

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL

OF

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

SEPTEMBER 11, 1877.

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—

BUFFALO:

PRESS OF BAKER, JONES & CO.

1877.

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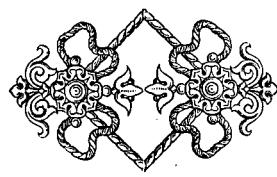
STATE OF NEW YORK.

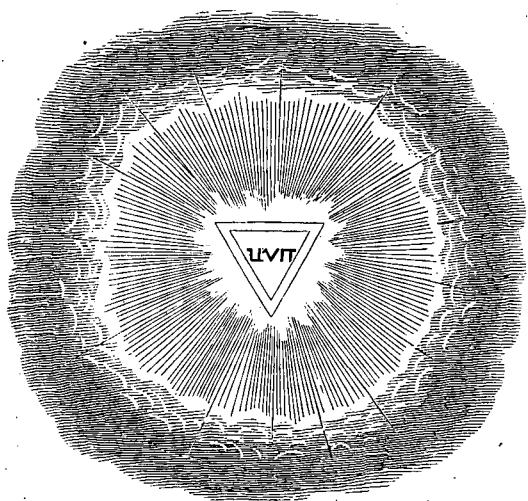
SEPTEMBER 11, 1877.

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Grand Council.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.

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

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, (in accordance with a resolution adopted at
its last Annual Assembly,) on Tuesday, September 11, A. D.
1877, A.: Dep.: 2877.

PRESENT.

M. I. M. GEO. M. OSGOODBY,	GRAND MASTER.
R. I. CHARLES W. BROWN,	DEP. GRAND MASTER.
R. I. A. B. KING,	GRAND P. C. OF W.
R. I. DAVID B. HOWELL,	GRAND TREASURER.
R. I. GEO. VAN VLIET,	GRAND RECORDER.
R. I. JOHN F. BALDWIN,	GRAND C. OF THE G.
R. I. THOMAS H. FLOYD,	GRAND C. OF THE C.
R. I. DARWIN E. MORGAN,	GRAND MARSHAL.
I. OWEN WILLIAMS,	GRAND STEWARD.
I. JOHNSON FOUNTAIN,	GRAND SENTINEL.
R. I. JOHN J. MARTIN,	GRAND LECTURER.

M. I. M. G. FRED WILTSIE, Past Grand Master.

M. I. M. JOHN HOOLE, Past Grand Master.

M. I. M. H. F. L. BUNTING, Past Grand Master.

Together with the Representatives of the following Councils:

COLUMBIAN,	No. 1	PALMYRA,	No. 26
UNION,	" 2	UTICA,	" 28
BROOKLYN,	" 4	OWEGO,	" 30
BLOSS,	" 14	PENTALPHA,	" 36
BRUCE,	" 15	KONHOCTON,	" 40
SOUTHERN TIER,	" 16	GENESEE VALLEY,	" 41
DORIC,	" 19	PEEKSKILL,	" 55
KEYSTONE,	" 20	HUDSON,	" 62
DE WITT CLINTON,	" 22	SING SING,	" 64
DUNKIRK,	" 25	ITHACA,	" 68

And R. I. JOHN B. HARRIS, Past Grand Treasurer.

R. I. P. W. VERHOEVEN, Past Grand Marshal.

T. I. M. GEO. W. THORN, Past T. I. M. of Adelphic Council,
No. 7.

Visitors.—M. I. M. GEO. W. COOLEY, Grand Master Grand Council Minnesota, and being our Representative thereto.

T. I. M. W. R. SINGLETON, Past T. I. M. Lafayette Council,
No. 1, Washington, D. C.

The Grand Council was opened in Ample form.

On motion of M.:Ill.: G. FRED WILTSIE, all Companions Select Masters in good standing were invited to seats, as visitors, in this Grand Council.

On motion of T.:Ill.: GEO. McGOWN, the reading of the Minutes of the previous Assembly were dispensed with.

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

ADDRESS.

ILLUSTRIOS COMPANIONS:

We are again within our S.:V.: to exchange our fraternal greetings one with the other, to grasp with cordiality the hands of our loved Companions, and to say "God Speed" to the beautiful and instructive degrees conferred in our Mystic Temple.

We meet to-day for the sixty-eighth time as a Grand Council, and as we come together let us raise our hearts and voices in adoration to the Great Master of all the different branches of our Order, and offer up the sincere love of our hearts in grateful praises for the loving kindness exhibited to us during the past year by his Almighty favor. Let us renew the vows of faithfulness which we have made in the past, and pledge ourselves to emulate the example of our Illustrious Companions who have lain down their labors here below, and have gone to receive their reward in the Grand Temple where the day never ends, and where the effulgent rays of light from the "Great I Am," penetrate to the deepest recesses, and shed abroad in all their splendor the mansions prepared for the faithful. But while we thus meet with joy and exchange the congratulations of our hearts, a feeling of deep sadness prevails, for the inexorable Angel of Death has again penetrated to the Ninth Arch, passing silently by the sleeping guards, and has taken captive and removed from our number of those who were of our most zealous friends, as well as of the highest, brightest and best in the select of our Order; some of whom have been called upon since our last Assembly to experience the realities of the Great Unknown,—from whence we came, and, after a short flutter of joys and pains, a bright glimmer of smiles and tears, whither we go, where countless millions have gone, and where all who come after us are yet to pass, and though the places we fill were not vacant before we made our ap-

pearance here, and will not be lonely when we are likewise called hence by the Angel of Death, yet

"Still to every draught of vital breath
Renew'd throughout the bounds of earth and ocean,
The melancholy gates of death,
Respond to sympathetic motion."

GEORGE FRANK GOULEY, who had been for many years the representative of this Grand Body to and near the Grand Council of Missouri, is no more of us. He passed from this sphere, up higher to spirit life, on the eleventh of April last at the burning of the Southern Hotel in St. Louis. He was a faithful representative of this Body, one devoted to and who loved Cryptic Masonry. At the time of his decease he occupied the position of Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of F.:A.:M.:, and also of the Grand Chapter, R.:A.:M.:, and Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, R.: and S.: Masters. and also the Grand Commandery of K. T. of Missouri, and he was also the Chairman of the several Committees upon Foreign Correspondence of those bodies. He was also the representative from nineteen different Grand Lodges to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, embracing several from foreign countries; and represented ten Grand Chapters to the Grand Chapter of Missouri; and eight Grand Councils to the Grand Council of Missouri; and also nine Grand Commanderies to the Grand Commandery of Missouri. He was also honored by the Grand Council of Missouri in being appointed chairman of its committee made at its Assembly in October last, to co-operate with your committee to memorialize the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, at Cleveland in August last. His name was inscribed, May 25th, 1877, by the Grand Lodge of Egypt, in the "Book of Gold" (Libro d' Or) of that Grand Body as an honorary member, and upon receiving the notice of his death a short time thereafter, a Tablet in the Masonic Temple at Alexandria, Egypt, was fraternally inscribed to his memory. This is an honor seldom conferred, and, therefore, all the more gratifying to his friends. He was one whom his Masonic brethren delighted to honor. He died, as he had lived, an honest man, an upright mason, faithful in all the relations of life, and regretted by all who knew him.

As the head of this Grand Body I took occasion to address to his widow a letter of condolence over the irreparable loss she had sustained—so much greater than ours—and assured her of the sympathy that this Body bore to her in her great bereavement, and that suitable action would be taken at this Assembly to put upon record its respect and esteem for the departed and its sympathy for the bereaved.

On the twenty-second day of April last, WILLIAM EDWARD LATHROP, Past T.: Ill.: Master of Doric Council, No. 19, at Rochester, and who was the first T.:I.:M.: of that Council, having arrived at the ripe age of fourscore and

three years, passed quietly away like a child sinking into peaceful slumber to awake in Paradise. He was a charter member of Yonnondio, as well as of Genesee Falls, Lodges in Rochester. A member of Hamilton Royal Arch Chapter, a charter member of Ionic Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and a member of Monroe Commandery, K. T., as well as of all the Lodges of the A. and A. Rite, with the 33° elect. He was the oldest Freemason in Rochester, having united with the fraternity at the age of twenty-one years. He has been honored by being chosen to fill all of the important offices in those bodies, and has also been honored as the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of New York, and with two other veterans—JOHN W. SIMONS and EZRA S. BARNUM, who still survive him—was presented by the Grand Commandery of this State, with Past Grand Commanders Jewels. He was ever esteemed as high authority in Masonic Jurisprudence, and his place is not easily filled. I might speak of him for hours, and then leave the greater part unsaid in reference to his noble, manly and masonic qualities and abilities. He was chairman of the committee upon Templar Jurisprudence of the Grand Commandery of this State at its last Conclave, and his last official act as such at that Conclave, was to affix his signature to a report which is hereinafter set forth, in relation to this Grand Body and Cryptic Masonry.

"If we drop our tears
Who loved him as few men ever loved,
We mourn no blighted hope, nor broken plan,
With him whose life stood rounded and approved
In the full growth and stature of a man."

Having performed the pilgrimage of life, having fought the good fight, and came off conqueror, he has entered upon that rest and reward that awaits the good and true in the mansions prepared. "Requiescat in pace."

Time will not permit me to further dwell upon the beautiful traits of character possessed by our beloved and deeply honored Companion. Suffice it to say, that he was eminent for his masonic qualities and abilities, prominent in all benevolent organizations of his locality, was esteemed as a wise counsellor and adviser, just and true in every sphere of life he was beloved by all who knew him, and his death was mourned by a multitude of friends and acquaintances.

I have also to announce to you with deep regret that M. I. CHARLES J. DANFORTH, Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts, departed this life May 17th, 1877. From lack of data of his masonic association and membership; and of his masonic life, I am constrained, much against my own feelings, to refrain from extended remarks in relation to his life and decease. In their loss our sister Grand Council of Massachusetts has our sincere condolence. Its loss is great, their Grand Master was an

eminent mason, prominent in State and Nation, and his death will also leave a vacancy which will not be easily filled.

"Another hand is beckoning us,
Another call is given,
And glows once more with Angels' steps,
The path that leads to heaven."

Soon, my Companions, shall we each of us have verified in ourselves the truth of the Scriptures, "My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart." Let it be our earnest, unceasing prayer that we may each so live, that we too may be gladly welcomed in that perfect Temple, where God is the only light, and where love abounds.

In love's fruition then,
Gladly we'll rest,
With perfect rest in heaven,
Then we'll be blest;
Bright crowns prepared are there,
For those who faithful are,
With pure eternal love,
The Father gives.

I present to you a communication from the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, in relation to the decease of their late Grand Master, which is as follows:

"GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,

OF MASSACHUSETTS,

OFFICE OF GRAND RECORDER.

SOMERVILLE, May 28, 1877.

SORROW AND SADNESS PERVADE OUR GRAND COUNCIL.

It is with feelings of inexpressible sorrow I communicate to you the painful information that our Ill. Grand Master, CHARLES J. DANFORTH, is no more.

On the seventeenth of May, 1877, the Supreme Master of the Universe called our Ill. Companion from the labors of the Lodge below to the place of peace and rest.

In this affliction God has taken from us a faithful, constant and devoted friend; from our Grand Council a dignitary valued and beloved.

In his life he has given us an example of simplicity and unostentation, but good and true, and in all his transactions he was eminently practical.

He was a devoted and intelligent Mason; truly may it be said of him, that none was more faithful to the interests of Cryptic Masonry in Massachusetts than he:

While we thus bear testimony to the truly exalted character of our Ill. Companion, and cherish the memory of the worthy dead, we are reminded of the uncertainty of human life, and warned to be ready for that day which comes at last unto all, when our body must return unto the dust, and our spirit unto Him who gave it.

JOHN HAIGH,

Grand Recorder."

I recommend to you suitable action upon the subject of the illustrious dead, that our records may show the deep feelings of sorrow which pervade this Grand Body in relation thereto.

Harmony prevails within our S. V. throughout this jurisdiction. I have not been called upon during my official term to decide any questions in dispute, or to render any decisions upon Masonic Cryptic Jurisprudence, and I congratulate you, therefore, that peace reigns within our Arches, that our Companions are dwelling together in unity of spirit, and that no sounds of discord or turmoil are to be heard amongst our workmen.

During the past year I have appointed the following named Companions as Representatives of this Grand Body near other Grand Councils, but I have left your representative's seat from our Grand Council to the Grand Council of Missouri, made vacant by the untimely decease of our lamented Companion GOULEY, to be filled on a future occasion, as on another occasion of which we have memorable note, the seat of one of our three ancient Grand Masters was left unfilled, and draped in the emblems of mourning:

R. I. HENRY NEWBEGIN, of Defiance, in and for Ohio.

M. I. DAVID WOODARD, of Clinton, in and for Michigan.

M. I. CHARLES F. GOODMAN, of Omaha, in and for Nebraska.

R. I. JOHN A. HARRIS, of Concord, in and for New Hampshire.

R. I. SAMUEL L. BAYLISS, of Keokuk, in and for Iowa.

And I have recommended and received appointments for the following named Companions near this Grand Council from sister Grand Councils:

M. I. JOHN B. SACKETT,.....Nebraska.

M. I. JOHN HOOLE,.....Michigan.

M. I. HENRY F. L. BUNTING,.....Iowa.

R. I. GEO. VAN VIET,.....New Hampshire.

R. I. DARWIN E. MORGAN,.....Ohio.

Several of our Subordinate Councils, instituted in better financial times, have failed to report to this Grand Council for several years. I would recommend that all in arrears for two years shall be called upon to revive and report within a given time, or their warrants be declared forfeited. The names of those in arrears will appear by the returns in the hands of the Recorder.

In compliance with the directions of the last Assembly of this Body, I report that I made an apportionment of the subordinate Councils for official visitation, amongst your Grand Officers, as follows:

R. I.: CHAS. W. BROWN, D. G. M., Nos. 1, 2, 20, 28, 31, 62.
R. I.: ALEX B. KING, P. C. W., Nos. 22, 30, 37, 46, 52.
R. I.: JOHN F. BALDWIN, G. C. C., Nos. 4, 7, 15, 21, 36, 64.
R. I.: THOMAS H. FLOYD, G. C. C., Nos. 8, 14, 55, 65, 67.
R. I.: REV. J. G. WEBSTER, Grand Chaplain, Nos. 18, 19, 23, 26.
R. I.: DARWIN E. MORGAN, Grand Marshal, Nos. 25, 27, 35, 41.
R. I.: JOHN J. MARTIN, Grand Lecturer, Nos. 14, 24, 30, 40, 61.
Ill.: OWEN WILLIAMS, Grand Steward, Nos. 16, 26, 38, 68.

As I had not, at the date of writing this, yet received all of the reports from those so assigned for official visits, I am unable to present them to you herewith. Those made to me, I am gratified to be able to state, exhibit Cryptic Masonry as advancing in our jurisdiction, and as being in a much better condition, and occupying a higher position at the present time than was the case at our last Assembly. I have myself made several official visits, but not as many as I had desired to make and should have made, but for the reason that the duties imposed upon me by this Grand Council, at its last Assembly, in reference to the Cryptic Degrees being made prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, has engrossed very much of my time, and in fact more of it than could well be spared from my professional engagements.

I beg leave to urge upon those to whom future visitations are imposed, that they will not only perform the duty assigned to them promptly, but also make their reports so that they may be received at the time fixed, thus giving a sufficient time to embody the substance of them, at least, in the address which your Grand Master is required to make annually; if this were done it would lessen his labors very much.

On the seventeenth day of September last, I issued the following circular letter to our sister Grand Councils, and am pleased to say that its suggestions were adopted by the large majority of them, only three or four dissenting, but some of the committees appointed by some of our sister Grand Bodies failed to put in an appearance at Cleveland, to further the object for which they had been appointed.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER
 OF
 ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASON'S
 OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

NUNDA, N. Y., Sept. 18, 1876.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION:

At the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of this State, held at the Masonic Temple in the City of New York on the 12th and 13th insts., there was a committee, consisting of myself as chairman, and M. J. Past Grand Master JOHN D. WILLIAMS, and Illustratious Companion the REV. CHAS G. HUDSON, appointed to attend in behalf of this Grand Council the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, to be held at Cleveland in August next, to present and urge upon the Grand Encampment the adoption of the Cryptic degrees as a prerequisite to the degrees of Knighthood, and the following was adopted:

Resolved, That the committee appointed by this Grand Council to attend the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States to urge that the Council degrees be made prerequisite to the orders of Knighthood be, and they are hereby vested with full power to propose a plan or basis upon which such action may be had by such Grand Encampment, and that this Grand Council will carry out and fulfil the terms of such plan or basis which may be agreed upon by such committee.

In compliance with this resolution the committee will attend as desired, and as the present time seems to be a favorable one to urge the desired action upon the Grand Encampment, it is earnestly desired that all Grand Councils should take similar action, appointing of their best and most influential Companions a similar committee with like powers. The committees should be composed of Knights Templar, so as to entitle them to a seat in the body to be so visited.

I submit this matter for your consideration, and should be pleased to receive from you suggestions in regard to it. A committee was also appointed to visit the Grand Commandery of this State and urge its co-operation in this matter, which I would also recommend.

With kind regards and assurance of high esteem, I am

Fraternally and faithfully yours,

GEO. M. OSGOODBY,

Grand Master.

To Most Illustrious.....

Grand Master of the State of.....

The Grand Master of Arkansas, in his address to the Grand Council of his State, October 7th, 1877, after giving in full the foregoing letter, says in relation thereto: "I will only add that I am favorably impressed with the proposition, as it is evident that something must be done to awaken new interest and give renewed life to our sublime but much neglected branch of York Rite Masonry. The circle of perfection is incomplete without the Cryptic degrees, yet many never penetrate the S.:V.:, or approach the private apartments leading to our Sanctuary. The Royal and Select degrees are certainly necessary to the completion of the Capitular degrees, and they are considered essential prerequisites to qualify the applicant for the orders of Knighthood. To this we might add the Degrees are certainly as proper and essential to thoroughly qualify the pilgrim sojourner for the Knights Templar order as the Red Cross degree."

The Grand Master of Alabama also by his address, and also by the action of its committee, adopted the suggestions made in our letter above; but its committee to attend the Grand Encampment did not appear.

The Grand Master of Michigan recommended the co-operation of his Grand Council with us in this work, and the Grand Council adopted resolutions similar to those adopted at our last Assembly in relation to this subject. A committee was also appointed to attend the Grand Encampment, and did so.

The Grand Master of Pennsylvania also recommended the co-operation of his Grand Council, but the Grand Council failed to carry out his recommendations, and no committee was appointed.

The Grand Master of Wisconsin earnestly recommended to his Grand Body its co-operation with our committee for the purpose indicated in such letter, and their full and cordial support was accorded. Most Illustrious Grand Master WOODHULL appearing as its committee, and working with devotion to accomplish the result desired. And in this connection it is well to add that the Grand Commandery of Wisconsin has upon this subject adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment approving, that the Council Degrees, as conferred by authority of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in this jurisdiction, be, and the same are hereby made requisite to the reception of candidates into the Orders of Knighthood in this State; and that candidates for the Orders be required to state, in their petitions, the name, number and location of the Council to which they belong. And further, that when this measure is approved by the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder shall certify the same to the several Commanderies in this jurisdiction, and from the date of the reception of such certificate this regulation shall be in force."

The M.E.: Grand Master of Knights Templar declined to approve of these requirements, under his construction of the rulings of the Grand Encampment.

Grand Master BRIDGES, of Wisconsin, says in his address: "I believe the majority of our Councils are doing as well, if not better, than the cloud under which the rite is now shaded would seem to indicate. I believe there is at the bottom of all this slumber a fire burning, which the stimulant of proper and consistent action on the part of the Grand Encampment can fan into such a flame, as to warm and vivify the whole fabric."

Grand Master BLACKSHAW, of Illinois, by his address recommended a representation in the Grand Encampment in this language: "I would recommend that a representation be sent, but not as a saving grace to us, but that we may stand up for our rights, the position that we hold, the key and the keystone to all that has preceded. Let us finish the work so happily began.

"We have, by types, emblems and allegorical figures, taken the candidate from the quarries of Zarthan and the forests of Lebanon, round the outer courts of the temple, over the ground floor, through the middle chamber and shown him the door of the S.S.. We have used him to exemplify one of the most beautiful pictures of fortitude the world has ever known. We have taught him the use of the chisel and mallet, and how to receive his wages. We have seated him in the Oriental Chair and have represented to him the completion of the most beautiful edifice ever erected by man. We have also shown him that the devout Israelite when released from bondage, after a toilsome journey arrived at his favorite city, and that in removing the rubbish found deposited the key to some of our emblems, that none but we of the Royal Craft can decipher. Then Companions, is this key *Cryptic Masonry*, which unlocks all that we have taught him, to go on bended knees to the Encampment of Chivalric Masonry, begging and praying of them not to admit a candidate to the Orders of Knighthood until he has passed through our S.V.: ? Cryptic Masonry is no eleenosynary. I claim that she has merits of her own that are worth fighting for. She is at the top of the ladder, up which the candidate has climbed step by step. She is the pinnacle and keystone that finishes her beautiful edifice; she is also the key that opens the door and explains to him the bond of union between our three Ancient, Most Excellent Grand Masters; and after the dissolution of that bond by that vile assassination, it shows him where they placed that word when it was of no further use to them, and what means were used, so that we, as the future generation, should know it to be right. No! Rather let Cryptic Masonry die and go into oblivion then be the foot-ball of one, or the weak appendage to another. No Companions! Let not your representatives go as weak, cringing beggars, timidly tapping at the door of the Grand Encampment

of Knights Templar, but let them go as *Masons*—as finished workmen that need not be afraid; and let them represent to the Grand Encampment that, in taking material that has not passed through our S.V., they are taking that work which is not properly prepared for them; that they are taking the rough Ashlers, and not perfect Ashlers, to put into their moral Temple. Hence, though their Temple may be morally perfect, they have some stones that have not been properly finished."

