sisters on a firm and substantial basis.

And is this the most beautiful of masonic rites to be thrown aside among the rubbish of side degrees because some of the workmen are weary? Let them make room for those who are willing to bear the heat and burden of another day, and let the good work go on. Companions, whatever may be the action of this convention, or of the General Grand Chapter, or of subordinate Grand Chapters; there will still exist Grand Councils who will claim jurisdiction over the Royal, Select and Super Excellent degrees, and who, in the future as to-day, will stand on record as champions of the Cryptic Rite. The relations of our Order under adverse circumstances would undoubtedly be unpleasant, not only as between ourselves and clandestine Royal and Select Masters, but also between the loyal Grand Councils and the Grand Chapters who have pretended to assume control of these degrees.

To avoid the complications which must necessarily arise in the future, to remedy the evils of the present, and to rectify the errors of the past, is our work to-day. Acting together in harmony we can accomplish much. As a

General Grand Council our power would be felt where it is now unknown, and having undertaken the warfare in behalf of Cryptic Masonry, let us continue to fight until the opposition is entirely swept away and the Cryptic Rite fully recognized as an independent power throughout the Masonic world.

GEO. W. COOLEY,

M. I. G. M., Grand Council R. & S. M., Minnesota.

On motion of Comp. Geo. W. Cooley, of Minn., a committee of *five* were appointed to report upon the advisability of forming a General Grand Council, and if they thought favorably thereof, to present the draft of a proposed constitution. Whereupon the following Committee was appointed : Geo. W. Cooley, of Minnesota ; O. A. B. Senter, of Ohio ; Geo. M. Osgoodby, of New York ; Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, and John J. Bell, of New Hampshire.

On motion, Comp. Geo. M. Osgoodby, of New York, was requested to read for the information of this Convention, the protest prepared by the Grand Council of the State of New York, for presentation to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States.

After the reading of said protest it was

RESOLVED, That this Convention of Royal and Select Masters, representing the Grand Councils of the following States, viz. :

Alabama,	Connecticut,	Florida,	Georgia,
Indiana,	Kansas,	Louisiana,	Maine,
Massachusetts,	Minnesota,	Michigan,	New Hampshire,
New Jersey,	Ohio,	Vermont,	

do hereby cordially endorse and adopt the protest of the Grand Council of New York to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States, against any usurpation by it or by any of its constituents, Grand or Subordinate, of the control or jurisdiction of the degrees of Royal and Select Master ; and that we will severally, as Grand Councils, abide by our rightful possession, ownership and jurisdiction of these degrees, regardless of any other Masonic Body ; and regard as clandestine all who receive these degrees under any authority other than that granted by a regular Grand Council, disconnected from a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

On motion, a committee consisting of Comps. Hugh McCurdy, of Michigan, John Haigh, of Massachusetts, and Geo. Scott, of New Jersey, were appointed for the purpose of procuring funds

sufficient to defray the expense of printing the above mentioned protest and resolution.

On motion of Comp. Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, the convention then adjourned until to-morrow (Tuesday) evening at 7.30 o'clock.

## SECOND DAY.

DETROIT, Mich., Tuesday, August 24,  
A. L. 1880, A. D. 2880, 7.30 P. M.

The convention of Royal and Select Masters resumed its session. Comp. Geo. J. Pinckard, Vice-President in the chair.

On calling the roll, the representatives of seventeen Grand Councils were found to be present.

On motion, Comps. John D. Caldwell, of Ohio ; Benjamin F. Moore, of Georgia, and Benjamin F. Haller, of Tennessee, were accorded the privilege of being present and participating in our deliberations.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

On motion of Comp. Wm. D. Wadsworth, of Alabama, all committees appointed by Comp. Josiah H. Drummond prior to the opening of this convention were continued as permanent committees of this convention.

Comp. Geo. W. Cooley, of Minnesota, from the special committee of *five*, to consider the advisability of forming a General Grand Council, presented the following report :

To the Convention of Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters, now in session :

Your committee to whom was referred the question of the advisability of organizing a General Grand Council, respectfully report :

That having given the subject that consideration to which its importance entitles it, we recommend for your adoption the following resolution :

RESOLVED, That in the opinion of this convention it is advisable to organize a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the United States of America ; and having been instructed to prepare and present a con-

stitution in the event of our favorably considering such question, we desire to offer herewith the following as a proposed constitution for the consideration of this convention :

WHEREAS, At a convention of Royal and Select Masters assembled in the City of Detroit, Mich., this 24th day of August, 1880, it is considered expedient for the welfare and perpetuation of the Cryptic Rite and the proper government of Councils of Royal and Select Masters, that a General Grand Council be organized for the United States of America, therefore, we do ordain and establish, subject to the approval of and ratification by our respective Grand Councils, or of a majority of them, the following

## CONSTITUTION :

### ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. This body shall be known as the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America.