Grand Master BLACKSHAW, in a communication to me upon this subject, says: "Right glad am I that New York is moving in this important direction. * * * * * I sincerely give the movement my hearty co-operation; I will ever earnestly hope and work for its success."

A committee was appointed by the Grand Council of Illinois to work with your committee, and the Grand Master, L. R. JEROME, worked faithfully to that end. The proposition as made by your committee, hereinafter set forth, to the Grand Commandery of New York was adopted, and the Grand Commandery of Illinois had the same propositions made to it, and I am advised approved of it.

I have thought best to quote from a few of the Grand Councils their feelings upon this question in co-operation with your committee, to show you that the feeling is far extended in relation to the proper position of our beautiful degrees. I would gladly give you my correspondence with eminent Masons throughout the United States upon this subject, but time will not allow.

On the tenth day of October last, associated with R.I. Companion CHARLES W. BROWN, I attended the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of New York, and presented to it the following Memorial and Proposition, which was received with respectful consideration by that Grand Body, and referred to its Committee on Templar Jurisprudence. We attended before such committee, and after giving us a courteous and respectful hearing, they made the report which follows the Memorial and Proposition, and which report was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Grand Body, as you will see by the certificate of the Grand Recorder of that Body therewith.

GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: FRATERNAL GREETINGS:

The Memorial of the undersigned would most courteously and respectfully represent:

That at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of the State of New York, held at the Masonic Temple, in the

City of New York, Sept. 12th and 13th, 1876, action was duly and regularly taken and had by such Grand Council upon the subject of connecting the degrees of Cryptic Masonry with the Orders of Knighthood; and to the end that a basis might be arranged upon such conditions and terms as would be equitable, masonic, and proper, and at the same time accomplish the desired object, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That the committee appointed by this Grand Council to attend the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, to urge that the Council degrees be made prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, be, and they are hereby vested with full power to propose a plan or basis upon which such action may be had by such Grand Encampment, and that this Grand Council will carry out and fulfill the terms of such plan or basis which may be agreed upon by such committee."

That the committee to so attend the Grand Encampment was composed of M. Ill. GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, Grand Master, M. Ill. JOHN D. WILLIAMS, Past Grand Master, and Right Ill. and Rev. CHARLES G. HUDSON.

That for the purpose of carrying out the proposed action, another resolution was also duly adopted by the said Grand Council, which is as follows:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed by this Grand Council to wait upon the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of this State, which is to meet in this City, October 10th, 1876, and urge on that Grand Body the necessity of recognizing the Cryptic degrees, thereby placing them in their proper position in the American System of Masonry, and that such committee be empowered to propose or agree upon such a plan as shall secure the favorable action of said Grand Commandery in its recommending that the Cryptic degrees be made prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood."

That the committee appointed by the Grand Council to so wait upon the Grand Commandery was composed of M. Ill. GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, Grand Master, R. Ill. CHARLES W. BROWN, Deputy Grand Master, and R. Ill. ALEX. B. KING, Principal Conductor of the Work of the said Grand Council; and your memorialists would, as the representatives of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of the State of New York, and as the representatives of the Royal and Select Master Masons in the State of New York, now being in full membership under the jurisdiction of the said Grand Council, further represent—

That they are prepared to present to your Grand body a plan or basis upon which the Cryptic degrees may, in their opinion, be properly recommended by your Grand body as prerequisite to the orders of Knighthood.

We would therefore most courteously and respectfully ask of this Grand body a hearing upon this subject, and the appointment of a Committee of Conference, together with such other action upon your part as in your judgment may be deemed proper, just, masonic and equitable.

And your memorialists will remain,

Courteously and Fraternally,

GEO. M. OSGOODBY,
CHARLES W. BROWN,
ALEX. B. KING,

Committee of said Grand Council to the Grand Commandery
of the State of New York.

PROPOSITION IN BRIEF.

This plan proposed for a basis upon which the Cryptic degrees may be made prerequisite, is as follows:

1st. That all Sir Knights in good standing at the time the Cryptic degrees are made prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, shall be entitled to receive the Cryptic degrees upon payment of the sum of one dollar Grand Council Registry fee only.

2d. That the Grand Council will amend its Constitution so as to provide for carrying into effect the above provision.

3d. That the Cryptic degrees be thereupon made prerequisite for all seeking the orders of Knighthood, subsequent to the time such arrangement is perfected and the action approved by the Grand Bodies.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY,
CHARLES W. BROWN,
ALEX. B. KING,
Committee.

"GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR STATE OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND RECORDER.

NEW YORK, OCT. 17TH, 1876.

At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, K. T., State of New York, held in the City of New York on the 10th inst., the following report from the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence was presented and unanimously adopted:

'In respect to the Memorial of a committee of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of this State, duly authorized to be presented to this Grand Commandery, and which was referred to this committee, we report thereon as follows:

'Recognizing the Cryptic degrees as an essential part and component of the American System of Freemasonry, and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons as a body entitled to the respect and fellowship of this Grand Body, your committee are still of opinion that no legislation of this Grand Commandery can have the effect to make the degrees of Royal and Select Master Masons prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood; your committee therefore recommend that the Memorial, as presented to this Grand Commandery, be referred to the Grand Encampment, which alone has the power to act in the premises.'

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. LATHROP,
CHRISTOPHER G. FOX,
THOS. C. CHITTENDEN,

Committee.

I certify that the above is a true copy of the report adopted,

ROBERT MACOY,

[L. S.]

Grand Recorder."

By this report and the vote of the Grand Commandery of New York upon it, you will perceive that the Cryptic degrees are recognized as an essential part and component of the American System of Freemasonry, and that this Grand Council has the respect and fellowship of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York extended to it, *not from courtesy, but because we are entitled to it.*

We appreciate this kindly recognition by the greatest of the Grand Commanderies of the United States, and it will not fail to strengthen our hands and encourage us to so labor that we may not only receive the recognition of our beautiful degrees by all the Grand Commanderies as a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, but also that we may so work that we may impress indelibly upon the mind of every Royal Arch Mason, that the only proper advance in masonic light is by the attainment of the Council degrees, and that we may also pass down as a solemn legacy to those who will in the future fill our places, the work which has been committed to our hands, finished and perfect Ashlers for the Grand Masonic edifice.

On the twentieth day of August last, with P. G. Masters SACKETT and WILTSIE, I attended the National Convention of Royal and Select Masters at

Buffalo, at which twenty-three Grand Councils were represented, and which was presided over by M. Ill. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, of Maine. At this Convention the proceedings of the Grand Council of Mississippi, and of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi in relation to the transfer of the Council Degrees to the Grand Chapter, were presented for consideration. These proceedings are fully set forth in their Circular letter, which is as follows:

"TO ALL ROYAL ARCH MASONS AND ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

The following report of a Joint Committee of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons, adopted by these Grand Bodies at their recent Convocation and Assembly in the City of Vicksburg, February 5th and 6th, 1877, is communicated for the information and government of the several subordinate Chapters and Councils in the State of Mississippi:

To the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter, and the M.P. Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, of the State of Mississippi:

The undersigned, a committee of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Mississippi, and a committee of the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in the State of Mississippi, appointed by these Grand Bodies respectively, to present an arrangement by which the degrees of the Grand Council are to be transferred to the Grand Chapter, beg leave to report that the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master be and the same are hereby transferred to the Grand Chapter, and shall hereafter be conferred as follows:

1. Each Royal Arch Chapter shall hereafter open within its bosom, under its charter as a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and confer the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master; the officers of the Chapter, corresponding in rank to those of the Council, to be the officers of the Council.

2. All Royal Arch Masons who have not received the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master shall be entitled to have the same conferred, or communicated, on their request and without charge, but candidates who shall hereafter receive the Royal Arch degree shall immediately thereafter, and in connection with the Royal Arch degree, receive the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master without additional charge.

3. All present and past Grand Officers of the Grand Council, and all present and past Thrice Illustrious Masters of Subordinate Councils, shall be entitled to participate in all the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, but with-

out a vote therein, until the Constitution can be so amended as to permit them to vote as other Past Grand Officers and members of the Grand Chapter.

4. The General Grand Chapter of the United States is most earnestly, but respectfully, petitioned to permit the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master to be conferred as a part of the Royal Arch degree, the former before the Royal Arch, and the latter after.

5. The Officers of the Grand Council shall be elected, in order to preserve the organization, pending the approval of the action by the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Fraternally submitted,

J. M. HOWRY,
H. W. WALTER,
E. GEO. DELAP,

For the Grand Council.

FREDERIC SPEED,
R. P. BOWEN,
JNO. A. DICK,

For the Grand Chapter."

"By this action:

1. All Councils of Royal and Select Masters ceased to exist.
2. The degrees of 'Royal Master' and 'Select Master' will hereafter be conferred, or communicated, in the several Royal Arch Chapters and upon *Royal Arch Masons* only, and as follows: The Chapter being opened in the Royal Arch Degree, a Council of Royal and Select Masters will then be opened in these degrees, respectively. After completing its work the Council will be closed, with all due forms and ceremonies, and the business of the Chapter resumed or closed, as occasion may require, in the Royal Arch Degree.
3. Royal Arch Masons who have not received the degrees of Royal and Select Master may have them conferred, or communicated, without fee, in open Council. But in all cases the Chapter must be regularly convened and a Council formally opened.
4. Companions hereafter receiving the Royal Arch Chapter Degree, will be advanced to the Royal Master's, and afterwards to the Select Master's

Degree—the Chapter being first opened, and then the Council, as before directed.

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

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

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

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

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

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seals of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter and the Most Puissant Grand Council to be affixed, this twenty-fourth day of February, 1877.

H. W. WALTER,
Grand High Priest.

Attest:

W. G. PAXTON,

Grand Master.

J. L. POWER,

Grand Secretary and Grand Recorder."

A resolution was offered in this Convention, recommending in substance that the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons assume the control of Cryptic Masonry, and authorize its degrees to be conferred in Chapters. This resolution being so much in repugnance to the sentiments of this Body and its subordinates, your representatives felt it to be their duty to oppose, and they did so thoroughly, resulting in the defeat of the resolution. •

A resolution was then offered in behalf of this Body by your representatives, providing for the appointment of a committee of five to memorialize the Grand Encampment to make the Council degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood. This resolution was adopted. The committee appointed by the President consisted of your Grand Master as chairman, M. I. EDWARD S. DANA, of Vermont, known to be one of the most zealous and faithful friends that Cryptic Masonry has ever had, M. I. JOHN W. WOODHULL, of Wisconsin, whose name will again appear herein with a tribute of praise, M. W. Z. C. LUSE, of Iowa, and R. I. ALEX. THOMAS, of Indiana each of whom are known as earnest and devoted working friends of the Cryptic Rite. The representatives of the Grand Council of Mississippi urged the adoption of the agreement as made between their Grand Council and their Grand Chapter, however, stating that their object was to make the Cryptic degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, and that they had adopted that course, as in their opinion most feasible to accomplish it, but had no objection to the other; but after the defeat of their pet project in the Convention, they stultified themselves by voting against the passage of the last resolution, the aim of which was to accomplish the desired object.

I deem it unnecessary to comment upon the position taken by our sister Grand Council of Mississippi, other than to say that of its most faithful and devoted friends to the Cryptic Rite, the one of all others, most prominent in its organization, M. I. P. M. SAVERY, is not agreed with their action, and many others there, are opposed to it; in fact, their action seems to have been sprung upon that body without giving notice to those opposed to it.

The effect of this action has been to work incalculable injury to Cryptic Masonry, and has put it back for years in obtaining the recognition which we have in common with so many of the Grand Councils been earnestly working for.

No other business of importance coming before the Convention, except the question of the formation of a General Grand Council of the United States, it was thought best to postpone further action upon that subject for the time being, and the Convention was adjourned subject to the call of its President.

On the twenty-first of August I attended the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, at Buffalo, and remained in attendance until near the close of the Convocation on the twenty-fourth. The action of our Mississippi Companions, aided by the representatives of California, was presented, and the General Grand Chapter memorialized to give its sanction and approval to their action. The subject was referred to a select committee, which I am happy to state reported adversely, after full consideration of the subject, on the ground that they had no jurisdiction over Cryptic Masonry.

On the twenty-seventh of August I proceeded to Cleveland to fulfill the duties imposed upon me by this Body and by the National Convention, which I have already referred to, and there found R. I. Companion C. G. HUDSON awaiting me. A memorial was prepared which was signed by the committee of this Grand Council, and by the committee appointed by the National Convention at Buffalo, and also by committees of several Grand Councils who were in attendance. And which memorial was as follows:

“MEMORIAL
OF THE
ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER MASONS.

TO THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES.
FRATERNAL GREETINGS:

The memorial of the undersigned would most courteously and respectfully represent:

That at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of the State of New York, held at the Masonic Temple in the City of New York, September 12th and 13th, 1876, action was duly and regularly taken and had by such Grand Council upon the subject of connecting the degrees of Cryptic Masonry with the Orders of Knighthood; and, to the end that a basis might be arranged upon such conditions and terms as would be equitable, masonic and proper, and at the same time accomplish the desired result, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the committee, appointed by this Grand Council to attend the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, to urge that the Council degrees be made prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, be and they are hereby vested with full power to propose a plan or basis upon which such action may be had by such Grand Encampment, and that this Grand Council will carry out and fulfill the terms of such plan or basis which may be agreed upon by such committee.'

The committee to so attend the Grand Encampment is composed of M.: Ill.: GEORGE M. OSGOODBY, G.:M.:, M.:Ill.: JOHN D. WILLIAMS, P.:G.: M.:, and R.:Ill.: and Rev. CHARLES G. HUDSON.

Also, that a committee was appointed by said Grand Council of New York, to present a memorial to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of New York, and that said committee presented to said Grand Commandery a memorial, a copy of which is hereunto attached; and marked 'A'; and that a certified copy of the action of said Grand Commandery is also hereunto attached and marked 'B'; also that, as the undersigned are informed, favorable action upon this same subject has been taken by the Grand Commanderies of the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and others.

Also, that said committee appointed by the Grand Council of the State of New York, are prepared to present to your Grand Body a plan or basis upon which the Cryptic degrees may, in their opinion, be properly adopted by your Grand Body as prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, and such 'Proposition in Brief' is hereunto attached and marked 'C.'

And this memorial does also represent that at a National Convention of Royal and Select Master Masons, held in the city of Buffalo Aug. 20th, 1877, at which the several Grand Councils of the United States were represented, a committee of five was appointed by a resolution, the same as the above quoted resolution, to memorialize your Grand Body to make the Cryptic degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood; and that committee have affixed their names to this memorial as such committee.

The memorial of the undersigned also represents that the following circular (which is hereunto attached and marked 'D') was sent to the various Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters in the United States; and that the undersigned were duly authorized by the Grand Councils, whose names they have attached to their signatures, to co-operate with the committee of the Grand Council of New York in presenting this memorial to your Grand Body.

We, the several undersigned committees, representing the interests of the Grand Councils of R.: and S.: M.:M.: of the several States, would, there-

fore, most courteously and respectfully ask of this Grand Body a hearing upon this subject, and the appointment of a Committee of Conference, together with such other action upon your part, as in your judgment may be deemed proper, just, masonic and equitable.

And your memorialists will remain,

Courteously and Fraternally,

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, of New York,
ALEXANDER THOMAS, of Indiana,
EDWARD S. DANA, of Vermont,
Z. C. LUSE, of Iowa,
J. W. WOODHULL, of Wisconsin,

Committee of the National Convention of Royal and Select Masters.

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, Grand Master,
JOHN D. WILLIAMS,
CHARLES G. HUDSON,

Committee of the Gr. Council of New York.

WM. WALLACE LEE,
C. W. CARTER,
C. W. SKIFF,

Committee of the Gr. Council of Connecticut.

JOHN HAIGH,
CALEB SAUNDERS,

Committee of the Gr. Council of Massachusetts.

H. SHAW NOBLE,

Committee of the Gr. Council of Michigan.

SAMUEL W. COURTRIGHT,

M.I. Grand Master Grand Council R. and S.M. of Ohio.

ORESTES A. B. SENTER,

Deputy Grand Master Grand Council R. and S.M. of Ohio.

SETH M. SULLIVAN,

Grand P.C. of W. Grand Council R. and S.M. of Ohio.

L. R. JEROME,

M.I.G. Master Gr. Council of the State of Illinois."

I have omitted repeating the several exhibits referred to in this memorial, for the reason that I have already given them to you. Exhibit "A" being the memorial to the Grand Commandery of New York, "B" the report of its committee and action thereon, "C" the proposition as made to the Grand Commandery of New York, and "D" the circular letter addressed by myself to the Grand Masters of our sister Grand Councils. This memorial was placed by me in the hands of Most Em'. Gr'. Commander JOHN C. WOODHULL, of Wisconsin, for presentation.

Before this memorial had received the signature of all the representatives in attendance, so that it could be presented, a memorial was presented to the Grand Encampment upon another subject, and it was held by the M'. E'. Grand Master that no memorial from any Body but a Commandery of Knights Templar could be received by the Grand Encampment. The question of Cryptic Masonry, however, came up on a proposition to make the Council degrees prerequisite, and was rejected without giving the memorialists an opportunity of being heard, either before the committee or before the Grand Encampment, and without any argument being had, the excuse given by many of the representatives being that the proposition for the Council Degrees to be assumed and conferred in Royal Arch Chapters, was going to dispose of the question without its being considered by the Grand Encampment. As the question could not be determined under Templar jurisprudence in the Grand Encampment without an amendment of its Constitution, which is required to be laid over one Conclave, or previous notice given, the vote was also in part based upon that; a proposition for such amendment of the Constitution was thereupon offered by M'. E'. Grand Commander EDWARD S. DANA, of Vermont, which, under the rules, lies over until the next Triennial Conclave, when it is to be acted upon. And I desire here to pay tribute to the devotions of M'. I'. Companion DANA, in his efforts in favor of our memorial. The committees representing the interests of Cryptic Masonry, upon consultation, concluded that the action of the Grand Encampment in refusing to receive a memorial from other than a Body of Knights Templar, and its action upon the proposition referred to above, which was decided adversely, rendered it impolitic to present this memorial at that time, for the reason that no action could be taken upon it, except to postpone it until the next Triennial Conclave, when, if now presented, its force would have been lost and expended; but with the proposition now presented, and pending for an amendment of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment to be acted upon at the next Triennial, making the Cryptic degrees prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, this subject can then be presented by one of the Grand Commanderies,—and there are several that favor it—in such a way as to ensure success.

The action of the late Grand Encampment was unforeseen by us, and of course put an end to our labors, as far as obtaining a fair consideration of the subject at that Conclave was concerned.

Your committee, consisting of R.:I.: Companion HUDSON and myself, were in attendance during the whole Conclave, working for the attainment of the desired object, not attending the competitive drill of the Commanderies, or the many receptions had, but devoted earnestly and assiduously to the furtherance of the object for which we were sent; and although we are unable to report to you that our efforts have been crowned with success, still we return from our labors with the satisfaction of knowing that we have made many friends to our cause; hence, we are not discouraged, for as the subject is investigated by those who are disposed to be just, so will our cause advance. It is for the benefit of Cryptic Masonry for it to be investigated, carefully weighed, scrutinized and examined, for with it we always gain an adherent from the unprejudiced and the careful student of Masonry. Therefore we may congratulate ourselves that Cryptic Masonry is advancing, that the labor recently expended in its interests by those who were working for it at Cleveland is not lost, but like seed properly sowed, it will spring up and bring forth fruit which will be pleasant both to the eye and to the taste. I am satisfied that with proper exertions on the part of every Grand Council of our sister jurisdictions, combined with our own efforts in the same direction, applied systematically to instruct and influence the action of the Grand Commanderies of their respective states for the next three years, that at the next Conclave of the Grand Encampment, its Constitution will be amended, so that Cryptic Masonry will be by it recognized as an indispensable prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood. This labor should also be directed to the Subordinate Commanderies, for in them their representatives can be instructed how to vote in the Grand Commanderies on this question. Then let every Cryptic Mason in the whole land who has been advanced to the Orders of Knighthood, make it his earnest devoted work to have his Commandery instruct their representatives upon this subject, and have each Commandery put itself on record as being favorable to the proposed amendment of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment on this subject.

Many of our sister Grand Councils have already achieved this success in the action of the Grand Commanderies of their respective states, and while there is no constitutional requirement in those states which have thus taken favorable action, and can be none, until the Constitution of the Grand Encampment is also amended, still it is in many of those states *impliedly* required that the candidate for Knighthood should have the light of Cryptic Masonry before he is advanced, and this is required at the ballot, no one being able to pass the ordeal of the ballot unless he has previously passed through the S.:V.:.

It has been suggested to me, both within our own jurisdiction and from that of many others of different states, that those members of Commanderies having the Cryptic degrees and desiring their recognition as prerequisite to Knighthood, hold the actual key which will ensure it, in that they can quietly insist at the ballot, that all who seek to pass it and obtain advancement to the Orders, shall first receive the light afforded only by passing through our S.V. This course, I am advised, is being taken in many jurisdictions and with success. I am not prepared to recommend it at present, nor do I know that I shall be at any time. I prefer depending upon the justice of our claims, but I repeat the suggestion to you, as it is made to me, that you may be informed as to the course being taken in some jurisdictions upon this important question. It is possible, with a continued rejection of the claims of Cryptic Masonry without even an examination of its character and rights, an utter ignoring of the matter without a courteous hearing, that its friends may take such a course as has been suggested. It is beyond doubt, that that key, commands the Castle of the Temple.

Let us rather, however, take upon ourselves earnest, devoted labor in preparing and presenting the facts in relation to this subject, to those who are prominent in the Orders, in the manner in which I have suggested or in some other better way.

For myself the attention and study which I have given to the subject for the past year particularly, combined with the experience of many others with whom I have communicated, and whose views I have carefully examined and compared with others which are of record, and the fact that Cryptic Masonry is of a greater age in this country than is Chivalric Masonry, convinces me that we lack nothing which Cryptic Masonry should have, in order to deserve and to receive eventually from the Grand Encampment that recognition which is rightfully ours; and the Chivalric honor of Knighthood will accord it to us when they understand the facts.

It is not necessary for us to implore this action on their part, but as free men—Masons—advanced step by step in masonic light and knowledge—perfect Ashlers, fitted for the entire masonic edifice—and for the position we seek in their moral Temple—we may demand at their hands a careful consideration of our claims and rights; and then I think we may rest satisfied that their sense of justice will accord to the Council Degrees their rightful position, and require their candidates for advancement to receive the light of those Degrees before being dubbed into the Orders.

This subject was as well canvassed amongst the members of the Grand Encampment as it could be in the multiplicity of their cares, engagements and recreations during its recent Conclave at Cleveland, and many adherents to our cause gained from those who have heretofore been opposed to the object we are aiming at, by the work which the several committees working

in conjunction did while there. But I am satisfied that the time for this work to be done, and the places where it should be done, is at the hearth-stone of each Commandery and Grand Commandery, where there is no such hurry and haste as is always necessarily attendant upon a Triennial Conclave. By working in the way I suggest, each Grand Council doing its work at home, and each friend of Cryptic Masonry doing his work with his knightly brother-in-arms at their own hearth-stone, where time will be afforded, and can be taken to examine into the true condition of these things, and cool reflection can be had, will result in much more benefit than to endeavor to work it up in the hub-bub of a Triennial Conclave. The minds of those prominent in the Orders of Chivalric Masonry is being attracted towards our position, and as they receive light, the result of their investigations, adds to our friends at least three-fourths of those who examine the subject; therefore my conclusion is that the result of systematic work and investigation will inevitably bring to us the desired action on the part of the Grand Encampment.

I would, therefore, recommend that you keep in life a committee upon this subject, to take such action as they may deem proper and best adapted to bring about the consummation sought. I would also suggest the propriety of action being taken upon the proposition as made by your committee to the Grand Commandery of New York, as a basis upon which an agreement could be made, that your committee may have a recognized foundation to start from.

For the information of those who have not made this subject a matter of study and investigation, I have prepared a table which I now present to you, showing the relative ages of the Grand Councils and Grand Commanderies of several of the states, and which, in and of itself, is a cogent argument for use in the work I have suggested you to take in hand.

By this table it will be seen, my Illustrious Companions, that Cryptic Masonry possesses an honorable record, as ancient in this country as that of Chivalric Masonry. The table prepared, which I here present to you, exhibits the fact that there are more Grand Councils in existence to-day in the United States than there are Grand Commanderies, and upon comparing the dates of the organization of these Grand Bodies you will discover that Cryptic Masonry takes the precedence in age; and the statement often made by those ignorant of the true state of facts, that "Cryptic Masonry is of recent origin" is wholly without foundation. But one Grand Commandery exceeds it in the United States, while the seniority of the Grand Councils, as a whole, over the Grand Commanderies, as a whole, is ninety-four years, without considering the four Grand Councils in existence in states where there are no Grand Commanderies. In three-fifths of the states, less one, the Grand Councils out-rank the Grand Commanderies of their own states respectively in age, ranging from one to thirty-five years their seniors. Our own Grand Council out ranks the Grand Commandery of New York in age five years.

**DATES OF ORGANIZATIONS OF GRAND COUNCILS AND GRAND
COMMANDERIES OF THE DIFFERENT STATES.**

	Grand Councils.	Grand Command- eries.	Council Seniority, Years.	Command- eries Seniority. Years.
ARKANSAS.....	1860	1872	12	
ALABAMA.....	1838	1860	22	
CONNECTICUT.....	1819	1827	8	
COLORADO.....	none	1876		
CALIFORNIA.....	1859	1858		1
FLORIDA.....	1858	none		
GEORGIA.....	1825	1860	35	
INDIANA.....	1855	1854		1
IOWA.....	1857	1864	7	
ILLINOIS.....	1853	1857	4	
KANSAS.....	1867	1868	1	
KENTUCKY.....	1827	1847	20	
LOUISIANA.....	1856	1864	8	
MAINE.....	1855	1852		3
MARYLAND.....	1874	1871		3
MASSACHUSETTS.....	1826	1805		21
MISSISSIPPI.....	1856	1857	1	
MICHIGAN.....	1858	1857		1
MINNESOTA.....	1870	1865		5
MISSOURI.....	1864	1860		4
NEW YORK.....	1809	1814	5	
NEW JERSEY.....	1860	1860		
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	1862	1860		2
NEBRASKA.....	1872	1871		1
NORTH CAROLINA.....	1860	none		
OHIO.....	1830	1843		13
PENNSYLVANIA.....	1847	1854	7	
RHODE ISLAND.....	1860	none		
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	1860	none		
TENNESSEE.....	1847	1859	12	
TEXAS.....	none	1855		
VERMONT.....	1845	1824		21
VIRGINIA.....	none	1822		
WISCONSIN.....	1857	1859	2	
Seniority in years of Bodies respectively,			157	63
No. years seniority of aggregate of Grand Councils over Grand Commanderies in States where both Bodies exist.....			94	
No. of States having no Grand Council.	3			
No. of States having no Gr. Commandery,		4		

With these facts, which are stubborn, and not to be gainsaid, let it no more be argued that Cryptic Masonry is of recent origin.

The light afforded by the Cryptic Degrees is just what is needed by the seekers after masonic truth and information. Royal Arch Masonry is incomplete in itself, and but few thinking minds pass through the Chapter Degrees without having a deep abiding sense that there is yet something to be learned by them, and when in search of that further light the inquiring student in Masonry presses on and seeks in Chivalric Masonry, (without first receiving the Cryptic Degrees,) that knowledge which he has felt intuitively to be wanting—he still finds that his mind remains unsatisfied, and is still at an unrest, and it so remains until he receives the light afforded in our S.:V.:, then the chain is complete, every link in its place and the beautiful symmetry of the whole masonic fabric is to be and is clearly discerned by him in all its loveliness; hence we say that Cryptic Masonry is indispensable to the American system; that without it the system would be incomplete, and that it stands recognized as essential to it, by nearly all of the eminent masonic scholars who have investigated the subject, and whose masonic knowledge it ill becomes the tyro to call in question.

On the twenty-ninth day of August I had the honor and pleasure of attending the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Ohio, and received as your head the honors of that Grand Body, and by special invitation I had the honor of installing their Grand Officers elect for the ensuing year. For the kindness and courtesy extended to me by M.:I.: Grand Master COURTRIGHT, Deputy Grand Master SENTER, and Grand Recorder CALDWELL, and other officers and members, I desire to put upon the records of this Grand Council my hearty acknowledgments.

Shall we persevere, then, my Companions, in this glorious work entrusted to us? or shall we abandon our manly, masonic and laudable endeavors to obtain the recognition which is our right, and which, when granted, will elevate the standard of Chivalric Masonry much higher than it now is, and will render the material used in its Temple much more choice, perfect, and hence more desirable.

For myself my heart is in this work. I love Cryptic Masonry, and I am not in the habit of putting my hand to the plough and then turning backward; and I shall devote to its advancement and elevation, while my life is spared, the little ability I have had conferred upon me; and when my eyes of mortality are closed in eternal sleep, and my lips are frozen and still, and my tongue can no longer utter words of cheer and encouragement to its friends or in its defence to its assailants, may the memory of what I have endeavored to do and would gladly have accomplished for our cause, if in my power, and my acts when in life, tend to exhibit the fact that I ever tried to be a devoted and faithful worker in the S.:V.:, and that although I may

oft times have erred in my conclusions and work, that the errors were of the head always, from the heart never.

And now with the consciousness that I have endeavored to merit your approval in the performance of the duties you have imposed upon me for the past year, and which have not been light although agreeable, I shall on the morrow lay off these emblems of authority, and again become a working member in the Ninth Arch in common with you, and another of your choice will assume and fill to your satisfaction the Oriental Chair.

Thanking you for the kindness which has ever been exhibited to me during the many years past in which we have been associated, and particularly since I have been honored by being your choice to hold official position over you, and for your attention on the present occasion, let us again approach the throne of the Divine Master, and invoke his blessing upon us and his guidance and direction in our labors here, and the continuance of his loving kindness during our pilgrimage, that our lives and labors may tend to the benefit and elevation of our Order, and the advancement of the principles we have professed, and which we have vowed to cherish.

And while

"I know not what in store may be
For you my brethren, or for me,
Yet this I know since God is just,
If in his name we put our trust,
Through journeys long for good or ill,
His own right hand will guide us still."

"And when we part, as part we must,
Somewhere, to meet again I trust,
May that calm strength, that earnest aim,
That loving faith, which kept afame
Our Altar fires through ill and good,
Descend and bless our brotherhood."

"There comes a time, 'twill come to all,
When we shall hear the Warden's call,
And each with Ashler, rough or true,
Must pass Death's solemn portal through.
Be it yours, my brethren, then to hear
From the Master's lips, these words of cheer,
'Your work is found both true and square,
Pass on.'"

GEO. M. OSGOODBY,

Grand Master.

On motion, the Address was referred for subdivision and reference to Companions

H. F. L. BUNTING, R. C. CHRISTIANE, JOHN OMBONY.

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 MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT
MASTERS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:**

Your Grand Treasurer submits his Annual Report as follows:

Balance on hand, as per last report,.....	\$331.69
Receipts from the Grand Recorder,.....	870.35
<hr/>	
	\$1,202.04

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrant No. 468. J. B. Sackett, Postage, &c.....	\$ 8.78
" " 469. C. G. Hudson,.....	75.00
" " 470. Rent,.....	35.00
" " 471. Printing Proceedings, 1875,.....	165.50
" " 472. Geo. Van Vliet, Salary, &c.,..	275.60
" " 473. J. Fountain, Salary,.....	10.00
" " 474. Pay of Representatives,.....	465.79
" " 475. Printing Proceedings of 1876,.....	160.50 \$1,196.17

Balance on hand,..... \$ 5.87

Respectfully submitted,

D. B. HOWELL, Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Recorder presented the following as his Annual Report, which was, on motion, received and referred to the Finance Committee:

**TO THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT
MASTERS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:**

The Receipts of the Grand Council have been as follows:

At the Annual Assembly of 1876,(as per printed Proceedings,).....	\$783.00
Sept. 28th, 1876—From Mohawk Council, No. 29, on account of dues,	21.85
Dec. 13th, 1876—From King Solomon Council, No. 31, for dues to Aug. 1st, 1876,.....	34.50
Dec. 22d, 1876—From 14 Companions of Mohawk Council, No. 29, for Grand Council Certificates,.....	7.00
June 9th, 1877—From Companion Chas. G. Hudson, for dues and Grand Council Certificates,.....	2.00

Aug. 29th. 1877—From Genesee Valley Council, No. 41, for dues to	
Aug. 1st, 1877,.....	\$17.00
For Grand Council Seals to Diplomas to date,.....	5.00
<hr/>	
Total,.....	\$870.35

During the year, I have received the Warrants and Books of King Hiram Council, No. 18, and Mohawk Council, No. 29, with the information, "that they had been regularly surrendered by the Councils named."

I have entered in the Grand Council Registry to the present date..... 2,669 names, among which the following changes have occurred:

Suspended,.....	156
Died,.....	75
Dimited,.....	37
Expelled,.....	1 269

Leaving a registered membership in good standing of..... 2,400 Companions.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET, Grand Recorder.

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

Credentials and Returns.

Comps. GEO. VAN VLIET, O. H. COOK, WM. H. SHEPARD.

Warrants and Dispensations.

Comps. H. F. L. BUNTING, JAS. T. SOUTHARD, T. E. HASLEHURST.

Constitution and By-Laws.

Comps. G. FRED. WILTSIE, JOHN HODGE, S. D. WADHAM.

Grievances and Appeals.

Comps. JOHN G. BARKER, GEO. F. BENTON, W. H. WYMAN.

Finance and Accounts.

Comps. D. E. MORGAN, C. F. BEATTY, PHILANDER REED.

Unfinished Business.

Comps. J. L. BROTHERS, R. M. LAWRENCE, GEO. McGOWN.

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

**To THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT
MASTERS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:**

Your Committee on Credentials and Returns respectfully report that the following named Councils have made returns and paid dues to the Grand Council, and their representatives, as designated below, are entitled to seats in this Grand Council:

Columbian.....	No. 1.....	JOHN G. BARKER.....	Master.
Union.....	" 2.....	PHILANDER REED.....	Master.
Brooklyn.....	" 4.....	CLAUDIUS F. BEATTY.....	Master.
Bloss.....	" 14.....	THEO. E. HASLEHURST.....	Master.
Bruce.	" 15.....	JOHN HODGE.....	Proxy.
Southern Tier...	" 16.....	S. D. WADHAM.....	Master.
Doric	" 19.....	JAMES T. SOUTHDARD.....	Master.
Keystone.....	" 20.....	JOHN L. BROTHERS.....	Master.
De Witt Clinton,	" 22.....	FRED. J. LAWRENCE, Proxy for Master.	
" " "	22.....	SOLOMON STRASSER..	Proxy for Dep. Master.
" " "	22.....	ADAM COOK.....	Proxy for P. C. of W.
Dunkirk.....	" 25.....	W. H. WYMAN.....	Proxy.
Palmyra.....	" 26.....	GEO. McGOWN.....	Master.
Utica.	" 28.....	M. A. LEWIS.....	Master.
Owego.....	" 30.....	GEO. F. BENTON.....	Master.
Pentalph.....	" 36.....	C. W. BROWN.....	P. C. of W.
Konhocton.....	" 40.....	WM. H. SHEPARD.....	Dep. Master.
Genesee Valley.	" 41.....	O. H. COOK.....	Master.
Peekskill.....	" 55.....	JOHN OMBONY.....	Dep. Master.
Hudson	" 62.....	RICHARD KIDNEY.....	Proxy.
Sing Sing.....	" 64.....	ROBT. M. LAWRENCE.....	Master.
Ithaca.....	" 68.....	R. C. CHRISTIANE.....	Master.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. VAN VLIET,
O. H. COOK,
WM. H. SHEPARD, } Committee.

On motion of Companion H. F. L. BUNTING, the election of officers for the ensuing year, was made the special order for tomorrow (Wednesday), immediately after the opening of the morning session.

On motion of Companion JOHN J. MARTIN, the hours of meeting during this Annual Assembly were fixed at 10 o'clock, A. M., and 3 o'clock, P. M.

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

TUESDAY, Sept. 11th, 1877, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session.

Officers and Representatives as at morning's session.

The Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented the report of that Committee, which was, on motion, received and ordered printed in the Proceedings:

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

Again the swiftly revolving months have brought the time for the Grand Annual Assembly, and again your Committee on Foreign Correspondence are prepared to perform their pleasant duty of reporting to the Grand Council the result of their labors for another year. We have with interest perused the Proceedings of our Sister Grand Councils, we have studied the condition of Cryptic Masonry, and we submit to you the result of our labors and investigations.

Our report embraces nearly the whole of the Cryptic Rite and is as complete as it has been in our power to make it. We have received Proceedings or news of some kind, from the twenty-six Grand Councils, as follows:

ALABAMA.....	1876.
ARKANSAS	1876.
CALIFORNIA.....	
CONNECTICUT.....	1877.
FLORIDA.....	1876.
GEORGIA	1877.
ILLINOIS.....	1876.
INDIANA.....	1876.
IOWA.....	1876.
KANSAS.....	1876.
KENTUCKY.....	1876.
LOUISIANA.....	1876-7.

MAINE.....	1876.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	1876.
MICHIGAN.....	1877.
MISSISSIPPI.....	1877.
MISSOURI.....	1876.
NEBRASKA.....	1876.
NEW JERSEY.....	1876-7.
NORTH CAROLINA.....	1876-7.
OHIO.....	1876.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	1877.
RHODE ISLAND.....	1877.
TENNESSEE.....	1876.
VERMONT.....	1876.
WISCONSIN.....	1877.

Of these Proceedings we have endeavored to give an impartial and faithful report. We have not resolved ourselves into a mutual admiration society. Wherever we could commend, we have hastened with pleasure to do so. Wherever we disagreed, we have been free to fraternally say so. Wherever we have seen criticism necessary, we have not withheld it. We have had no desire to say anything harsh, unkind, or unmasonic, but we have not hesitated to speak our mind.

Many questions of great importance to our Rite are now being agitated, and in their free discussion we have not curtailed our report.

We trust every Companion will read this report carefully, and not skip any of the quotations, for we have endeavored to quote such things as would be of most profit to the Craft, both in suggestions, argument or exhortation. We also hope the Companions T.:I.:M's.: will not confiscate the copy of these Proceedings sent to them, and hide it away in their private desks or libraries, but rather let it remain in the S.:V.:, where every Companion can see it, and exhort all to carefully read it. The great majority of our Companions never see the Proceedings, never read them, and hence we lack intelligent and enthusiastic Cryptic Masons.

Your committee, after some debate as to their route, whether they should travel by land or by water, finally concluded to travel south by overland route and came first to the S.:V.: of

ALABAMA—1876.

This sister Grand Council held her thirty-ninth Annual Assembly in the City of Montgomery, December 6th, 1876. The M.:I.: PALMER J. PILLANS, presided, with a full corps of Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers, and the representatives of eleven Subordinate Councils.

The G.M. delivered a brief address, in which he laments that the condition of the Order is no better than last year; that the Councils were diminishing in number and the membership was diminishing. He had received the circular of G.M. OSGOODBY, asking the appointment of a Committee to the Grand Encampment at Cleveland, and recommends co-operation and also the appointment of a Committee to the Grand Commandery of Alabama; he had been notified of the appointment of Companion BENJAMIN F. POPE as the Representative of the Grand Council of New York near the Grand Council of Alabama; he had appointed Companion THOMAS H. FLOYD as the Representative of Alabama near New York.

A report concerning the work was made and adopted, but we were not able to gather its nature. The recommendation of the G.M. was concurred in to appoint a Committee to attend the Grand Encampment at Cleveland.

Companion DANIEL SAYRE presented one of his excellent Reports on Foreign Correspondence, which we always peruse with the greatest pleasure, and which we wish every Companion might read. He reviews the Proceedings of twenty-six Grand Councils, including our own for 1875.

In his review of Indiana, speaking of the subject of fines, he says:

"We are still sometimes obliged to differ from our distinguished Illustrious Companion; and now will he have the kindness to tell us what Landmark says anything against fines? Those who believe they are unmasonic ought to prove it. Originally Masonry was, undoubtedly, more of a *social* society than anything else; and it seems very natural to us that such a society should establish a system of fines and forfeitures. Where Brethren and Companions persistently neglect their duty by staying away from the stated meetings, it seems to us that nothing would sooner bring them to a sense of duty than to touch the pocket nerve. And now will he tell us what there is improper in it? It is very easy to say that it is improper, but why is it so?"

It may not be improper, but it is unusual. The usual penalties are expulsion, suspension and reprimand. Masonry is not designed to be a burden to any one in any way, but rather a benefit; nor is it designed to interfere with any man's business or duties. A system of "fines and forfeitures" might be made very burdensome, and, we think, would have an effect opposite to that expected by Companion SAYRE. In all our experience in voluntary associations, we have never found a system of fines to work well or do any good.

He gives the Proceedings of New York a kind and fraternal notice, quoting largely from our report.

In conclusion he makes the following remark, which we endorse:

"All the organizations are not in an equally prosperous condition. Where they are languishing we attribute it * * * * mostly to the pressure on the money market. The fact is, people haven't got as much money as they had before the war, and we are afraid they will not have very soon. We must, therefore, economize, and make what little we have go as far as possible. So let us keep a stiff upper lip and wait for better times."