SEC. 2. The General Grand Council shall be composed of the following officers :

- Most Puissant General Grand Master.
- Right Puissant General Grand Deputy Master.
- Right Puissant General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.
- Puissant General Grand Treasurer.
- Puissant General Grand Recorder.
- Puissant General Grand Chaplain.
- Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard.
- Puissant General Grand Conductor of the Council.
- Puissant General Grand Marshal.
- Puissant General Grand Steward.
- Puissant General Grand Sentinel.

together with all Past Most Puissant General Grand Masters, Past Right Puissant General Grand Deputy Masters, Past Right Puissant General Grand Principal Conductors of the Work ; all Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Principal Conductors of the Work, or their proxies ; all Past Most Illustrious Masters of the several constituent Grand Councils ; and the first three officers of every Council, under the immediate jurisdiction of this General Grand Council, or their proxies, which officers of said constituent Councils shall, collectively, have one vote.

SEC. 3. On all questions to be decided by the General Grand Council, each State Grand Council shall be entitled to three votes, by its representative or representatives. The General Grand Officers when present, shall each have

one vote, but no member of the General Grand Council shall be entitled to vote as proxy when the Companion giving the proxy is present.

SEC. 4. The officers of the General Grand Council shall be elected by ballot, and installed at each triennial assembly, except the General Grand Chaplain and General Grand Sentinel, who shall be appointed by the General Grand Master, at the commencement of each stated assembly, and shall hold their offices until their successors shall be elected and installed.

SEC. 5. The duties of the officers of this General Grand Council shall be such as are appropriate to their several stations.

SEC. 6. The stated assemblies of the General Grand Council shall be held triennially, at such date and place as it shall determine. Provided, that if in the opinion of the General Grand Master, or, in case of his inability, then of the Senior Grand officer, there shall be danger to life and health, from sickness or other local cause, by any meeting being held at the time appointed, he may change such meeting to some other time and place, and in the event of such change being made he shall immediately notify the General Grand Recorder thereof, who shall forthwith notify the other officers and members in such manner as he may deem best calculated to effect the desired object.

SEC. 7. The General Grand Master and General Grand Deputy Master shall have authority to call a special assembly of the General Grand Council whenever they consider it expedient or necessary, and it shall be their duty to do so when properly requested by a majority of the General Grand Councils, of which four months' notice shall be given of the time and place of meeting.

SEC. 8. A quorum of the General Grand Council shall consist of the representatives of three Grand Councils.

SEC. 9. The General Grand Council shall watch over and protect the interests of Cryptic Masonry in the States, Districts or Territories which recognize its jurisdiction, and where there is no Grand Council regularly established; and shall settle all difficulties which may arise and be referred to it, and shall give such advice and instruction as may seem most conducive to the peace, advancement and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in its original integrity.

SEC. 10. The General Grand Master, or, in case of his inability to act, the General Grand Deputy Master, shall have power and authority to grant dispensations for new Councils of Royal and Select Masters, in any State, District or Territory in which there is not a Grand Council regularly established, and working independently of any other Masonic body; such dispensation in no case to extend beyond the time of the next stated assembly of the General Grand Council, but no new Council shall be established in any State, District or Territory where there is a regular Council within a reasonable distance, without the consent of the Council nearest the place where such new Council is proposed to be located; and he shall immediately notify the General Grand Recorder of such dispensation, and make report of the same at the next triennial assembly.

nial assembly of the General Grand Council, when the General Grand Council may grant said Council a Charter.

SEC. 11. The fees for granting a dispensation shall be twenty-five dollars, and every Council holden by dispensation or charter, from this body, shall pay into the treasury of the General Grand Council, the sum of one dollar for each Companion greeted therein, and fifty cents annually for each member, until such time as a Grand Council shall be regularly established in the State, District or Territory in which such Council is located.

The General Grand Recorder shall be paid by the petitioners *five* dollars for his services in granting a Charter. The fees in the several Councils under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Council, for conferring the degrees of Royal and Select Master, and the appendant degree of Super Excellent Master, shall not be less than ten dollars.

SEC. 12. Whenever there shall be three Councils regularly instituted in any State, District or Territory, a Grand Council may be established so soon as convenience and propriety may dictate.