Subordinate Councils.....	14
Membership.....	413
Dues Paid.....	\$183.00
JAMES MILTON, Eufaula, G.M.	
DANIEL SAYRE, Montgomery, G.R.	

ARKANSAS—1876.

Arkansas sends us a pamphlet with beautiful covers—and not much else. It says the seventeenth Annual Assembly was held in the City of Little Rock, October 7th, 1876, and was opened by M. M. McGuire, G.M., assisted by the representatives of ten Councils.

The Annual Address shows that Arkansas is in a bad way.

"The hour for labor is at hand, but our numbers are incomplete. Many are not at their appropriate stations. We did hope that the flow of life that animates the heart of every American during this Centennial year would quicken the pulse and give increased vigor to Masonry, that flourishes most in lands where liberty is most cherished; but if we judge the interest felt in the institution of Masonry by the actual manifestations before us, we must conclude that the stirring events of the current year have had an influence on the institution the very reverse of our anticipations. When we come to look back over the past year, and take into consideration the many exciting events of history celebrated—the grand Centennial Exhibition—the political commotion that has rocked our State, and is yet rocking our nation—and that all these things divert the mind, and are not compatible with the spirit of Masonry, that knows no sect, party or country to the proscription of another; we are not astonished at the manifest want of interest; and as these exciting matters are soon to pass away, and quiet and order, we trust, again to be restored, we hope to see a reaction—we hope to see new life elevate our various Masonic Bodies. We trust the principles, like valuable treasures, are safely deposited in our hearts, and the work of our hands will benefit future generations. Companions, let us all arouse from our slumbers. If we have any unfaithful sentinels, remove them from their posts and place zealous Companions on guard. Let the select labor in excavating and removing all that is wrong, and in erecting substantial arches of truth to span our passage way. Let us reward the noble as readily as we inflict penalties; then will the number of our labors be complete—the work will go on with increased vigor, and zeal will find its reward.

"On assuming the duties of the responsible station to which the partiality of my co-laborers elevated me one year ago, I found Cryptic Masonry in our State in a crippled and languishing condition. Many of the Subordinate Councils had failed to make returns or pay their dues for years, or to be represented in our Grand Assembly; the Treasury of this Grand Council was empty, and our Grand Recorder without means to pay for printing our Proceedings; the Constitution was explicit in its requirements, but it had been openly if not wilfully violated; but desiring to be merciful, we were disposed to regard this disobedience as occasioned from improper conceptions of duty, rather than deliberate intention, the Grand Council passed resolutions that the Grand Recorder send out notices to give every opportunity possible to delinquents, and leave them without excuse."

He then gives the circular, which produced little or no result. He had received a circular from G.M. Osgoodby with reference to the Grand Encampment at Cleveland, with which he was favorably impressed.

We think that G.M. Master McGuire is wrong in some of his ideas as to the cause of the stagnation of Cryptic Masonry in Arkansas, and we will tell you why a little farther on.

The Committee on Charters reported that fifteen Subordinate Councils, out of a total of twenty-three, had made no returns or paid no dues for a period of from one to three years; their charters were forfeited, giving grace until January 1st.

The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage made the following sapient report:

"We have had under consideration, also, the circular letter of M.I. Grand Master of the Grand Council of New York, asking that this Grand Council join with it in a petition to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States to make the Council Degrees a prerequisite to the orders of Knighthood, etc., and report adversely, for the following reasons: First.—The present requirements by Templar Masonry we deem amply sufficient, and in accord with long established usage. Second.—That to make Chivalric Masonry in anywise dependent upon the Cryptic branch of the Order, would, in our opinion, seriously abridge the field of usefulness of the Commanderies. Third.—That the Grand Encampment of the United States have repeatedly and wisely declined to enter-

tain any proposition looking to a change in this particular; and, to renew an appeal at this time so hopeless, we deem, would exhibit a senseless pertinacity, in our opinion, beneath our honor or dignity. (Signed)

E. R. DUVAL,
E. H. ENGLISH,
SAM. W. WILLIAMS."

Now, to all this reasoning to these assumptions and conclusions we say that we differ from them *in toto*. Under our review of Wisconsin we give in full the excellent answer and reflections of Companion WOODHULL, which we hope every Companion will read.

Such resolutions as the above, such Companions as the above triad, who will persistently maintain their own preconcieved ideas, rather than yield anything or try anything for the prosperity of Cryptic Masonry, who have such lofty ideas of their "honor and dignity," even when death stricken, such things, we say, are the cause of the lamentable condition of the Grand Council of Arkansas.

In vain may the G. M. exhort and Committees lament, Cryptic Masonry in Arkansas will never be any better while every proposition and every attempt at improvement is loftily put down with "our opinion" and our "honor and dignity." Better yield "our opinion" and our "honor and dignity," if the condition of the Craft can possibly be improved. What can the Grand Council of Arkansas expect of the members of its Subordinates? There has never been a Committee on Foreign Correspondence in that jurisdiction since we have waded through its Proceedings, and there has never been manifested a scintilla of zeal, enterprise or earnest endeavor. Its Companions sit in the dark recess of their crumbling arches and know nothing of the condition of Cryptic Masonry at large; it can consequently have no earnest love for the institution. We shall expect nothing else from Arkansas but a proposition soon to disband or creep under the wing of their Grand Chapter.

The financial report showed a total of \$166.58. A memorial page is set apart to the memory of GEORGE W. LAUGHINHOUSE, P. D. G. M. and P. G. Chaplain.

Councils making returns.....	8
Membership of the same.....	186
Councils represented.....	11

C. W. MILLERD, G. M.

LUKE E. BARBER, Little Rock, G. R..

CALIFORNIA.

(From the report of Companion J. H. DRUMMOND, of Maine.)

We had hoped to receive the Proceedings of 1874-5-6, but they have not come to hand.

We learn by letter from the Grand Master, Companion H. S. ORME, that he has procured the "Convention work," with the view of its adoption by his

Grand Council, and that he hopes to report an increased interest and activity in the Rite.

H. S. ORME, G.C.M.

CONNECTICUT—1877.

At a late hour we have received a finely printed copy of Proceeding from Connecticut, which we will give a hasty review.

This Annual Assembly was the fifty-ninth, and was held in the city of New Haven, May 7th, 1877. WILLIAM FRERSTONE, G.C.M., presided, and eighteen Councils were represented.

The Annual Address was an excellent production, from which we make the following extract, referring to Companion WALTER's proposition concerning compressing the degrees:

"In my opinion the real difficulty lies in our own members. Let every Council member be true to his allegiance; let him stand firmly for the rights of Cryptic Masonry—for we have rights as indisputable as Ancient Craft, Royal Arch, or Templar Masonry—and instead of petitioning for our rights, let us stand up boldly for them, and enforce our demands by activity and zeal in the S.V., endeavoring to render the work in as efficient manner as possible, thus giving the Council Degrees that importance which is their due. Now, by many they are looked upon as merely a stepping stone, or as barriers, which must be hurried over as quickly as possible, to reach the showy uniform of the Knights Templar. How many there are who have passed rapidly through the several degrees, and have donned the sword and plume, who do not make a presentable appearance if found knocking at the door of any lodge but their own! They look upon the preparatory degrees as so many obstacles to be got over as speedily as possible, until they reach the height of their ambition, and, as I have heard some of them remark (as I have thought in a pharisaical manner), 'I never attend the lower orders;' and so we have Masons in name only. The truth, illustrated by beautiful symbols, has never found a lodgment in their hearts, and apparently all that is in the way of the glitter and show must be hurried by as quickly as possible. I, for one, do not believe in the wholesale mutilation of our American system of Masonry; and should it begin, where would it end? There is enough of the Master's Degree without adding the Most Excellent to it, and there is certainly enough of the Royal Arch, if conferred in a proper manner. It appears to me that instead of preserving Cryptic Masonry by this proposed action, we should kill and bury it beyond all hope of its ever being resurrected."

The usual reports of visitation were made by other of the Grand Officers, a feature which we like much. The charters of two Subordinates were revoked. The Auditing Committee reported \$381.95.

The report on Masonic Correspondence was another one of those excellent and racy reports that come from the pen of Companion WILLIAM WALLACE LEE. We shall always remember with pleasure the acquaintance of Companion LEE, which we made at Cleveland. We hope he may long live to write reports for the Grand Council of Connecticut.

He reviews the Proceedings of twenty-one Grand Councils. He says of Companion MILES, of Illinois:

"The correspondence report is made up almost entirely of extracts. In his case it bespeaks modesty; in some cases that they are very—tired."

This is what he says of New York:

"Annual of 1876. There is no Grand Council with whom we are in correspondence in which there has been such a marked change for the better within the past six years than this. Its Proceedings are published in clear type, handsomely bound, the business admir-

ably conducted, the officers know their duties and attend to them; and consequently the Grand Master is enabled to give full and complete information concerning the Cryptic Rite. Rev. CHARLES G. HUDSON, who is correspondence committee, delivered an address before the Grand Council which is a gem—the best on the subject it has been our good fortune to peruse. We should like to quote it in full, but we know too well our monetary condition. The correspondence report is in the same admirable vein, and this we must extract from it if it breaks the concern."

The Companions of Ontario are very particular to give after their names the number of degrees they have taken in the A.: & A.: Rite, and Companion LEE says:

"We notice the thermometer varies all the way from zero point to 33 degrees. It must be a sweating time for some of them."

Under Wisconsin, speaking of the subject of prerequisite, he gives this terse advice, to which we are convinced we must all come:

"Why don't they take the remedy in their own hands, and stop every candidate in the Commandery who has not been in the Council? Every Select Master who is a Templar can settle the question of prerequisite in his own home, without any more resolutions, memorials, conventions, manifestoes, or supplications. Don't call on the gods to help you when you can lift your own wheel out of the rut."

From the conclusion we make a quotation which we heartily endorse. While we believe in a strong central power in Masonry, we do not believe that that power should legislate any more than is absolutely necessary. We have law enough; often times conflicting law. Decisions without numbers are becoming a nuisance. Ere we are aware the burden of restraint, law, decision, prohibition, etc., will become too heavy to be borne. He says:

"We are of the opinion that there has already been too much legislation, not only in the Council department, but in all branches of Masonry. Formerly the chief officer of Masonic bodies had the right to summon the Lodge, Chapter or Council, and act upon an application if he thought best. Now he cannot do such a thing, no matter though all the members desire it—no matter what the circumstance—unless he has the permission of the Grand Master, who ninety-nine times out of a hundred (and we are not sure but this proportion is too large) knows no more about it than the President or Governor. Within the past twenty years, more especially the last ten, this course has been pursued, i. e., to strip the subordinates of their rights; to treat the members as if they were boys not knowing what they wanted, and incapable of self-government.

"That convenient doctrine of tyrants, perpetual allegiance, or perpetual jurisdiction, has been foisted upon Masonry—a doctrine that cannot be found in any of the old constitutions, charges or lectures—a doctrine abandoned by the despotic governments of Europe even—a doctrine that no mason is willing to have applied to himself, and contrary to every rule of equity. Our own decided conviction is that there has been altogether to much legislation by Grand Bodies, tying up and restricting the subordinates. Every man carries with him, wherever he goes, his own methods of thought. The lovers of despotism in courts and other places where men meet, will carry it into masonry. The man who believes in liberty for all will carry that idea with him in masonry and everywhere else. What should we say of a law that did not allow our towns to call a special town meeting without the consent of the Governor of the State, or that forbade any discussion upon any matter in which all were interested? 'We believe masonry should be divested of the despotic features which have been foisted upon it by those who briefly wielded the gavel, and return to the ancient doctrine that it was a brotherhood, where all were equal, and the laws were founded in reason and satisfied the judgment. We hope the time may come again, and that we may live to see it.'

Subordinate Councils.....	24
Received and Greeted	49
Died.....	15
Membership.....	2433

DWIGHT PHELPS, West Winsted, G.:M.:

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

FLORIDA—1876.

In our report for last year we communicated the glad news, received by private letter, that the Grand Council of Florida was yet alive, and had met again. We also had the pleasure to take her Grand Master, A. N. CALKINS, by the hand at our Annual Assembly. We have received a well printed pamphlet containing the Proceedings in full.

This Grand Council assembled in Special Convocation, in the town of Warrington, June 12th, 1876, and was opened in Ample Form by the G.:M.:, WILLIAM MORRIL. Three Subordinate Councils were represented. This was the first Annual Assembly since 1872.

The G.:M.: stated in his address that he had called the Grand Council at Warrington, the extreme western portion of the jurisdiction, as the most convenient place, being the nearest to the remaining Councils; that there were but three live Councils in the State; he had for the last three years made unsuccessful attempts to convene the Grand Council conjointly with the sessions of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, but had at last resolved to cut loose from those Bodies. He recommended a new Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations, which was done; he also recommended the New York Convention work, which was adopted by the Grand Council; five Councils were delinquent and defunct, and their charters were declared forfeited; there is one Council U.:D.:.

The treasury was reported to be empty. A new Constitution and Laws were adopted, and are printed with the Proceedings. They also contain a memorial page, set apart to the memory of T. PRESTON TATURN, P.:G.:T.:, who died July 4th, 1873. The Proceedings also contain a history of the Grand Council of Florida, from which it appears that it was organized January 12th, 1858, with three Councils. There have been Grand Assemblies in the years 1858, 1859, 1860, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1872 and 1876.

We trust brighter days are in store for our Sister Grand Council. From what we saw of G.:M.: CALKINS, and what he told us, we have confidence to believe that the Grand Officers are true men and zealous masons. In the hands of such no Grand Council need ever fail to prosper.

Subordinate Councils.....	3
Councils U.:D.:.....	1

A. N. CALKINS, Milton, G.:M.:.

GEO. S. HALLMARK, Warrington, G.:R.:.

GEORGIA—1877.

A circular tells us that the Annual Assembly was held in Macon, April 25th, 1877.

The usual routine business and reports of Committees occupied the time. Proceedings not to be printed. Proceedings of twenty-two Grand Councils received, including those of New York for 1877.

Councils represented.....	10
Promoted.....	6
Affiliated.....	1
Dimitted.....	8
Suspended.....	9
Died.....	9
Membership.....	278
Dues.....	\$145.00

WILLIAM A. GRAHAM, Ft. Gaines, G.:M.:.

CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG, Macon, G.:R.:.

ILLINOIS—1876.

The twenty-fourth Annual Assembly convened in the City of Chicago, Oct. 25th, 1876.

Companion EDWARD BLACKSHAW, G.:M.:, presided, and thirty-seven Subordinate Councils were represented.

The Annual Address was of good length, able and interesting. It notes the death of Companions LOUNSBURY, BLAKESLEY, AND DILLS; peace and harmony have prevailed in the S.V.:; the following was the only official decision:

"The T. J. of New Rutland Council asked if he had a right to confer the Super-Excellent Master's degree on others than members of his own Council. I decided that his Council had no such right, upon the ground that this degree is one of the degrees of our system of Cryptic Rite. Were we conferring it only as an honorary degree, as in some other states, then it would have been otherwise in my opinion."

He thinks but little work has been done during the past year. With reference to the Super-Excellent degree, he says:

"In view of the resolution to be acted upon at this Grand Assembly, I have written to the Grand Masters of thirty-three other states, and received replies from sixteen of them out of that number. I find but eight that work the degree of Super-Excellent Master as one of the systems; four of which think much of it. Louisiana uses it as a means of social reunion, and confers it by a congregation of Councils, with considerable pomp. Vermont has discarded it, and is very strong against it. Massachusetts, Maine, Canada, and Pennsylvania think a good deal of it. Connecticut, Rhode Island and Wisconsin don't think much more of it than Illinois. South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, Maryland, and Nebraska do not work it.

"And now, Companions, if, after one year's thought upon the matter, you think the Super-Excellent degree is detrimental to the interest of Cryptic Masonry in this state, and that it is too much of a tax on the Subordinate Councils to be obliged to work it, I would recommend the making of it an honorary degree, and leave it optional with the Councils. But as it beautifully illustrates an incident of Capitular Masonry, I should be very sorry to see it stricken from our ritual."

He had received the circular letter of G.:M.: OSGOODBY, and says:

"I would recommend that a representation be sent, but not as a saving grace to us, but that we may stand up for our rights, the position that we hold, the key and the keystone to all that has preceded. Let us finish the work so happily begun."

"We have by types, emblems, and allegorical figures, taken the candidate from the quarries of Zarthan, and the forests of Lebanon, round the outer courts of the temple, over the ground floor, through the middle chamber, and shown him the door of the S.S. We have used him to exemplify one of the most beautiful pictures of fortitude the world has ever known. We have taught him the use of the chisel and mallet, and how to receive his wages. We have seated him in the Oriental Chair, and have represented to him the completion of the most beautiful edifice ever erected by man. We have shown him that the devout Israelite, when released from bondage, after a toilsome journey arrived at his favorite city, and that in removing the rubbish found deposited the key to some of our emblems, that none but we of the Royal Craft can decipher.

"Then, Companions, is this key, *Cryptic Masonry*, which unlocks all that we have taught him, to go on bended knees to the Encampment of Chivalric Masonry, begging and praying of them not to admit a candidate to the Orders of Knighthood until he has passed through our Secret Vault? Cryptic Masonry is no eleemosynary. I claim that she has merits of her own that are worth fighting for. She is at the top of the ladder, up which the candidate has climbed step by step. She is the pinnacle and keystone that finishes our beautiful edifice. She is also the key that opens the door and explains to him the bond of union between our three Ancient, Most Excellent Grand Masters; and after the dissolution of that bond by that most vile assassination, it shows him where they placed that word when it was of no further use to them, and what means were used, so that we, as the future generations, should know it to be the right.

"No! rather let Cryptic Masonry die and go into oblivion than be the football of one or the weak appendage to another. No, Companions! Let not your representatives go as weak, cringing beggars, timidly tapping at the door of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, but let them go as *Masons*—as finished workmen that need not be afraid; and let them represent to the Grand Encampment, that, in taking material that has not passed through our Secret Vault, they are taking that work which has not been properly prepared for them; that they are taking the rough ashlers, and not perfect ashlers, to put into their moral temple. Heuce, though their temple may be morally perfect, they have some stones that have not been properly finished."

It was resolved to retain the Super-Excellent degree, and that the order be Royal, Select, and Super-Excellent.

The G.T. reported a total of \$1,112.17.

The Committee appointed to confer with Grand Commandery of Illinois, asking them to make the Cryptic Degrees prerequisites to the Orders of Knighthood, reported that they had performed that duty; that their memorial had been respectfully received by the Grand Commandery and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and that they had made a proposition to the Grand Commandery to confer the Cryptic Degrees upon all Sir Knights in good standing for the sum of one dollar, the Grand Council registry fee.

It was voted that Companion P. W. BARCLAY be a Committee to represent the memorial to the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Companion JAMES H. MILES, G.R., presented the Report on Foreign Correspondence. His report occupies nineteen pages, and reviews the Proceedings of twenty-four Grand Councils. It is full of information for the Companions of Illinois. The great fault we have to find with it is, that it does not contain enough of Companion MILES. He refrains too carefully from expressing his opinion upon the many interesting questions that are now being considered by the Rite. He gives our Proceedings for 1876 a courteous and fraternal notice.

Subordinate Councils.....	53
Advanced.....	105
Membership.....	2201

LEVI R. JEROME, Princeton, G.M.

JAMES H. MILES, Chicago, G.R.

INDIANA—1876.

The Proceedings of Indiana are an excellent piece of work, containing one hundred and fourteen pages, well arranged and well printed. Companion **BRAMWELL** always does his work well.

The twenty-first Annual Convocation was held at Indianapolis, Oct. 17th, 1876.

Present, **DANIEL McDONALD, G.M.**, and the representatives of thirty-one out of forty-two Subordinate Councils under charter, and five U.D.

The Annual Address was one of the best we have read. It says :

"But little has transpired during the year just closing worthy of mention. Peace and harmony have prevailed within our borders, and all our paths have been paths of pleasantness. If our numbers have not increased as rapidly as we could desire, or as rapidly as in former years, we can console ourselves with the reflection that our numbers are still complete, and the avenues of our council chamber securely guarded by those who have ever been faithful to the sublime principles inculcated in the beautiful ritual of our Order.

"The minds of the people at present, and during the greater portion of the past year, have been agitated by questions of a political nature; and while, happily, questions of church and state are allowed no abiding place with us, yet, nevertheless, our Order, as well as other similar organizations, has been more or less neglected on account of the stirring political scenes through which we are now passing.

"While political dissensions and animosities have crept into the social circle, and into almost all the associations of a secular nature, it is our pride that the only contention we have among us is that noble contention, or rather emulation, as to who can best work and best agree. Within our peaceful walls men of every country, sect and opinion, for the nonce throw aside their peculiar notions of secular affairs and join hands around one common altar, casting Hope's strong anchor on the same heavenly shore. Whatever the excitement of the hour may be, let us not, in the character of Royal and Select Masters, forget that we are members of one common Brotherhood, looking forward to the completion of a sublime and grand edifice whose walls shall grow in strength and beauty as time rolls on, and which shall stand complete in all its parts when the political structures of the world shall have crumbled into ruin."

During the year dispensations had been issued for three new Councils. With reference to our action, concerning the prerequisite question, he says :

"Believing that the future welfare and stability of the system of Cryptic Masonry depends, to a considerable extent, upon these degrees being made a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, I cordially endorse the action of our Sister Grand Council, and should rejoice at the consummation so devoutly wished."

But Indiana took no steps for co-operation:

He pays a fitting eulogy to the memory of Companion **ERASTUS W. H. ELLIS**, of Goshen, who died Oct. 10th, 1876, aged 62 years. A memorial page was set apart to his memory.

The report of the Grand Treasurer showed a total of \$1,997.54, and it was ordered that the surplus funds be loaned to the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

Past G.M. **LUCIEN A. FOOTE** was duly received as the Grand Representative of the Grand Council of New York.

The next Convocation is to be held in Indianapolis, Oct. 16th, 1878.

Past G.M. **WILLIAM W. AUSTIN**, for several years Committee on Foreign Correspondence, wrote the report for this year. It occupies sixty-nine pages of the Appendix, and is a most excellent and readable report. We think it is the best report of the year, and give it the palm due to its superior excellence. It is a pains-taking and complete resume of the Craft, and shows that Com-

panion AUSTIN is a "workman that needeth not to be ashamed." His review covers the Proceedings of twenty-two Grand Councils, including our own. We shall cull some of the choicest things, and present them for your edification. He says of Illinois :

"Last year this Grand Council got up a Grand Puissant Degree, and this year there is another mystic movement, as appears by the following : On motion, It was voted that the grip, as taught by Illustrious Companion H. W. HUBBARD, be the grip of this Grand Jurisdiction.

"Vot a country ! Vot beeples !"

On Companion LANGRIGDE's report on Foreign Correspondence for Iowa, he says :

"Suthin' must have ailed Companion LANGRIDGE on the subject of Foreign Correspondence, for pie-crust couldn't be shorter. We can imagine him sitting down on that farmer's traveling trunk, and sketching out his annual report."

Maine appointed a Committee to correct some verbal errors in the work, upon which Companion AUSTIN remarks :

"It might be proper in *some* Grand Bodies to appoint a Committee to travel around and keep some of the Masters from butchering that or any other work when made perfect. When the new work is made perfectly perfect, and the workers have been drilled to work it more perfectly perfect, then will the Cryptic Millennium 'have arroven'; then may Corson tune his harp, and make the arches echo and reecho with unbounded praise; when the day shall come that a Worshipful Master will not announce the proper time to sing 'Solemn strikes the funeral *scrime*'; when dead brethren shall have no butchered services performed as their requiem ; when High Priests in installing shall not present the 'jewels with which you are now desecrated'; when deeds of pure beneficence are no more desired ; then, and then only, can brethren and visitors enjoy the *new work made perfect.*"

We 'lou there must be a right smart of powerful queer people in Indiana !

Again he says :

"Companion DRUMMOND calls us to task for not giving *our* opinion on the weightier matters of the law.

"Shades of Coke and Blackstone ! We criticise the sayings and doings of such landmarks as a Drummond, a Guibert, a Corson, a Sayre, a Chapman, and the innumerable hosts of ink-dispenser and Masonic illuminators; men who have wielded the sword from their Masonic youth up to silvery age; Companions who are posted in the origin of grand and subordinate bodies : who can split hairs on the difficult question of whether the chicken came from the egg, or the egg from the chicken ; whose poetic souls are so filled with the spirit of Masonry that they can hardly write in prose ; who have such long handles to the anatomic knife that they feel happy in dissecting an humble Masonic writer ! Many-a-time. We know where the safe side is, and prefer holding the mirror up to nature, that its resplendent rays may dismay and confound our epistolary opponents."

Under Michigan he believes his mind on the subject of dues :

"We are *rather* inclined to approve of such a steel-trap plan as this; something that has a snap to it, and means business. There is certainly no sense nor charity in carrying year after year, and paying Grand Dues for a lot of indifferent dead-heads. It is about as profitable as hauling around a load of wooden images for the admiration of heathens. If a Companion is unable, from any of the misfortunes incident to human life, to pay his annual dues, but at the same time shows his willingness to assist in the labors, or his appreciation by giving his presence at its meetings, no member will hesitate to exempt him from the annual assessments ; but for those who won't fish, cut bait, or dig for worms, the quicker they make a hole in the waters of oblivion the better for the Order."

Companion COOLEY, of Minnesota, took a hopeful view of matters, which is endorsed as follows :

"Such talk makes one feel buoyant. It will never do to sit on the ties and complain that the track is greasy. We like men that will jump into the cab, give her all the throttle she'll bear, open wide the sand box, cover the rails, ring the bell, sound the whistle, and let the passengers keep their seats, if they can. We have got our time table made out for the R. & S. line, and it must be run in accordance."

Companion AUSTIN must also be Foreign Correspondent for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

New York receives a handsome notice of over seven pages, in which he quotes largely from the Annual Address, endorses our answer to G.:M.: KNAPP, of Pennsylvania, and gives our conclusion in full with commendatory words.

'One of the rules of order proposed in Ontario, was that there should be silence at the sound of the gavel, and he who broke silence without leave should be subject to a reprimand. Upon this Companion AUSTIN has his say as follows:

"We think the Constitution should state distinctly how long this *silence* should be, and *how* it is to be broken. Is the Grand Master to say which member shall break it, in order to commence business? Would a member be subject to reprimand if he were to say, 'Grand Master, before I break silence, may I say a word?' It would be money to many of our Grand Bodies if the silence was never broken from the beginning of the annual communication."

Companion SWAIN, of Wisconsin, receives this reprimand:

"We would like to know by what 'best authority' he scratched out the 'many good things' he said. It was the place and duty of his fellow-peers to do that scratching; it was his duty to present his work in full, and let the overseers *scratch*, for, as a general thing, they are all good at it."

The review of New Jersey is as follows:

"Annual Assembly, Jan'y 18th, 1876; a circular issued, and no Proceedings to be published this year. Isn't it dangerous for our New Jersey Companions to keep Companion CORSON's pen still for a *whole year*? We wash *our* hands of the consequences!"

In conclusion he says:

We do not assume to be wise enough to state the proper manner to arouse life among the Cryptic Craft. If it is in a languishing condition, the fault does not exist in its natural constitutional system, but proceeds from the atmosphere surrounding it. It can grow vigorously and wax strong if it has the proper nourishment, an unending, undying zeal and love among its adherents; but give it the encouragement it needs, have faith that it has merits of its own sufficient to sustain it as a unit, let its officers, grand and subordinate, perform their several duties faithfully, work in their proper station with a determination to do their duty, their whole duty, and the Royal and Select degrees—will, in due time, assume a high, noble and independent station among the Orders."

Subordinate Councils.....	47
Advanced.....	202
Reinstated.....	7
Affiliated.....	4
Died.....	24
Dimitted.....	51
Suspended.....	22
Expelled.....	7
Membership.....	1792
Decrease.....	11

SAMUEL B. RICHARDSON, Logansport, G.:M.:.

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

IOWA—1876.

Iowa's Proceedings are slim again this year. The Annual Assembly convened at Des Moines, Oct. 3d, 2876. Present, D.:G.:M.: PAUL C. DAUM, presiding, representatives from nine chartered Councils, and a number of visiting Companions.

The Annual Address of the G.:M.: ROBERT F. BOWER, was read in his absence. It was very brief, relating entirely to home matters, with the exception of a recommendation to co-operate in the effort at Cleveland for making the Cryptic Degrees a prerequisite.

The report of the Grand Treasurer showed \$444.05. The report of the Grand Recorder, WILLIAM B. LANGRIDGE, acknowledged the receipt of the Proceedings of twenty-two Grand Councils, including those of New York for 1875. As no Committee on Foreign Correspondence had been appointed, no report was made on them, a result which we much regret, for Companion LANGRIDGE writes one of the best reports that comes to our notice. We are glad to see that he is chairman of the Committee for this year, and we hope he will give us one of his excellent productions. Very little business was transacted. A resolution was passed, authorizing any member of the Grand Council present at Cleveland, to act with your Committee with reference to the question of prerequisite.

Subordinate Councils.....	18
Councils Reporting.....	15
Membership.....	509

PAUL C. DAUM, Ottumwa, G.:M.:
WILLIAM B. LANGRIDGE, Muscatine, G.:R.:.

KANSAS—1876.

Kansas publishes her Proceedings triennially. This year she sends a circular, stating that the Annual Convocation was held at Emporia, Oct. 18th and 19th, 2876.

The next Annual Convocation will be held at Topeka, Oct. 16th, 1877.

D. BROCKWAY, Topeka, G.:M.:
J. LEE KNIGHT, Topeka, G.:R.:.

KENTUCKY—1876.

Kentucky's Proceedings are a beautiful piece of work.

This Grand Council assembled in Louisville, Oct. 18th, 2876.

M.: I.: H. G. SANDIFER, G.:M.:, presided, and twenty-two Subordinate Councils were represented. We are not able to give Companion SANDIFER's full name, for the G.:R.: seems to have an antipathy to giving first names. Of

all the Grand Officers, he gives the first names of exactly three. Neither does he put in any tables of statistics, leaving us to count names or guess at the membership. A little improvement in this respect, Companion A. G. HODGES.

The Annual Address was an excellent production, and, unlike some of the former ones in this Grand Council, of a commendable length. He says:

"Cryptic Masonry in this jurisdiction has had a certain, though gradual, growth. In view of the obstacles with which it has had to contend, it will compare favorably with that of other branches of our Order."

"Forty-nine years ago a little band of ten, representing six Subordinate Councils, met in the city of Frankfort, and organized this Grand Body. All then present have been gathered to the tomb—the last survivor, Companion PHILLIP SWIGERT, whose name will ever be cherished in the hearts of Kentucky Masons, closing his labors December 31st, 1871, lamented by the Craft he had served so faithfully and long.

"To-day the sound of the trowel in forty subordinates, with a membership of near two thousand, tells us, in language not to be mistaken, that their labors were not in vain. Other hands caught up the trowels wrung from those zealous Companions by the relentless grasp of death. The work has gone on, and so long as time himself endures, the S.V. shall ring responsive to the strokes of faithful Craftsmen."

He recommends that a Committee be appointed to procure the Convention Work, and that the Constitution be amended in regard to the titles of the Grand Officers. The following we quote with pleasure:

"Doubtless, my Companions, the chief hinderance to a more healthy growth of Cryptic Masonry, not only in this but in other jurisdictions, is due to the action of the Grand Encampment of the United States in declining to make its degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, thus disconnecting our American system, and placing the most beautiful and instructive of its degrees in an attitude similar to that of Adoptive Masonry.

"This fact is attracting the serious attention of the several Grand Councils, and, I trust, will continue to do so, until the Cryptic Degrees shall have taken that place in the line of Masonic succession to which they are most justly entitled. The degrees of Royal and Select Master constitute the cope-stone of Ancient Craft Masonry, and, when properly conferred, with all necessary paraphernalia, are second to none in beauty of ritual and useful instruction. Without the light which emanates alone from the S.V., the intelligent Masonic student cannot but see that the beautiful temple which has claimed his rapt attention from the moment he first trod its tessellated ground floor to his entrance within the vails, stands *incomplete*. There is yet wanting the keystone to one of its principal arches. If, then, Ancient Craft Masonry be the basis upon which is erected the Chivalric Orders, why not rest them on the *whole* and not a *part* thereof?"

The total receipts the past year were \$312.80, and there was due the G.R.: \$77.76.

It was resolved to require Subordinate Councils to meet once a month at least; to appoint Representatives near other Grand Councils; and to procure the work of the New York Convention. Charters were granted to four new Councils. A memorial page was set apart to the memory of Companion Rev. P. H. JEFFRIES.

Companion Rev. H. A. M. HENDERSON presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which is tacked on in the Appendix, as if it were no part of the proceedings of the Grand Council. Like all the reports of Companion HENDERSON, it is an able one, full of wit and sharp hits. It notes the doings of twenty Grand Councils, including our own for 1875.

The Grand Council of Massachusetts in 1875, was presided over by "Rev." THOMAS ELLIOT ST. JOHN, G.M., and Companion HENDERSON says:

"How would 'Col.', 'Gen.', 'Hon.' look before a Companion's name? Let's have none but Masonic titles in Masonry. It is now known, however, to be a historical fact that St. John was a Mason."

Very good. But we find, on the list of the Grand Officers of Kentucky, the name of "Rev." H. A. M. HENDERSON!

New York receives a notice of three pages. He says:

"The Committee on Foreign Correspondence hit us a few love-licks: * * * * * * * If Companion HUDSON only knew what a glorious and untiring worker Companion RYAN is, he would have spared these words of reproof."

We assure Companion HENDERSON that they were "love licks." All we knew of Companion RYAN and his industry as a worker was the small specimen he gave in his minute address, and had we known more we should probably hit him a few more "love-licks;" for the Grand Assembly and the Annual Address are the proper places for industry and Masonic instruction, that the whole Craft may profit thereby.

"The Committee on Foreign Correspondence (Wisconsin) do us the honor to say: 'The only thing of interest in the Proceedings is Companion HENDERSON's report on Correspondence, which is sharp enough to put spirit into a mug of milk and water.'

"Are we a milk punch?"

Subordinate Councils	40
Membership about.....	2000

L. D. CRONINGER, Covington, G.:M.:

ALBERT G. HODGES, Louisville, G.:R.:

LOUISIANA—1876.

This year we have a handsome white pamphlet from Louisiana, containing the Proceedings for two years, and printed at Chicago.

The twenty-first Annual Assembly was held in the city of New Orleans, Feb'y 17th, 2876, and was opened in Ample Form by W. R. WHITAKER, M.P.:G.:M.:

Representatives were present from nine Councils. The G.:M. delivered an extemporaneous address, but no pen of a ready writer caught the words as they fell from his lips.

Official reports showed cash received \$161.35, and balance on hand \$186.83.

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted :

"And should any Companion R.: and S.: Master be suspended, expelled, or stricken from the roll of membership by his Lodge or Chapter, as soon as authentic information of the fact be received by the Council his name shall be stricken from the roll of his Council."

If this "striking from the roll" means for non-payment of dues, and we suppose it does, then we decidedly dissent from the idea that a Companion must be deprived of all his rights as a Council Mason, because he may from some reason have failed to pay his dues to his Lodge or Chapter. If a Companion be expelled or suspended from the Lodge, of course the foundation is taken away on which his Cryptic rights rest; but we think that it is true

Masonic justice, that, under all other circumstances, he must be tried and found guilty before he can be deprived of his rights in the Council.

At the election C. B. WHEELER was chosen G. M. He was instructed and empowered to assess the Subordinate Councils in such sums as might be required to defray the expenses of the Grand Council. A loose way of doing business; better raise the dues.

No report on Correspondence.

1877.

The twenty-second Assembly convened at the same place as before, Feb. 15th, 2877.

Ill.: Companion GEO. J. PINCKARD, acting as G. M., opened the Grand Council, assisted by the representatives of six Subordinate Councils.

Companion PINCKARD delivered an excellent address, from which we shall quote largely. He says :

"Since last we met in Grand Council, another year has passed away, bearing with it to the throne of the Eternal its record of the good deeds accomplished, as well as the evil achieved by the human race; and who is there among the sons of men who may presume to balance the account ?

"While confusion, tumult, and desolating wars have held high carnival in the East; and dissensions, angry passions, and all the baneful hosts of evils, but little short of bloodshed, have taken place in our midst,—while corruption in the most exalted stations, and new and even immoral doctrines have been disseminated from the pulpits of the land, degrading to their high profession; and worse, when all of these things excite but little or no surprise, the grand old Institution of which we are so proud has marched along with undiminished lustre, diffusing its beneficent doctrines, modifying the asperities of evil passions, carrying consolation to the afflicted, healing the wounds of the sick, sympathising with the bereaved, and ever pointing onward, and looking forward to the time when we are assured wretchedness and sorrow shall forever flee from the habitation of men.

"Amid all the malign aspects and forbidding circumstances by which we are surrounded, we are nevertheless permitted once again to assemble in Grand Council with undiminished numbers.

"On the second of August I received a communication from Most Ill.: Companion C. B. WHEELER, M. P. Grand Master of this Grand Council, advising me of his intention to remove from the jurisdiction at an early date, and turning over to me the duties of Grand Master. For some time I was in doubt if I could legally take upon myself the duties, or that he could transfer them while still within the jurisdiction, but receiving information that he had tendered his resignation of the duties confided to him in other Masonic bodies, I hesitated no longer, and advised him of my acceptance thereof."

We copy the following as coinciding with the views we have urged, at least in some respects, excepting as to the petitioning the Grand Encampment :

"The condition and future prospects of Cryptic Masonry throughout the United States has been a subject of serious thought, and much has been said and written upon it by recognized leaders of the Craft. Many remedies have been proposed to rejuvenate or instill new life into what is termed the 'languishing condition' of the Craft. Some propose to make the degrees a prerequisite to the Order of the Temple; others to attach the Council to the Chapters; while others again urge the importance of greater devotion to the sublime and impressive lesson of the Crypt by our Thrice Ill.: Masters, and the subordinate officers. The true remedy, I think, lies in the latter suggestion. I should feel constrained to oppose turning over our Councils to the control of the Chapter, and equally opposed to the attitude of a petitioner to the Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery.

"The stone of foundation is the firm basis on which rests the structure of the Crypt; its beautiful rites, sublime and impressive lectures are the sure guarantee of its success, nor do I fear for its future stability. It will most assuredly rise, radiant, from the dormant sleep which is apparently oppressing it, and which at times envelopes even truth itself. Let us urge upon our Ill.: Masters more energy in disseminating its principles; greater devotion to the important duties attaching to their office; increased fidelity to their trusts; and we soon shall have little cause to mourn over an evil which is in a great measure brought about by the lethargy of the officers themselves."

This latter part is emphatically true. We shall live, we shall prosper, whether we are recognized by other Grand Bodies or not. Let each act well his part, let each be earnest, enthusiastic, and the whole body corporate will prosper. Again we quote:

"Referring to the formation of a General Grand Council, the prevailing opinion appears to be against it. Much has been written in opposition to it; little in its favor; one contends against it on account of useless expense; another argues against its utility; but it is apparent the great element of opposition to the measure consists in a dread of the further *'centralization of Masonic power.'*

"Centralization of ecclesiastical power has often in the past been a source of oppression, happily unfelt in these states. The tendency to a centralization of political power has, however, of late been felt, and the people recoiled from it, and the Masons of to-day, notwithstanding the tendency toward absolutism of the Masonic form of government, are nevertheless averse to the further formation of powers which can be wielded so much more potently for good or for evil. These I take to be the true objections to the proposed measure; it will be for you to decide whether Louisiana stands for or against it."

We have frequently said about the same thing with reference to the real foundation of the opposition to a General Grand Council. The fear of over centralization of Masonic power we believe is groundless. It would be potent for good and not for evil, potent for strength and for prosperity.

In conclusion Companion PINCKARD says:

"Looking abroad over the vast field of Masonic labor, I see no reason to doubt or fear for the future. In common with the people at large, we have felt the depression which has clung so heavily over the industries of the nation. Let us trust we have passed the ordeal of trying times, bearing in mind this most important truth, that the darkest hour of the most gloomy night is ever that which immediately precedes the dawn. Can we not anticipate the near approach of happier days? May we not hope that at this instant the Guardian Angelic Band is mustering its hosts and fluttering around our habitations, breathing peace into our hearts, good will to all men, unity, concord, friendship, and chief above all that charity toward each other which suffereth long and endureth much.

"Eternal source of light and love,
Diffuse thy heavenly grace;
Reveal thy presence from above
And bless the globe with peace."

The G.T. reported cash received \$198.83. The G.R. reported the Grand Council free from debt, also that it was thought not best to publish the Proceedings for 1876 or the report on Correspondence from lack of funds; also acknowledged the receipt of Proceedings from twenty-four Grand Councils, including our own for 1876.

The nomenclature of the New York Convention was adopted.

The Royal Master's Degree as recommended by the New York Convention was adopted, and the Select Master's Degree was referred to a Committee. After a lengthy debate the following was adopted:

"Voted, that this Grand Council does not consider it desirable to establish or favor the formation of a General Grand Council of the United States.

"On the prerequisite question, this Grand Council does not consider it expedient to petition the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States to make the Council Degrees a prerequisite to the order of the Temple, believing the Council Degrees have sufficient merit to stand alone, without the aid of any extraneous support."

Companions TODD and LAMBERT were appointed a Committee on Foreign

Correspondence. We trust they will magnify their office, and that sheckels will be abundant enough to print their report.

Subordinate Councils.....	9
Membership.....	481
Degrees Conferred.....	18
Died.....	20
Stricken from the Roll.....	76

GEORGE J. PINCKARD, of New Orleans, G.:M.:.

RICHARD LAMBERT, of New Orleans, Box 1872, G.:R.:.

MAINE—1876.

This Grand Council assembled in Portland, May 3d, 1876, and was opened in Ample Form by M.:I.: SUMNER H. BOYNTON, G.:M.:.

There were present representatives from ten Subordinate Councils.

The Annual Address reported the death of P.:D.:G.:M.: STEPHEN WEBER; that "peace and prosperity sit within our walls; that the merry sound of the *Gavel* and ringing tones of the *Trowel* have been heard throughout our secret vaults." The receipts had been \$183.87; there was a deficiency of \$64.95.