SEC. 13. Each Grand Council constituent of this General Grand Body shall pay to the General Grand Recorder, annually, the sum of fifty cents for each Chartered Council under its jurisdiction.

The Grand Recorder of each Grand Council shall be required to transmit to the General Grand Recorder, an official notice of the election of its Grand Officers within thirty days thereafter, and also transmit to the General Grand Recorder six copies of their proceedings as soon as the same are printed.

SEC. 14. Every Council of Royal and Select Masters must have a Charter or dispensation from the General Grand Council, or from some Grand Council working independently of any of any other branch of Masonry, and no Council shall be deemed legal, without such dispensation or charter; and Masonic communication, both public and private, is hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Council or any member of it, and any Council or Assembly that may be so illegally formed, opened or holden without such Charter, or any person assumed to be received or greeted therein.

## ARTICLE II.

### SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

SEC. 15. A Council of Royal and Select Masters, under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Grand Council, shall consist of the following officers: Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master, Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, Sentinel, and as many members as may be convenient for working together.

SEC. 16. Every Council under the immediate jurisdiction of this General Grand Council, shall annually make a return to the General Grand Recorder of their name, number, location and time of stated meetings, with a list of officers and members, degrees conferred, companions admitted, died, suspended or expelled, in accordance with a form furnished from the office of the General Grand Recorder.

SEC. 17. Every Council, under dispensation from this General Grand Council, shall, at the close of its period, return to the General Grand Recorder its dispensation and its records.

### ARTICLE III.

SEC. 18. This Constitution may be amended at any stated assembly, by a majority vote of the Grand Councils represented.

SEC. 19. This Constitution shall take effect and be in force, when it shall be ratified by nine (9) Grand Councils.

SEC. 20. Nothing contained in this Constitution shall be construed to derogate from the right or authority of any Grand Council which may not determine to become a constituent of this General Grand Council.

SEC. 21. Whenever this Constitution shall be ratified and accepted by any Grand Council, its Grand Recorder shall immediately notify the General Grand Recorder of such action, and whenever nine Grand Councils shall have so ratified and accepted it, the General Grand Recorder shall notify all the Grand Councils, and the officers of this General Grand Council, who shall thereupon assume their duties as such.

Signed by

GEO. W. COOLEY,  
ORESTES A. B. SENTER,  
GEO. M. OSGOODBY,  
GEO. J. PINCKARD,

Committee.

John J. Bell declining to sign the report.

On motion the above report was received.

On motion, it was decided that in acting upon the report of said "committee of five" on the advisability of forming a General Grand Council as well as the constitution presented, *each* Grand Council represented shall have but *one* vote.

On motion, the report of said Committee was laid upon the table for the present.

Comp. Geo. M. Osgoodby, of New York, from the special committee on the first question proposed by M. Ill. Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, in his call for this convention, presented the following report, which was received, and their recommendations adopted :

To the National Convention of Royal and Select Masters of the United States :

Your committee named by the M. Ill. President of this Convention, in the call issued to the several loyal Grand Councils of the United States, and to whom was assigned the consideration of the following proposition set forth in such call :

“ Shall the Grand Council system of organization be continued? If not, shall the degrees be abandoned, or the ‘ Mississippi Plan’ adopted?” would respectfully and fraternally report :

Your committee have with great interest and labor, since the question of merging the Cryptic with the Capitular degrees was proposed, carefully made a study of the subjects of the ancient landmarks governing the conferring and ownership of the degrees of Royal and Select Master ; and as the result of such examination have satisfied themselves that the degrees never have been the property of the Royal Arch Chapters, either General, Grand, or Subordinate.

We find that there was a regular Council in the year 1809, in the City of New York afterwards became the starting point, or beginning of the Grand Council of the State of New York, the organization of this Grand Council relating back to 1809, by the cession of this early Council of that year ; and it is claimed by some, and the proof appears to be indisputable, from records in the archives of the Grand Chapter of New York, that this Council was in fact instituted in 1807 (instead of 1809) and we refer to such proofs, stated by the Grand High Priest of New York in his address to the Grand Chapter in 1850. This Council was instituted under authority of the Grand Consistory.

The Grand Council of Connecticut was organized in 1819 ; that of Georgia in 1825 ; that of Massachusetts in 1826, and so on ; but it is unnecessary to state the dates of organization of others, for those we have stated are sufficient to show the earlier organizations.

The degrees of Royal and Select Master are in the lawful custody of the Grand Councils of the several States, and in the opinion of your committee they cannot be preserved in their original purity and beauty, and the important lessons by them inculcated, be perpetuated, by being conferred as side degrees, or as appendant to an entirely different branch of Masonry, to which they are superior in rank.

We have, therefore, come to the conclusion that the Grand Council system of organization should be continued ; that the degrees shall not be abandoned, nor should the “ Mississippi Plan ” be adopted.

Which conclusion we recommend be adopted by this convention of Royal and Select Masters.

(Signed)

GEO. M. OSGOODBY,  
GEO. W. COOLEY,  
For the Committee.

Comp. George J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, from the special committee on the third question proposed, presented the following report, which was on motion received, and their resolutions adopted :

PHILADELPHIA, July 28, 1880.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Esq.,

President of the National Convention of R. and S. M.

M. ILL. COMP. :—In reply to your circular of March 10, 1880, the committee consisting of Comps. Charles E. Meyer, of Philadelphia, Pa., Geo. J. Pinckard, of New Orleans, La., and Hugh McCurdy, of Corunna, Mich., beg leave to report. The question submitted to them was :

“3. What rule shall be adopted as to the status of those who receive the degrees in Chapters, as well as of those who have received the degrees in regular Councils but have assisted in conferring the degrees in other bodies, or been present when they were thus conferred?”

And it was requested that answer be made in time to present to the convention to be held in Detroit, Mich., on the 23d of August, 1880.

The early history of the Council degrees is well known to you. It is not necessary to discuss the origin or working up to this time. Sufficient it is for us that they are so entirely different from the other degrees, or systems, or rites of Masonry, as to have nothing in their ritual that can be taken and used by the other degrees without destroying them. While in so many particulars they are without any similarity, yet there is one point common to all degrees in Masonry, and that is the obligation of secrecy. The old charges say that a Mason is obliged, etc., etc., to obey the moral law. The violation of an obligation is a violation of the moral law. In every degree of Masonry the same charge is given to keep inviolate its secrets, as particularly from the brother of lower degree as from the profane. These are certain particulars in which we all agree. It cannot be denied that every Cryptic or Council Mason has obligated himself not to be present at the conferring of the degrees except in the body of a lawfully warranted and duly constituted Council. Conferred outside of a lawfully warranted and duly constituted Council it is done clandestinely, and there is no healing that can make such a clandestine regular, and he cannot be recognized in any manner or form whatever. One so made is shunned by all good Masons, and the finger of warning and contempt is continually

pointing at him, and with like abhorrence the true brother looks upon all those who in any manner or form whatever assists at the clandestine making. If such are the feelings engendered at the action of a companion, what must be the feelings toward a Grand Council or Grand Chapter that sanctions the conferring of degrees over which they have no control whatever? Grand Chapters can lawfully know nothing of a higher degree than is recognized by the fundamental principles which declare the Royal Arch the summit and perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry. A Grand Council is merely one of a number of custodians or trustees having in charge these degrees, it is only the agent entrusted with that in which each and every Grand Council is a part owner. If all were to cease to work, and lay down the trowel, and desert the secret vault—yet all are bound by their obligations as sacred as any taken and they cannot reveal or make public these degrees unlawfully except at their own peril—they would be and are forsworn, and leaving the work leave behind them broken promises and violated vows, and are guilty of gross un-Masonic conduct.

It becomes those who are strong in the faith to stand upon guard and place upon record a declaration of what is right and proper, just and honorable, and Masonic. Thus believing, be it

RESOLVED, That the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, viz., the Royal and Select Masters, can only be conferred in Councils of Royal and Select Masters working under regular Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters.

RESOLVED, That no Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons can lawfully confer or cause to be conferred, directly or indirectly, any of the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, commonly known as the Royal and Select Masters.

RESOLVED, That all Royal Arch Masons who have received the degrees of Royal and Select Master by the authority, direct or indirect, of Chapters or Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons shall be and are regarded as clandestinely made Royal and Select Masters, who cannot, in any manner, be recognized or admitted into any lawful Council of Royal and Select Masters.

RESOLVED, That any Royal and Select Master made under lawful authority, who shall be present and aid or assist, directly or indirectly, in the conferring of the Royal and Select Masters' degrees outside of a regularly warranted Council of Royal and Select Masters, duly warranted by a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, shall be guilty of un-Masonic conduct, and is liable to expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry.

RESOLVED, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to each Grand Council, with the request that they take action upon and adopt the same, and that copies be also sent to the several Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons.

CHARLES E. MEYER,  
GEORGE J. PINCKARD,  
HUGH McCURDY.