Companion DRUMMOND presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which, we are glad to see, is printed in the minutes and not made a part of an Appendix. Just as well might every other report be put in among the Addenda as that on Foreign Correspondence.

The reports of Companion DRUMMOND are too well known among the Craft to require any praise from us, and this one is equal to its predecessors.

He reviews the Proceedings of New York for 1875, and those of thirty-one other Grand Councils. Our Proceedings receive a courteous and fraternal notice of over three pages, with copious quotations from the Annual Address and from our report.

He pays his especial respects to Companion BLODGETT, of Rhode Island, with whom we had a small bone to pick last year. Companion BLODGETT thought a General Grand Council would ruin Cryptic Masonry, whereupon Companion DRUMMOND says:

"The first part of this extract seems to indicate that he would prefer that Cryptic Masonry should *die* rather than be saved by a General Grand Council. The General Grand Chapter has existed nearly fourscore years, and the Grand Encampment nearly three-score, and none of their subordinates have died yet, but, on the contrary, all are in a very flourishing condition, and likely to live too see another Centennial; so, if the Grand Council of Alabama should join a General Grand Council, that *deathly* consequence, which so terribly haunts Companion BLODGETT, will be postponed so long as to make it hard work to connect it with the alleged cause. He holds that the Grand Encampment has nothing to say about making these degrees prerequisites to the Orders of Knighthood, but that the whole matter lies with the Grand Commanderies. To be sure, the Grand Encampment has already decided that, under its Constitution, Grand Commanderies *cannot* make these degrees prerequisites to the Orders, and several Grand Commanderies, upon the strength of this decision, have decided in the same way; but Rhode Island 'had let

her perish for knowledge,' and did not 'send some one to her relief,' as we presume would have been done if it had been supposed she was about to make such a decision! We regret that so many Companions, and especially the Committee of the Convention, should have done what 'seems ridiculous' to him in petitioning the Grand Encampment to obtain the result wished for. Really, Rhode Island has suffered a good many Companions, in their jurisdictions and generally throughout the country, deemed able men and wise Masons, to 'perish for knowledge,' without 'sending some one to their relief!' What a pity that Rhode Island did not commence her missionary work earlier!"

The conclusion of the report we must give entire, as it so fully agrees with what we have often said:

"The circumstances which have caused a decrease in the growth in the other departments of masonry have produced the same effect, to perhaps a greater extent, in the Cryptic Rite. But nevertheless it has continued to grow in most of the jurisdictions. Various causes have been assigned for its want of a greater growth; but one of the principal causes has been overlooked, we think. The Committee on Correspondence has its finger, as it were, on the pulse of the Rite in all the jurisdictions, and, by a comparison of symptoms, is able to determine the *diagnosis* of any ailment that affects it. A careful comparison of its condition in different years and in different jurisdictions, leads us to the conclusion that one cause of the decline in interest has been and is the *inefficiency of Grand Officers*. Too many Grand Masters have been merely what Companion THEOBALD, of Ohio, calls a figure-head, who exhaust their labor in a wail for the lack of interest in the Rite. Too many Grand Recorders passively receive the returns, and content themselves with scolding in their reports about the lack of interest in the craft. What should we think of a general, who, when informed that in certain corps of his army discipline was neglected, should sit in his tent and bewail the unfortunate state of his command? The efficiency or inefficiency of Grand Masters and Grand Recorders are felt throughout the entire jurisdiction. When there is a lack of interest and a failure to perform duty among the Councils, it is the duty of the Grand Master to use the necessary efforts to correct the evils. If Grand Recorders would even pursue the delinquent Councils with persistent correspondence, it would do a vast deal of good. But if the Grand Master should visit Councils in person, or by deputy, he would be able to infuse a new life into them. It frequently happens that the officers of a Council are dead weights upon it, while in the ranks are many Companions who would gladly work in the cause if they had an opportunity. A visit of a Grand Officer to such a body would correct the evil.

"We repeat, one great cause of the depression in Cryptic Masonry is the inefficiency of Grand Officers. If every Grand Master would realize that it is his duty to look specially after each Council in his jurisdiction, and would provide, as he easily might, for the supervision of every one by himself or by some Companion designated for that purpose, and thus keep himself informed of the condition and wants of each Council, and take such measures to provide for those wants as should to him seem proper, we should soon see the end of lamentations and wails for the want of interest in the Rite. The number of Councils is so small as to make this system of supervision practicable, with the expenditure of comparatively little time and correspondence.

"One illustration: A Master of a Council secured the delivery of a lecture upon the Rite, to which Royal Arch Masons were admitted; the effect of it was felt in the increased interest of the members and of those desiring to become members for more than a year. Work is an absolute condition of success in any undertaking. Give us *working* Grand Officers and the prosperity of our Rite will surely follow."

Subordinate Councils	12
Members	980
Admitted	64
Dimitted.....	5
Deceased.....	13

SUMNER H. BOYNTON, Rockland, G.:M.:

IRA BERRY, Portland, G.:R.:

MASSACHUSETTS—1876.

We are inclined to give the palm to the Proceedings of Massachusetts. Though not so gaudy as to cover as some, yet in beauty of printing and paper, excellence of arrangement and thoroughness of detail and tabulation,

we think these Proceedings are notably excellent. We considered our own Proceedings a fine piece of work; so are those of Nebraska, Indiana and Kentucky, but those of Massachusetts are *primas inter pares*. Somé G. R. never issue a decent copy of Proceedings, well arranged and pleasant to report.

We have read the doings of Massachusetts with especial care. For the last two years we have had occasion to express our mind pretty freely in regard to the action of this Grand Council on the subject of uniformity, and we rejoice to say that all occasion for censure has been taken away. We shall quote extensively from the Proceedings, so that you may see how this glad result came about.

The Grand Master, CHARLES J. DANFORTH, called a Special Assembly of the Grand Council, in Boston, June 14th, 1876, at which sixteen Subordinate Councils were represented. Companion DANFORTH in an address proceeded to explain the cause of the Special Assembly, and we make no apology for quoting it at length:

"The next subject demanding our attention, and which so vitally concerns the welfare of Cryptic Masonry throughout the United States, is that of Ritual. It has been well known for many years, that the manner of conferring these degrees varies with every state, and although plans have been proposed to establish uniformity, none have had a successful issue until the present time. This plan for establishing uniformity had its origin in this Grand Council, and although this Grand Council has once passed upon the question unfavorably, I feel that the importance of it will be a sufficient excuse for bringing the matter again more fully before you for consideration. All honor to the Illustrious Companions who had the courage to press forward in this noble and glorious undertaking."

"In May, 1871, Ill., Companions W. P. ANDERSON, P. M. L. G. M., and CHAS. H. NORRIS, P. M. L. G. M., visited the Grand Council of Maine, for the purpose of conferring with the Illustrious Companions of that state upon the best means to be used to establish uniformity of work throughout the United States. The conference resulted in calling a Convention of Delegates from all the Grand Councils to consider the subject. This Convention was held in the City of New York, June 11th and 12th, 1872, and fourteen Councils were represented. The business accomplished was only preparatory, and consisted in the formation of the following Committees:

"First—On *Nomenclature*: to report proper names of Officers of the Grand and Subordinate Bodies, and names of the meetings of the same.

"Second—A Committee on the Order and Number of *Degrees to be conferred* in Subordinate Councils.

"Third—A Committee on *Work*.

"The Committee on Nomenclature made a report which was adopted; the Committee on Order and Number of Degrees also made a report, which was referred to the Committee on Work. The Work of Massachusetts, as well as that of New York, was ably exemplified before the Convention, and it was found that great diversity existed. It was also evident that to establish the desired object of the Convention it would be necessary to compromise. In order to effect this the Convention raised the Committee on Work from three to nine, also adding an advisory Committee of three to act in conjunction. The Convention then adjourned to meet in the City of New York the year following, June 12th and 13th. The Convention met according to adjournment.

"At the Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, held December 11th, 1872, the report of the Convention on Nomenclature was adopted. This Grand Council was fully informed that great diversity of opinion existed in regard to the Work, and more time and study being required to secure harmony, the Convention had adjourned until the following June. It was also understood that the majority of the Convention was not in favor of Massachusetts Work. With this information clearly before it, it was the duty of this Grand Council, at that time, to express in a decided manner whatever adverse opinion to the doings of the Convention may have existed. But clearly none existed, for we find this Grand Council was in full accord with the doings of the Convention, since it adopted the report on Nomenclature, and voted to continue the Representatives in the succeeding Convention.

"At the Adjourned Convention the Committee on Work reported that the Royal Degree should be conferred *first*. The Committee also exemplified the Work agreed upon, which, after discussion, was adopted by a large majority.

"At the following Annual Assembly of this Grand Council, held in December, 1873, it was voted to have the Convention Work exemplified in June, 1874; when, after considerable discussion, the question of adopting it was postponed to the Annual Assembly of December, 1874, and then rejected, or, rather, it was voted that the work of this Grand Council remain unchanged.

"Thus this Grand Council defeated the object she professed to have near at heart, and which every Companion must admit to be a much desired consummation. This action of the Grand Council is inconsistent with her professions, and, in a business light, is a violation of the principles of justice and equity. This Grand Council by its principal officers was the first to move in the matter of Uniformity of Work; she countenanced the doings of the Convention by adopting its conclusions in the matter of Nomenclature; and continued her Representatives, after full information that great diversity existed and compromises must be made. By going thus far she was committed to the whole, and for finally rejecting the Work, has received the unfavorable criticism of all her sister Councils.

"In the light of these facts and by this expression, Companions, I have, after consultation with wise counsellors, deemed it advisable to call this Special Assembly for the purpose of exemplifying the present Standard Work, and also the Convention Work, and trust that this body, looking to the desirableness of the object to be attained, may conclude to adopt the Convention Work, and thus add one more to the many Grand Councils who have endorsed the Convention, and testified their great desire to secure uniformity of Work."

The work was then exemplified, and, upon motion of Companion WILLIAM P. ANDERSON, it was voted unanimously to adopt the Convention Work. We give all praise to the truly Masonic spirit of this action of the Grand Council of Massachusetts. Such sacrifice is worthy of commendation, and should be imitated by the Companions everywhere. It is in wide contrast to the action of some jurisdictions, who will give up nothing for uniformity. We all have a love for the work under which we receive the degrees, and which we first learned; many pleasant associations cluster around it; but we should be ready to surrender it, even for a far inferior work as it may seem at the time, if thereby we can be in harmony with the rest of the Craft, and the interests of our beloved Order can be advanced. In the present condition of Cryptic Masonry there is need of complete harmony of action among all the Grand Councils to advance the prosperity of the Rite, and we deeply regret to see the lack of foresight exhibited by some Companions. We should all consider ourselves as members of a great body, belonging to the whole country, and overcome all local and sectional prejudice.

The action of Massachusetts in 1874 we deeply regretted, and it pained us to see the position in which it placed our sister jurisdiction. The second sober thought of our Companions of Massachusetts has realized this position, and they have not hesitated to set themselves right, as all true men and Masons should do. May the future of Massachusetts be doubly prosperous and glorious.

The Annual Assembly was held in Boston, December 13th, 1876, and nineteen Subordinate Councils were represented. Companion DRUMMOND, of Maine, was also present. Companion DANFORTH, G.M., delivered a most excellent and impressive address. He says:

"Fifty years ago to-day the first Semi-Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was held under the Constitution, at Masonic Hall, then located in the Old State House, Boston. Our P.M.I.G.M. Companion A. A. DAME, now in the twilight of his life, but still retaining a lively interest

in the Cryptic Rite, occupied the chair. What memories crowd his vision as he takes a retrospective view of those early days, and remembers the companionship of those gone so long before!

"What avails the mention of their names?
Before the Throne they stand illustrious 'mong the loudest harps,
And will receive thee glad, my friend and theirs.
For all are friends in heaven, all faithful friends!
And many friendships in the days of time
Begun, are lasting there and growing still."

"In making my address to you to-day, I shall deal in no glittering generalities or beautiful rhetoric of the tongue. Cryptic Masonry can be painted in glowing and oriental colors, and the picture to the imagination will stand in beautiful repose; but unless we build it upon a more lasting foundation than glowing words, we shall have no permanent habitation. However beautiful the design or happy the conception, it will not erect itself. Hard work is the only condition by which we can bring anything to a consummation. Freemasonry depends upon the same condition for success, and more than all, these degrees of the Cryptic Rite demand our entire devotion and energy. They have all the conditions of success, if we will accept the conditions and press forward with the work. * * * * * We must not be so overwhelmed by our admiration as to forget that duty calls to action. This beautiful picture is nothing but words without persistent work. Let us build up by our own devotion to its interests this beautiful fabric. Let us seek out every Royal Arch Mason, whose high ambition is to grasp the honors that await the valiant knight; and instruct him that he must not enter into the haven of his hopes, until he is fully prepared and possessed of all the beauties and knowledge of Masonry. Instruct him that the completion of the Ancient Mysteries is found in the Council Degrees, and until he finds that completion, he is unworthy to become a valiant knight. Let each of us resolve to-day to devote ourselves to the interests of Cryptic Masonry, by increasing our numbers with good Royal Arch Masons, and so increase our strength and bring us more quickly into that pathway of Masonic life, which ends in the consummation of all human aspirations, the ability to don the sword and wear the feather. Let us examine ourselves and put our house in order, hold to the Ancient Landmarks, and cling to Masonic law and principle, and see that our house is built on a Masonic foundation."

He had received the Grand Encampment circular of G.:M.: OSGOODBY, and earnestly recommended co-operation. He had visited eighteen of the Subordinate Councils, nearly all of them since the adoption of the Convention Work, and found a warm interest in the Rite. How many Grand Masters can say that they have visited eighteen councils in a year? The conclusion we quote:

"Companions, the study and experience of the present year convinces me that nothing is needed to put forward the Cryptic Degrees on the high road to success, that we do not already possess. It is the one condition that attaches to every condition and circumstance in life. When the first pair were driven from the garden of Eden, one condition was attached to them and to their posterity through all time,—'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground.' According to the performance of this condition is the success of every circumstance of life. Our own Order is bound by the same condition; to make it successful we must work for it. Will and energy can do it, and no substitute can be found for either will or energy. Let us, then, be up and doing. Increase our numbers and so increase our strength. Impress every Royal Arch Mason with the conviction that the only legitimate advance in Masonry is through the Council Degrees, and that 'these Cryptic Rites are peculiarly adapted to reveal the hidden hand, that, amidst all life's vicissitudes, is safely holding the treasures which every true heart most sacredly reveres.'

"LET OUR WATCHWARD BE WAKE UP!!

"O sleep not then as others do,
Awake, be vigilant, be brave;
The coward and the sluggard too,
Must wear the fetters of the slave."

Companion DANFORTH appears to have been a man worthy to sit in the orient. It is with deep sorrow that we learn from Companion VAN VLIET that he died May 17th, 1877. Would that he might have been spared longer to serve the Craft of Massachusetts. There is a need of just such men as he.

But death salutes not the East when he enters our band, nor does he ask permission to enter; he hesitates not to lead the Master from his seat.

Farewell, Companion; we plant the evergreen in our hearts to mark thy memory.

"There enlarged thy soul shall see
What was veiled in mystery;
Heavenly glories of the place
Show his Maker face to face."

The total receipts for the year was \$505.00.

Companion WILLIAM P. ANDERSON was recognized as the Representative of our Grand Council near that of Massachusetts.

A Committee was appointed to attend the next meeting of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, to urge upon that body the adoption of the Cryptic Degrees as prerequisite for the Orders of Knighthood. Also a Committee of two was appointed to attend the Grand Encampment at Cleveland.

Companion T. E. ST. JOHN, P.:G.:M., presented an able and courteous report on Foreign Correspondence, reporting twenty Grand Councils, including New York for 1875.

He gives New York a courteous notice, saying:

"The Proceedings indicate that the session of the Grand Council was no mere formal affair, and are filled with the details of important business. The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence occupies its place in the body of the Proceedings instead of being tacked on in an Appendix, as is so usually the case. The Report reviews the Proceedings of thirty Grand Councils in an able and interesting manner. It criticises somewhat sharply the action of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, in that it did not at once bow to the mandate of the National Convention and adopt the new work. * * * * * It may be that this was all deserved, but the sting is removed in the fact that this Grand Council, under the influence of a sober second thought, voted to adopt the new work before it knew the sharp things that were said in sister jurisdictions."

Subordinate Councils.....	23
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Membership,.....	2720
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—————, G.:M.:.

PHILANDER NUTTER, D.:G.:M.:.

JOHN HAIGH, Somerville, G.:R.:.

MICHIGAN—1877.

This Most Illustrious Grand Council assembled in the city of Detroit, January 15th, 1877.

There were present Companion GEORGE HILL, G.: M.:, and the representatives of forty-four Subordinate Councils, a goodly array of laborers in the Crypt.

In the Annual Address the G.:M.: says:

"I congratulate you, my Companions, upon the prosperity of Cryptic Masonry in this state. With an occasional exception, our Councils are all working their regular hours."

He had commissioned Companion BARDWELL, of Detroit, to prepare for the Centennial Commission a history of Cryptic Masonry for Michigan. He

had received a request from G.:M.: AIKEN, of Tennessee, to appoint a representative near the Grand Council of Tennessee, but declined, as the Grand Council of Michigan had disapproved of representatives near other Grand Councils; consequently G.:M.: AIKEN revoked the commission of Companion O. BURKE as representative of the Grand Council of Tennessee near the Grand Council of Michigan.

He continues:

"Two questions of Masonic law have been submitted for my decision:

"First.—Can a Companion take the degrees of R. & S. M. in one Council, and without payment of dues or dimit join another Council?

"Answer.—No. It is a well established law that no Brother can be a member of more than one Lodge at the same time; and the same rule holds good in regard to the R. & S. M.—his dimit must accompany the petition.

"Second.—A Companion R.:A.:M.: presents his petition to the Council for degrees, and a member verbally objects to the petitioner, but is not in a position where he can black-ball him; can the T.:I.:M.: receive petition, elect and confer degrees on the candidate, if informed of the objection prior to the reception of petition and election?

"Answer.—No. If the Companion objecting is in good standing, he has an undoubted right to say who shall become members of his Council, and if prevented from attending the meetings, his only chance to keep out an unworthy member is to say to the T.:I.:M.:, I object to the petitioner, without giving his reasons therefor."

He also notices receiving from G.:M.: OSGOODBY notice of the appointment of the Committee at our last Annual Assembly, to go to Cleveland to be present at the Grand Encampment, and recommends the co-operation of Michigan. He also reports visiting a number of Subordinate Councils.

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommended concurring in the decisions of the G.:M.:

The Committee on Finance reported a total of \$609.65.

The following was adopted :

"Resolved, That the members of this Grand Council in attendance at the next Triennial Conclave of the United States, be requested and are hereby authorized to co-operate with other Grand Councils in such proceedings as may be advanced in reference to making the Council Degrees prerequisite to the taking of the Orders of Knighthood."

Companion BARDWELL presented a brief report of the early history and introduction of Cryptic Masonry into Michigan, and a fuller account of the same at the next Annual Assembly was requested.

A memorial page is set apart to the memory of Past G.:M.: JOHN CLARK. There is no report on Foreign Correspondence, which we greatly miss, and hope it will not occur next year.

Subordinate Councils.....	49
Membership.....	2087

J. R. EVERARD, of Jackson, G.:M.:

G. B. NOBLE, of Detroit, G.:R.:

MISSISSIPPI—1877.

Your Committee, a band of weary sojourners, upon coming where once had stood the arches of Mississippi, and where in former years they had heard the sound of the trowel and seen the gleam of the sword, found all

silent and forsaken. Ruins marked the spot. We, however, began our work, and after passing the ruins of columns of the different orders of architecture, came to what had the appearance of once having been a door. Striking it, it returned a hollow sound. We thereupon redoubled our assiduity, and at length forced it open, and discovered the skeleton of a man, who had apparently died in sleep. Beyond it were nine broken arches. We passed through them, and in the ninth arch found some rusty trowels and broken swords. Redoubling our search, we at length discovered a parchment. The place being very offensive to sight and smell, we retreated with the parchment. Upon deciphering it we found its secret to be as follows:

"To all Royal Arch Masons and Select Masters in the State of Mississippi:

"The following report of a Joint Committee of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and of the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, adopted by these Grand Bodies at their recent Convocation and Assembly in the City of Vicksburg, February 5th and 6th, 1874, is communicated for the information and government of the several Subordinate Chapters and Councils in the State of Mississippi:

"To the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter and the M.P. Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Mississippi:

"The undersigned, a Committee of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the State of Mississippi, and a Committee of the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in the State of Mississippi, appointed by these Grand Bodies respectively, to present an arrangement by which the degrees of the Grand Council are to be transferred to the Grand Chapter, beg leave to report that the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master be and the same are hereby transferred to the Grand Chapter, and shall hereafter be conferred as follows:

"1. Each Royal Arch Chapter shall open within its bosom, under its charter as a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and confer the degrees of Royal and Select Master; the officers of the Chapter corresponding in rank to those of the Council, to be the officers of the Council.

"2. All Royal Arch Masons who have not received the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master, shall be entitled to have the same conferred or communicated on their request and without charge; but candidates who shall hereafter receive the Royal Arch Degree, shall immediately thereafter, and in connection with the Royal Arch Degree, receive the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master without additional charge.

"3. All present and past Grand Officers of the Grand Council, and all present and past Thrice Illustrious Masters of Subordinate Councils, shall be entitled to participate in all the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter, but without a vote therein, until the Constitution can be so amended as to permit them to vote as other past Grand Officers and members of the Grand Chapter.

"4. The General Grand Chapter of the United States is most earnestly but respectfully petitioned to permit the Degrees of Royal Master and Select Master to be conferred as a part of the Royal Arch Degree, the former before the Royal Arch, and the latter after.

"5. The officers of the Grand Council shall be elected, in order to preserve the organization, pending the approval of the action by the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Fraternally submitted,

J. M. HOWRY,
H. W. WALTER,
E. GEO. DELAP,

FREDERIC SPEED,
R. P. BOWEN,
JNO. A. DICKS,

For the Grand Council. For the Grand Chapter.

"By this action:

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

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

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

"5. In Chapters where there are not a sufficient number of Royal and Select Masters, and when a sufficient number cannot conveniently be assembled from neighboring Chap-

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

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

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

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

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

"In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seals of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter and the Most Puissant Grand Council to be affixed this 24th day of February, 1877.

H. W. WALTER,
Grand High Priest.
W. G. FAXTON,
Grand Master.

Attest:
J. L. POWER, Grand Sec'y and Grand Rec."

Thus ends the Grand Council of Mississippi, unless the General Grand Chapter refuse to ratify, which we sincerely hope it will do. The Chapter has enough degrees now. The Royal Arch is now too long, and the Companion of the Chapter has enough to learn in that body, without adding two degrees more. We hope the Grand Council of Mississippi will be thrown on its own inherent energy, if it has any, and be left to sink or swim by itself. The Companions of Mississippi have acknowledged, in an ignominious manner, their inability or indisposition to maintain the Cryptic Rite. It would have been better to have disbanded.

And was this action necessary? Was this Grand Council so near the point of extinction that it was impossible to do anything more with it? Was it not rather in a state where a little earnest work and a little patient waiting would have brought prosperity? Let us see. We find in the report of 1876 that G.T. reported funds to the amount of \$521.92. The treasury was not bare; dues were paid; a very respectable sum was in the treasury.

There were thirty-two Subordinate Councils. Nothing discouraging there. The membership was 789; much better than in many Grand Councils that have no thought of giving up. Thirty-six were received and greeted in 1876. Not a very large number to be sure, but fair. What is there in this report to justify the action taken by Mississippi? Nothing.

Grand Bodies are too apt to follow the lead of a few. It will be seen in every Grand Body. A few make the motions and the speeches and transact the business; they suggest the changes and the rest follow. Like sheep, where one jumps the rest are likely to jump. There need to be more knowledge, more thought, more intelligence, more independence among the individual members, especially if the presiding officer gets some vagary in his head and recommends it in his address. It is too often voted for without thought. If it is recommended also by a Committee, it often goes through without discussion.

Now we are glad to say that this almost inevitable leadership of a few is almost always for the general good and profit of the Craft. But occasionally it is not, and so it has been in the Grand Council of Mississippi. Companion WALTER, whose name is signed to the above document as Grand High Priest, was Grand Master of the Grand Council for two years. He had an itch for improvement and alteration. He made an absurd proposition for a general remodeling and compression of all the degrees. The Grand Council most submissively endorsed it, and ordered it to be sent to all the other Grand Councils for their consideration. Not one took it up; and the Foreign Correspondents passed it by or quoted it with a sneer. This G. M. WALTER also complained of stagnation, and styled his office a "perfect sinecure." Under his administration it was resolved to consolidate with the Grand Chapter. If he had been worthy of the exalted position to which he had been raised, if he had been as zealous for the revival of Cryptic Masonry in his jurisdiction as he was for the changes in degrees, and if he had been seconded by the Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers, the Grand Council of Mississippi would not to-day be dead.

We are more deeply impressed every year that very much, if not everything, depends upon our officers, and with them rests the remedy for stagnation and apathy. And we are also still more deeply impressed with the pernicious influence of the too general idea that prosperity in Masonry means plenty of candidates, as if all our object was to make Masons and advance them.

Since writing the above we have received the Proceedings of this Grand Council for 1877, but we find nothing of interest to add, except that only eighteen Subordinate Councils were represented out of thirty-one. It strikes us as a little remarkable that the representatives of so small a proportion of Councils should take upon themselves the responsibility of killing the Grand Council and all its subordinates. Moreover, the question was not submitted at all to the Subordinate Councils for decision. We don't believe any Grand Body has any right to legislate itself or its subordinates out of existence. The question must first be submitted to the various Councils for their action, and decided by their vote. We believe all this action by the Grand Council of Mississippi to be null and void.

We are happy to state that the petition to the General Grand Chapter had no effect, as we are informed the General Grand Chapter decided it had no jurisdiction over the Cryptic Degrees, and defined the degrees of the Chapter to be M.:M.: P.:M.: M.:E.:M.: and R.:A.: We trust this forever settles the question of incorporating the Cryptic Degrees as a side show in the Chapter. If we are to be a side show we will run it in our own tent.

We are told that this has been a pet move of Companion WALTER for many years. He tried to carry it through the National Convention at Buffalo, but was overwhelmingly voted down.

We hope all the Companions everywhere, in every jurisdiction, will no longer waste their energies on expedients for foreign intervention and help, but rather apply them to the development of the inherent power and vitality of the Cryptic Rite. Keep up the organizations, keep up the meetings, even if there is not one candidate a year. It is not our sole object to make Cryptic Masons. We might as well say the sole object of a school was to train teachers to train other teachers. And yet the immense majority of Masons think the sole gauge of prosperity is the number of candidates. We said to a Mason in Cleveland that the sole object of the order in America seemed to be to make Masons, and the man appeared to be astonished, as though he had never thought of anything else.

If we haven't energy enough to keep up our Rite, let us say so and let it die.

Subordinate Councils.....	..... 31
Degrees Conferred.....	..... 13
Membership.....	..... 442

MISSOURI—1876.

This Grand Council assembled in St. Louis, October 6th, 2876.

Present, NOAH M. GIVAN, G.:M.: presiding, and representatives from seven Subordinate Councils. The address refers mostly to home matters. It reports five Councils in arrears for dues; it notes the reception of the circular of G.:M.: OSEGOODBY, and recommends co-operation; one dispensation had been issued for a new Council. Companion GOULEY, G.:R.:, was prevented from being present by illness. The total of cash reported was \$615.35.

The report on Foreign Correspondence was, as usual, from the pen of Companion G. FRANK GOULEY, and was the eleventh presented by him, and alas, the last we shall ever read from his genial and entertaining pen. He reviews eighteen Grand Councils, among which was our own, but was prevented by his long-continued illness from reviewing others, received after the Grand Assembly. His report is terse and briefer than the one of the previous year; but we excuse it on account of his illness. We heartily concur in the following on the G.:R.: of Arkansas:

"In the entire list of Grand Officers elected, not one has the Christian name given, and not one has a post-office address. While we grant that the Grand Council is not a very heavy body in our day, but the time may come when posterity may want to know what a man's name was and where he lived."

Companion BARBER is generally deficient in this matter, but he has company. Many Grand Recorders are very careless in the making up of their Proceedings; when a little study, comparison, and *labor* would greatly improve the appearance of their work, add to the reputation of their Grand Councils, and lessen the work of the reporters.

Under Alabama he says:

"Well, we give it up; we have suggested every thing imaginable in one report after another, until now we stand square on the Council as a separate and distinct Rite, asking odds of none and fighting her own battles against all comers. That is what we came to in our report of 1875, and we intend to stick to it until some of the other organizations shall so fall in love with our beautiful degrees that they will come and *beg* for the modest maiden's hand in the grand wedlock of Rites and Orders. There is nothing like grit; why, to even grit one's teeth makes him braver in despair. Companion SAYRE, you can count on us hereafter."

That's a sensible conclusion. We are able to keep our own house, without moving in to board with anybody else. We can live and we intend to live. In the line of promotion to the Commandery or out of it, we shall be able to get along. We advise our weak-kneed and loppy Companions, who are always squinting at the Grand Chapter shoulder to lean on, to have a few less articulations in their back-bones and a little more ankylosis in their knee joints, and they will find themselves able to stand up alone and inhale the breath of life for some time yet.

Of our report for 1875, he says:

"He goes in with a vim to awaken up the Councils by 'information, explanation, enlightenment, lectures, history, or even exhortations,' instead of grumbling. That is just so, and we presume the conclusion of our report of 1875 suited him to just a dot. He has certainly performed his duty in the shape of a splendid report, for which we, as one, return sincere thanks."

He gives Companion BLODGETT, of Rhode Island, his portion in due season, but as Companion BLODGETT has been so much stirred up, both by us and by others, we will give him a rest.

His conclusion may be worthy of consideration, though not to be carried out to its full extent. We refer to this suggestion:

"We believe that if Councils, instead of meeting monthly should only meet when there is work to be done, at the call of the master, and that petitions could be acted upon and degrees conferred at the same meeting, after due notice to all the members, that more interest would be manifested, and the organization itself be less wearisome and objectionable. Too much is expected of the Councils, both in amount of work done and in frequency of assembling."

We have never been in favor of two frequent meetings of the Craft, but we think each Council should assemble at least once a month. If assemblies were held only when there is work to be done they would cease altogether. Conferring degrees should not be considered as the sole object of our assemblies. Yet the majority of American Masons write and speak as though they thought the sole object of Masonry was to make Masons. If Companions

would be content to hold offices in but one body at a time, and devote their attention to that, they would not complain of the irksomeness of too frequent meetings.

We sorrow as we write that Companion GOULEY will no more cheer us with the labors of his pen. In a night of dark disaster and fiery death he was called from labor. We shall ever remember the thrill of horror and of grief that pervaded the country when there came flashing over the wires the dire news of the burning of the Southern Hotel at St. Louis this year. And as for us, we felt a still deeper thrill of grief as we read in the list of the missing the name of GEORGE FRANK GOULEY. We have no appropriate words to express our emotions. Death is ever sad. Year by year the list of cherished names grows longer. But when a Companion is taken from our select circle under such dread circumstances, we have no words; we can only bow in silence to the will of the Supreme and submit, "Thy will be done."

We have no data to give any complete account of the life and Masonic services of Companion GOULEY. We believe he was Secretary of all the Grand Bodies of Masons in Missouri. In the Grand Council he had been G. R. and Committee on Foreign Correspondence since 1866.

A prince has fallen among us. Doubly appropriate is our prayer, "*Peace to his ashes.*"

Subordinate Councils.....	20
Membership.....	682
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W.M. R. STUBBLE FIELD, St. Louis, G.:M.: <hr/> G.R.:.	

NEBRASKA—1876.

Nebraska sends us this year the same beautiful Proceedings, well bound, well printed, well arranged and well indexed. We wish they were all like those of Nebraska. They contain a fine engraving, giving us the features of Companion WILLIAM R. BOWEN, G.:R.: Companion BOWEN is a fine specimen of the *genus homo*, and his looks and the Proceedings that come from his office show that he is a workman that needed not to be ashamed.

The Annual Assembly convened in Tecumseh, December 21st, 1876, and was opened by Companion CHARLES F. GOODMAN, G.:M.:.

The Committee on Credentials reported that four Subordinate Councils were represented.

The G.:M.: delivered an address, referring mainly to home matters; noticing the death of Companion JOHN BLAKE, P.:G.:M.:; and the reception of G.:M.: OSGOODIV's circular letter.

The following resolution was adopted:

"That in the matter of the circular from the Grand Master of New York, and the recommendation of Grand Master GOODMAN, this Grand Council agree and recommend the appointment of a Committee as contemplated in said circular; and further, that in case of failure to obtain desired recognition and action by the Grand Bodies Knights Templar, that then this body will make the necessary effort to secure recognition by the proper body of the A.'. and A.'.S.'. And in the matter of the organization of a General Grand Council of the United States, this Grand Council hereby expresses itself favorable to such a movement. That Grand Master GOODMAN be chairman of the Committee contemplated in this report."

CHARLES F. GOODMAN was received as the representative of the Grand Council of New York.

Companion JOHN B. SACKETT, P.:G.:M.:, was appointed representative of Nebraska near us.

We regret to see that Nebraska has no Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Subordinate Councils	5
Members in three Councils.....	170
Receipts.....	\$391.50

CHARLES F. GOODMAN, Omaha, G.:M.:.

WM. R. BOWEN, Omaha, G.:R.:.

NEW JERSEY—1876-1877.

Last year we had a circular only from our near neighbor of New Jersey. This year we have a thinnish pamphlet, containing the Proceedings for two years.

The first thing noticed upon opening it is an excellent portrait of Companion JOHN WOOLVERTON, G.:T.: We like this plan of presenting our Companions' faces to our view. Its the next thing to seeing them in person and hearing their voices. Companion WOOLVERTON is a fine looking man, whose face says he is an upright man and a Mason, and his honest features say the shekels of New Jersey will ever be safe in his keeping.

The eighteenth Annual Assembly was held in Trenton, January 18th, 2876, and was opened by M.:I.: JOHN S. HARTLEY, G.:M.: Seven Councils were represented.

The Annual Address was very brief. It states that the Councils are making every effort to perfect themselves in the work of the New York Convention; also that P.:G.:M.: DUNHAM had ceased from his labors and entered into rest celestial.

The G.:R.: stated that he had received the Proceedings of twenty-six Grand Councils, including those of New York for 1875, but he made no report on Foreign Correspondence, but asked time for it as it was not quite completed. But we find it not.

A Committee was appointed to revise the Constitution.

1877.

The nineteenth Annual Assembly was held in Trenton, January 19th, 2877, and was opened in Ample Form by Companion CORNELIUS VREELAND, D.:G.:M.:.

Six Councils were represented.

The Address of G.:M.: CHARLES C. WELLS, who was detained by sickness, was read. It was very brief and related wholly to domestic matters.

Companion CORSON reported the receipt of the Proceedings of twenty-five Grand Councils, not including those of New York. The G.:T.: reported a total of \$258.63.

A Committee was appointed to revise the "work." Companion CORSON stated that on account of the condition of the treasury he had not written a report on Correspondence. This we very much regret, for New Jersey's Proceedings without CORSON's reports are like Hamlet with the part of Hamlet omitted.

" Shall we never more behold thee?
Never hear thy gentle voice again?
When the springtime comes, witty Tommy,
When the wild flowers blossom o'er the plain?"

Subordinate Councils.....	9
Membership.....	477

CORNELIUS VREELAND, Paterson, G.:M.:.

THOS. J. CORSON, Trenton, G.:R.:.

NORTH CAROLINA—1876.

The Grand Council of North Carolina, though small in numbers, is always on hand with a well printed copy of Proceedings. Her treasury does not overflow, but she always has money enough to print something besides a circular. Neither does she ever hint at giving up the ghost or at fleeing under the sheltering wing of any Grand Chapter. From year to year we have read her Proceedings with admiration, and have honored the Masonic perseverance and hopefulness of her Companions. Some of our whining Grand Councils and lamenting Grand Masters might profit by the example of North Carolina.

The Annual Assembly convened in the City of Charlotte, June 7th, 2876, JOHN NICHOLS, G.:M.:, presiding. Representatives were present from four Subordinate Councils.

The Annual Address was brief, having little to report, and no particular change to report since the last Assembly. We think he states the true reason of the continued existence of this Grand Council, in spite of all discouragements, when he says that the Councils are composed of their best Masons.

The cash of the Grand Council was reported at \$68.00.

It was resolved :

"The Annual Assemblies of this Grand Council be held at such places as may be designated by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter for holding its Annual Convocations, during or immediately succeeding, the sessions of the Grand Chapter."

It was also resolved that a R.:A.:M.:, in good standing, who may be rejected in a Council, may renew his application at the succeeding regular Assembly of said Council.

A little too soon we think. The following was passed:

"Resolved. That the Grand Recorder be instructed to memorialize the General Grand Encampment of the United States, at its next Triennial Conclave, to place the Degrees of Royal and Select Master in the line of promotion, so as to constitute them a condition precedent to the Commandery Degrees."

Companion NICHOLS, G.:M.:, presented a very good report on Foreign Correspondence, (18 pp.) reviewing the Proceedings of fifteen Grand Councils.

He goes for Illinois, where it had been decided that a Council had the right to refuse a dimitt; he says:

"It may be unmasonic not to be affiliated, but by what right can Lodge, Chapter or Council compel a Mason to remain a member against his will? We believe in Free Masonry, and whenever a Mason wishes to sever his connection with the Order, we believe in permitting him to depart in peace. If he can do without the Order, the Order can as easily do without him."

This has always been our opinion. We look upon our Fraternity as a voluntary association. We urge no one to join us; we require the candidate to declare that he has not been induced to join by the improper solicitation of friends, and we do not compel him to remain. If any Mason becomes dissatisfied with the Fraternity or with its individual members, so he can no longer take them by the hand as Brethren or Companions, he should by all means be permitted to have his dimitt. Companion NICHOLS gives New York, for 1875, a fraternal and lengthy notice of four pages, quoting fully from the address and the report on Foreign Correspondence.

We tender our best wishes to North Carolina, and hope her future will be one of prosperity. There will be a brighter day.

Subordinate Councils.....	4
Membership.....	160

C. M. VAN ORSDELL, Wilmington, G.:M.:.

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

1877.

As we are just closing up this report we have received the Proceedings of North Carolina for 1877, and will delay sending in our report until we can review it in a few lines.

The Annual Assembly this year was held in Newbern, June 6th, and was opened in Ample Form by Companion C. M. VAN ORSDELL, G.:M.:. Three Subordinates were represented.

The Annual Address reports "calm peacefulness and distressing inactivity"

on the part of most of the Councils, and makes the following suggestion, which is worthy of notice by all:

"I feel that to a certain extent the sad and lifeless condition of some of our Councils to-day in North Carolina is caused by our failure to discharge our duty as Royal Arch Masons. Is it not our privilege as well as our duty in our Chapters, when we make Royal Arch Masons, to try to get them interested in our Council Degrees, by representing to them their beautiful ceremonies and their sublime teaching, and the necessity of obtaining them before they can properly appreciate and understand all the ceremonies and mysteries of the degrees through which they have passed, and the utter impossibility of completing their Masonic education without obtaining them? If the Companions will take this matter home with them and act upon these suggestions where Councils now exist, and strive to start new ones where there is a Royal Arch Chapter, I believe that we can, in a few years, disperse all the darkness and gloom that now surround us, and that in our future Grand Annual Convocations we can come up and meet each other with hopeful and happy hearts; and if at this time we do feel discouraged, let us not waver in the good work, but renew our energies with double diligence, and place our full confidence and hope in that never failing source of help, in that God whom we as Masons are taught to love and serve."

That hits one point exactly. We must talk more. Too many know nothing of the Council Degrees, and never understand their necessity to the complete Masonic education. Those who know nothing of the Cryptic Rite will not esteem it any higher than we represent it ourselves. The worth of a modest man is never appreciated by the greater part of the world, and we are too modest about our degrees, or to indifferent. If each Companion will study and understand them himself, and commend them with a little enthusiasm wherever he can, we shall not want for candidates. We must attend to these things. We must help ourselves; we must work out our own salvation. For our part we are done with all efforts for help from outside, with all reaching out of hands to other Orders with memorials and petitions, and we intend to rely upon ourselves. We think we can keep our own nose above water. We have been able to do it thus far, and we don't mean to spend any more time or strength in calling to others for help. If every officer and prominent Companion will take as much time and use as much earnestness in developing our own resources and recommending our Rite to all, as we have taken and used on the prerequisite question and various other suggestions, we shall prosper as much as one can desire. We don't expect nor do we desire to be as large as a Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter, but we *know* we can do better than we have. We hope the Companions of North Carolina and every other Grand Council will *act* upon these suggestions.

The business was local. A Committee was appointed to co-operate with one from the Grand Chapter to memorialize the General Grand Chapter with reference to uniting the Council Degrees with the Chapter. A memorial page was set apart to the memory of WM. GEDDY HILL, M.D.:

OHIO—1876.

The Centennial Proceedings of the Grand Council of Ohio have upon the cover the cut of the bell of Independence Hall, with the motto, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."

The forty-sixth Annual Assembly was held at Put-in-Bay, in Dollar's Hall, (which we hope was not one of those peculiar secret vaults that abound in that section,) August 30th, 1876. Companion SAMUEL W. COURTRIGHT, G.:M.: presided, and the goodly number of fifty-three Subordinate Councils were represented. We notice the presence of Companion HENRY NEWBEGIN, Grand Representative for New York.

The Annual Address says:

"In this Centennial year, marking an important era in the history of our common country, with liberty of person and of conscience guaranteed to us, we are permitted, in the wisdom, goodness, and mercy of God, to assemble here on one of the most beautiful islands nestled in the bosom of a lake, made historic and imperishable by the brave and heroic deeds of a Perry, in our forty-sixth Annual Grand Communication. And to Him who has permitted this assembly, and crowned us with blessings during the past year, let all praise, honor, and glory be given, 'for He is good, His mercy endureth forever.'