The committees on the second and fourth questions proposed, were granted further time.

The convention was then adjourned until to-morrow (Wednesday) evening at 7.30 o'clock.

### THIRD DAY.

DETROIT, Mich., Wednesday Evening,  
August 25, 1880, 7.30 o'clock.

The convention of Royal and Select Masters resumed its labors, Geo. J. Pinckard, of Louisiana, in the chair.

Present, representatives from the following States : Alabama, Connecticut, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, and Ohio.

The reading of the minutes of yesterday's session was dispensed with.

On motion, the report of the special committee of five on organizing a General Grand Council was taken from the table and their recommendations adopted.

The committee on the second and fourth questions propounded by the President, were discharged and relieved from the further consideration of the subjects therein contained.

On motion the election of provisional officers for the provisional General Grand Council was proceeded with, with the following result :

M. P. G. G. M.....	Josiah H. Drummond..	of Portland, Maine.
R. P. G. G. D. M.....	Geo. M. Osgoodby.....	of Buffalo, New York.
R. P. G. G. P. C. W..	Geo. J. Pinckard .....	of New Orleans, Louisiana.
P. G. G. Treas.....	Orestes A. B. Senter...	of Columbus, Ohio.
P. G. G. Rec.....	Geo. W. Cooley.....	of Minneapolis, Minnesota.
P. G. G. C. G.....	Wm. D. Wadsworth...	of Montgomery, Alabama.
P. G. G. C. C.....	Charles R. Armstrong..	of Macon, Georgia.
P. G. G. M.....	Edward P. Burnham...	of Saco, Maine.
P. G. G. S.....	Albert D. McConaughy..	of Atchison, Kansas.

On motion, it was ordered that 300 copies of the proceedings of this convention be printed and the bill therefor be sent to the M. P. G. G. M.

On motion, the time and place for the next assembly was left subject to the call of the Provisional M. P. G. G. M.

On motion, the Provisional General Grand Recorder was requested to procure the proceedings of the conventions held in the cities of New York, New Orleans and Buffalo, and have them printed.

On motion, it was resolved, that the thanks of this convention, being eminently due, are hereby tendered to Comps. Josiah H. Drummond, George J. Pinckard, and George Van Vliet, for the valuable services rendered this convention.

On motion, the thanks of this convention were tendered to the companions of the City of Detroit, for the courtesies extended to us at this time.

On motion, the convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the Provisional M. P. General Grand Master, as previously provided for.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Van Vliet". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary.

Secretary.

## OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

Elected and appointed Sept. 9th, 1880.

CHARLES W. BROWN, .....	M. L.	Grand Master.
JOHN J. MARTIN, .....	R. I.	Dep. Master.
THOMAS GLIDDON, .....	"	P. C. of W.
DAVID B. HOWELL, .....	"	Treasurer.
GEO. VAN VLIET, .....	"	Recorder.
JOHN L. BROTHERS, .....	"	C. of the G.
P. W. VERHOEVEN, .....	"	C. of the G.
R. C. CHRISTIANCE, .....	"	Marshal.
REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, .....	"	Chaplain.
REV. JOSEPH BRADFORD CLEAVER, .....	"	
JOHN N. MACOMB, JR., .....	"	Lecturer.
W. MORGAN LEE, .....	"	Steward.
JOHNSTON FOUNTAIN, .....	Ill.	Sentinel.

Grand Master's address—No. 5 Bond Street, New York City (or P. O. Box 123, Station A).  
 Grand Recorder's address—"Masonic Temple," cor. 5th ave. and 23d st., New York City.  
 (Next Annual Assembly, Sept. 30th, 1881.)

## OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL

OF THE UNITED STATES.

M. P. G. G. M. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, .....	of PORTLAND, MAINE.
R. P. G. G. D. M. GEO. M. OSGOODBY, .....	of BUFFALO, NEW YORK.
R. P. G. G. P. C. W. GEO. J. PINOKARD, .....	of NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.
P. G. G. Treas. ORESTES A. B. SENTER, .....	of COLUMBUS, OHIO.
P. G. G. Recr. GEO. W. COOLEY, .....	of MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.
P. G. G. C. G. WM. D. WADSWORTH, .....	of MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.
P. G. G. C. C. CHARLES B. ARMSTRONG, .....	of MACON, GEORGIA.
P. G. G. M. EDWARD P. BURNHAM, .....	of SACO, MAINE.
P. G. G. S. ALBERT T. McCONAUGHY, .....	of ATCHISON, KANSAS.