"Cryptic Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction has, during the past year, been making a steady, and, as we believe, a healthy growth. And although this Grand Council was organized less than half a century ago, yet we have within this Grand Jurisdiction nearly as great a number of affiliated Royal and Select Masters as any other Grand Jurisdiction in the Union."

There had been four dispensations issued during the year for new Councils. He had appointed Companion DARWIN E. MORGAN, T.:I.:M.:, of Keystone Council, No. 20, of Buffalo, Grand Representative near the Grand Council of New York. He had decided in the negative the question whether any Subordinate Council could refund the fee deposited by a candidate; but this was not sustained by the Grand Council.

The G.:T.: reported a total of \$2,658.35, a gratifying evidence of prosperity.

Companion WILLIAM H. CUNNINGHAM submitted an excellent report on Foreign Correspondence, which, we are glad to see, was made a part of the Proceedings. He reviews the Proceedings of seventeen Grand Councils, among which are our own for 1875. Of the G.:R.: of Mississippi he says:

"The work of the Grand Recorder is of that kind to merit the thanks of the several Committees on Foreign Correspondence, as from his complete statistical reports much labor is saved, and the reviewer can arrive at a more correct view of the status of Cryptic Masonry within that jurisdiction than can be done in those jurisdictions whose printed Proceedings would seem to indicate an effort against furnishing information, instead of otherwise."

We wish every G.:R.: would take this to heart, and, if he forgets or neglects to do this part of his work, we think he should be condemned to our task, to count one by one and add until the table is complete. He says of Companion GOULEY, of Missouri:

"Your Committee fail to see any point in his criticism upon those Grand Councils who do not print their reports on Foreign Correspondence as an Appendix, as, unless printed without previous presentation to the Grand Council, all reports should appear in the Proceedings when and where submitted. It would be fully as appropriate to append a report on Jurisprudence, Grievance, or on Charters and Dispensations, in an Appendix, as that upon Foreign Correspondence, unless the report is an after-birth, written to fill out the Proceedings to a more pretentious size. In that event we would not differ with him. In this connection, whilst a Committee on Foreign Correspondence may not rank the other Committees of a Masonic Grand Body, neither is it ranked by them, and, if any difference, it is more justly, on account of the labor in its preparation, entitled to its proper place in the Proceedings."

Our Proceedings for 1875 receive a kind notice, with quotations, and the only error we notice, which is probably due to the printer, is that Companion JOHN B. "LUCKETT" was elected G. M. In conclusion he regrets the absence of so many Proceedings. The mails are an uncertain thing as regards Grand Proceedings, and we advise Companion CUNNINGHAM to follow our illustrious example, and write to the Grand Recorders for them. Every year we have to send for a number, as we did this year for those of Ohio. He also says:

"In this connection, too much haste to get through with work, too little zeal to have that which is done *well done*, and the selection of incompetent officers out of compliment to the individual, are the causes of nearly if not all of the evils existing in ALL MASONIC BODIES, GRAND AND SUBORDINATE.

"Companions, let us all in act, word, and deed, seek an endowment of that love and wisdom from the Divine Being that will enable us to establish our beautiful Rite within our own hearts. Then will its teachings be felt and revered by others, and all who love the institution for its own sake will desire to become recipients of our select grades."

The following report on a much disputed question was adopted, and we think best to give it entire, as it harmonizes with our views as to the right of a Council to do as it will with its own, a right that is sometimes rather interfered with.

"The majority of the Standing Committee of Masonic Jurisprudence, to which was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as relates to his decision as to the right of a Subordinate Council to return the fees deposited by an applicant after he has been elected by said council to receive said degrees, have had the same under consideration and report:

"A Subordinate Council is the custodian and almoner of her own personal funds (subject only to the laws of the Grand Council), and has, therefore, a perfect right to dispose of them as she may deem expedient and proper, having, however, an eye single to the great principles of Masonic charity in their bestowment.

"When a candidate petitions a council for the degrees of Cryptic Masonry, and accompanies said petition with the necessary fees for said degrees, and his petition has been received and referred, has passed through the regular necessary steps, and he has been duly elected to receive said degrees, he has then lost all right to said funds, and can only claim of the council the right to receive the degrees. But if the council through charity think proper to return him said fees, it must be considered by him an act of pure beneficence, and not as his right to demand.

"We, therefore, offer for adoption the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the decision of the Grand Master, denying to Subordinate Councils the right to return the fees of candidates who have been elected and who neglect to take the degrees, be and the same is hereby reversed."

It was determined that the time and place of the next Annual Assembly should be Cleveland, August 29th, 1877, which is at the time of the Conclave of the Grand Encampment.

Subordinate Councils.....	58
Advanced.....	156
Admitted.....	13
Reinstated.....	54
Dimitted.....	62
Died.....	28
Suspended.—n. p. d.	132

Suspended.—unmas. cond.....	6
Expelled.....	4
Membership.....	2,613

SAMUEL W. COURTWRIGHT, Circleville, G.:M.:

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

PENNSYLVANIA—1877.

The Grand Council of Royal, Super-Excellent, and Select Masters of Pennsylvania, held its thirty-first Annual Assembly in Lebanon, February 21st, 2877.

Upon calling the roll of membership, there were found to be present GETER C. SHIDLE, G.:M.:, and the representatives of thirteen Subordinate Councils.

The "Annual Report" of the G.:M.: was very brief, occupying one page and relating to home matters. It says:

"Public duties and private engagements have prevented me from visiting any of the subordinates under our jurisdiction; but I have the pleasing satisfaction to report that no curious intruder has been allowed to find his way into the secret recesses of our retirement, to disturb the peace and harmony that reigns within."

He had received the circular of G.:M.: OSGOODBY, and recommended the appointment of a Committee to go to Cleveland; but unfortunately the Grand Council did not see fit to concur, and none was appointed.

The G.:T.: reported a balance on hand of \$1,399.29.

Only one of the D.:D.:G.:M.: made any report. The Committee on Clothing, Jewels, &c., made a long report, stating what had been done on that subject in past years, and were directed to report a description of the clothing, jewels, &c., of the Grand Council.

A proposed amendment, to make the title of the Grand Council read Royal, Select, and Super-Excellent Masters, was considered and rejected by a vote of 38 to 98.

By a vote of the Grand Council, the G.:M.: exemplified the Royal Master's Degree, as adopted by the New York Convention.

There was no report on Foreign Correspondence, but a Committee was appointed, who, we hope, will sufficiently magnify their office to perform the duty assigned them. These reports in this Grand Council have been few and brief in the past; and the Companions of Pennsylvania must have a very meager idea of the condition of the Cryptic Rite, or the questions of interest now agitating it. The next Annual "Conclave" is to be held in Allegheny City, the third Wednesday of February, 2878, at 6 P. M.

Councils at Work.....	25
Received during the year.....	56
Admitted.....	11
Died.....	26

Withdrawn	22
Suspensions	48
Expulsions	3
Memberships	1,825

GETER C. SHIDLE, Pittsburg, G. M.

CHARLES E. MEYER, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, G. R.

RHODE ISLAND—1877.

We have a circular from Rhode Island this year, Companion BLODGETT to the contrary, notwithstanding. What has become of Companion BLODGETT? He must be G. A. of this Grand Council, soundly wrapped in the arms of Morpheus, or we should have received no circular. It says:

"At the Annual Convocation, held in the rooms of the A. and A. Rite, in the City of Providence, Monday, March 12th, A. D. 1877, A. Dep. 2877, the following officers were elected for the year ensuing:

M. P. G. M.	JOHN F. ADAMS,	Pawtucket.
D. G. M.	A. A. PEVEY,	Woonsocket.
G. Ill. M.	GEO. O. OLMFSTEAD,	Providence.
G. P. C. of W.	DAVID STEPHENS,	Newport.
G. Treas.	STEPHEN C. ARNOLD,	Providence.
G. Rec.	WM. R. GREENE,	Providence.
G. C. of G.	GEO. A. SWEET,	Pawtucket.
G. Chap.	REV. HENRY W. RUGG,	Providence.
G. Mar.	EDWIN BAKER,	Providence.
G. Steward,	O. H. BRIGGS,	Pawtucket.
G. Sen.	DANIEL WINSLOW, JR.,	Warren.
G. Guard.	E. B. WHITE,	Providence.

"Section 8, Article 4, of the Constitution, is amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 8. Each Subordinate Council shall pay to the Grand Recorder, at each stated meeting of the Grand Council, the sum of Two Dollars for every person advanced to the Degrees of Royal and Select Master; but in no case shall the dues paid to the Grand Council be less than Ten Dollars.

"The titles of Officers are changed to correspond with the 'New Work,' whenever such changes in the Constitution require it."

TENNESSEE—1876.

On Thursday, November 16th, 2876, the Grand Council of Tennessee assembled for the twenty-seventh time, in the city of Nashville.

There were present the G. M., H. M. AIKEN, the Past Grand Officers, and the representatives of thirty Subordinate Councils.

We read the eloquent Address of Companion AIKEN with much pleasure, and we shall quote for your edification. It commences:

"Another year, with its joys and sorrows, is gone. And, by a most beneficent and wisely ordered arrangement, these blessings and these chastenings, coupled with the efforts and struggles incident to our daily lives, have led us on, and to-day we stand on higher ground than at our parting twelve months ago. With each moment our obligations have deepened and our responsibilities increased, and there is now demanded of us a loftier earnestness and higher resolves. To the reflecting mind, that necessity of our nature which is satisfied alone with a constant and continuous approach toward the good and the true—leading us, if we but follow, ever onward and upward—is not among the

most insignificant of the evidences planted within us of an overruling and wise Providence. And whether we consciously note them and fully appreciate them or not, each day is crowded with possibilities and rich in lessons, constantly opening up to us wide fields for usefulness, and ever developing and shaping us for more enlarged effort and nobler aims."

The G.M. recommends that Tennessee be represented at Buffalo; also that the time of the Annual Assembly be changed, so that it take place before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge; instead of the present inconvenient arrangement, whereby the Grand Chapter and the Grand Council both meet on the same day, immediately after the close of the Grand Lodge. He then goes on to say:

"It is a matter of sincere regret that I cannot report Cryptic Masonry to be in a more healthy and flourishing condition in this grand jurisdiction than it is to-day. For, while we are happily free from dissension and strife in any of their myriad and hurtful forms, and while peace and harmony have continued unbroken and undisturbed through our borders, a wide-spread and enervating lethargy has crept in and settled upon us; and unpleasant and unacceptable as the statement may be, it is, nevertheless, a fact, patent to the most casual observer, that we are not gathering strength with age, if, indeed, we are maintaining the position achieved by those who have gone before. * * * * *

"Our future, if future we are to have, must depend upon the intrinsic worth of our Order, and upon the personal character and efforts of its members. For, conceding the excellence and merit of the recognized and established principles of Cryptic Masonry, upon which it is so happily based, we must admit that its healthful and useful existence depends almost entirely upon the intelligence, purity, integrity and activity of its individual members. And hence the vital importance of closely and zealously guarding the approaches to our Councils, lest at some unwatched moment an intruder should gain admission whose presence and influence will work mischief and lasting injury. * * * Let us, as well in the more public works of life, as in our Councils, quit ourselves as men, remembering that

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial;
We should count our time by heart throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most—feels the noblest—acts the best."

The Committee on Accounts reported a total of \$789.30. The Committee on Jurisprudence reported against sending a representative to Buffalo. The surplus of funds was loaned to the Grand Lodge.

The following resolution was adopted:

"That a Committee of five be appointed by the Grand Council to present to the Grand Chapter, now in session, its wish to place the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters under the control of the Grand Chapter, if not in conflict with the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and that they be requested to take such steps as will accomplish this purpose."

We trust the Grand Chapter of Tennessee sent this Committee back with a decided negative. If the Grand Council of Tennessee has not enough *men* in it to keep it above water, let it disband. It is of no use to exhort to diligence, to ask members to be true and earnest, to prate about beauty and excellent principles, if the Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers and members of a Grand Council will so cravenly ask permission to yield their existence. Fine sounding words and glittering generalities will never cure lethargy. We don't wonder that the Annual Address complains of lethargy when the Grand Council will pass such a resolution. All its eloquent recommendations will be forgotten like a tale that is told.

No report on Foreign Correspondence—another specimen of the Companions of Tennessee.

Subordinate Councils.....	45
Membership.....	1345
B. F. HALLER, Memphis, G.:M.:.	
JOHN FRIZZELL, Nashville, G.:R.:.	

VERMONT—1876.

The beautifully printed, white covered Proceedings of Vermont tell us that the Annual Assembly was held in the city of Burlington, June 15th, 2876. Nine out of fourteen Subordinate Councils being represented, the M.:I.:, EDWARD S. DANA, opened the Grand Council in Ample Form.

The Annual Address, like all of those from the pen of Companion DANA, was a most beautiful piece of work. We consider the addresses of Companion DANA more eloquent than those of any other G.:M.:, and we regret that we are to read no more of them. We will quote some of the finest passages, which will prove our opinion correct:

"The grateful perfume that steals to our delighted senses, wafted from myriads of opening flowers; the glad voices of the birds; the deepening color of the rich foliage upon the hills and along the brink of bright and cheerful babbling streams; these welcome tokens have for days admonished us that our annual holiday drew near. Gladly have we hastened from our widely scattered homes among the mountains of our nativity, and bent our steps hitherward, with the fondest recollections of hours spent within the secret vault in years that have flown so swiftly by, and which we sorrowfully reflect can never more return.

"As we gather with reverent hearts that we have been spared to commemorate another anniversary, let us burn sweet incense in unseen censers about our holy altars, and catching the inspiration which this presence gives, lend ourselves to an earnest and untiring effort to preserve the valued treasures of the Cryptic Rite, until the coming generations shall rise up to call us blessed.

"I alluded last year to the fact that the Grand Encampment had, by its action, declined to make the Council Degrees a prerequisite. We are informed that the valiant Sir Knights were so much engrossed with the Carnival scenes and gay parades at New Orleans, that they had little time to fairly consider or discuss matters of a business character. This undoubtedly accounts for their unwelcome decision, refusing to complete the American System by placing the Cryptic Rite where it properly belongs."

Again we quote:

"I have personally visited several of the Subordinate Councils during the past year, conferring the degrees upon three candidates in one of them, and have by correspondence and otherwise endeavored to impress upon the Craft, and especially upon its leading officers, that enthusiasm and zeal in every good cause, our own not excepted, will lead to an honorable and merited success. How far these efforts have been responded to, in all cases, I am not fully aware; but I am confident that if the officers of our Subordinate Councils would each determine to make their respective bodies prosperous, and would qualify themselves to properly confer the degrees, and fully disclose to candidates our beautiful ritual and its important and suggestive lessons, we should soon find that example of the sleeping sentinel would find no willing imitation in Vermont. I would that I possessed the magic power ascribed to some of the heathen gods in the fabulous legends of mythology, that I might sound our silver trumpet with a clarion note, which should reverberate through all our secret vaults, and that ere its echoes died away amid the distant arches, there should return to us the welcome hum of busy toilers, awakening to renewed activity, and a more zealous devotion to our cause."

He pays a fitting eulogy to Companion HARVEY MUNSILL, of Bristol, who died April 11th, 1876, over eighty-four years of age. One by one they are

gathered in. How fast these venerable ones, who endured the day of trial and persecution, are going. It reminds us of a venerable Companion, ADELPHUS WATKINS, of our own Council, who passed away since our last report, at the age of ninety-four, and whom we made a S.:M.: at the age of eighty-eight. After life's long labor may they rest well.

In conclusion Companion DANA says:

"For twelve long years I have presided over your deliberations, and during this period of protracted service, I have been continually cheered and strengthened in every duty, by your flattering expressions of confidence and most generous support. My heart goes out to-day to you, and those who have preceded you, in grateful benediction, and with the hope that time in his relentless flight may call his choicest garlands to decorate your pathway down the declivities of life. Gathered about these recurring scenes of our annual festal days are many of the fondest recollections of the waning years, and now the hour has struck, when, as to our official relations, I must speak that saddest of all words—Farewell! Yet even this may be softened in its tone by the cheerful reflection that we may yet often meet upon our lengthening pilgrimage, and together take up our trusty trowels as a work of love, while we strive to dignify our profession, so that its increasing and beneficent influences may lend consolation to our faithful craftsmen, and scatter blessings on the race."

Companion DANA, may your life long be spared to the Craft, may prosperity and peace attend you, and, bowed down with years and the honors of usefulness, late may you return to the heavens.

The Committee on Finance reported the total receipts at \$61.75.

Companion DANA was re-elected G.: M.:, but positively declined to serve.

Companion WILLIAM H. S. WHITCOMB, G.:R.:, presented the report on Foreign Correspondence of twelve pages, reviewing the Proceedings of twenty-five Grand Councils, including those of New York for 1874. We do not find anything in the report which would interest you. While it gives a brief *résumé* of each Grand Council, there is very little that Companion WHITCOMB sees fit to say for himself.

The Proceedings are not furnished with tables of membership, &c., and we are obliged to give those of the preceding year.

Subordinate Councils.....	14
Membership in 1875.....	686

ALBERT C. HUBBELL, Bennington, G.:M.:.

WM. H. S. WHITCOMB, Burlington, G.:R.:.

WISCONSIN—1877.

The Grand Council of Wisconsin assembled for the twentieth time in the City of Milwaukee, February 19th, 1877.

The G.:M.:, JAMES L. BRIDGE, presided, and nine Subordinate Councils were represented. The Annual Address was excellent. It says:

"When we reflect upon the rapid strides made by our beloved institution during the last century, receiving its first impulse from some of the noblest and best men the world ever knew, growing gradually, but firmly, until it has become one of the bulwarks of civilized America, we may, I say, be pardoned for feeling some degree of pride in the institution of Free Masonry. But, Companions, unlike some other institutions, her history is

not written. The work, the very heart of the institution, has no record in history for the profane or ourselves even. It is only the superficial of which we have evidence, and yet you know and I know that there has been a record made for the relief of every distressed brother, sorrowing widow, or destitute orphan, for every good and noble deed performed; for every heart we have made glad, for every tear we have stayed, the recording angel has placed to our credit in the great Book of Life an imperishable record. And while we would not publish to the world our acts, but would rather they know not of them, we would at the same time be gratified to see an account of what the Masonic Fraternity have accomplished in the last one hundred years; to see the vail raised, disclosing, as in one grand panoramic view, the hosts of thankful souls who have been the recipients of her unstinted but almost unlimited charity. But even this would be but a shadow of the reality. It would not disclose the kind words, the brotherly admonitions, the weary night watchings, the commendatory words spoken behind the brother's back; the very soul of Masonry would still be hidden, as it ever must be, until we reach that heavenly bourne, where all things that are now hidden shall be revealed."

In regard to foreign relations he says:-

"I am pleased to be able to state that our relations with all Grand Bodies of the Cryptic Rite are of the most pleasing and fraternal character. The large amount of correspondence in the Grand Recorder's office, demonstrates that the energetic labor of those who preceded me in this office has not been thrown away, but has resulted in making our Grand Council known, and, I believe, respected by the entire membership of the Cryptic Rite. It has been a great pleasure to me to read the encouraging words from other jurisdictions, and I am sure it would afford all the same degree of pleasure. From the best information I have been able to obtain, I judge the Rite is receiving far more attention than ever before. Matters pertaining to the good of the institution have been most thoroughly discussed by the leading Masons of the country, and the objections to and arguments of the different plans for advancing the interest of the Rite, have received all the attention desired."

We gladly bear our testimony to the truth of the assertion concerning the labors of the Grand Officers of Wisconsin. We have found them to be live, active men, earnest and practical, and we prize their Proceedings as highly as any we receive.

The G. M. goes on to speak of the circular of G. M. OSGOODBY, and recommends that a Committee be appointed to be present at Cleveland. He has commissioned G. M. OSGOODBY as the Representative of the Grand Council of Wisconsin near the Grand Council of New York,—an excellent choice.

The following we copy entire:

"At the last Assembly of this Grand Council, under your instructions a Committee was appointed to memorialize the Grand Commandery of this State, asking them to make the Cryptic Degrees a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood. Your Committee performed the duty assigned to them to the best of their ability. The action of the Grand Commandery upon the subject was, perhaps, under the circumstances, all that could be asked. The Grand Commandery adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, The Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States approving, that the Council Degrees, as conferred by authority of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of this Jurisdiction, be and the same are hereby made requisite to the reception of candidates into the Orders of Knighthood in this state; and, that candidates for the Orders be required to state, in their petitions, the name, number and location of the Council to which they belong. And, further, that when this measure is approved by the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder shall certify the same to the several Commanderies in this jurisdiction; and from the date of the reception of such certificates, the regulation shall be in force.

"I am informed by the R. E. Grand Commander that the resolution was forwarded to the M. E. Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, asking his approval of the same, which he declined, under his construction of the rulings of the Grand Encampment, to do. For the kind intentions of the Grand Commandery of this State, we should be devoutly thankful, but at the same time we must regret that the action of this body did not assume a more independent form."

We have the same regret. We wish all our Companions could read this excellent address entire.

The report of the G.T. showed a total of \$252.05, balance on hand \$146.90.

It was resolved to appoint three delegates to attend at Cleveland, to urge upon the Grand Encampment the prerequisite question; and that the same attend the adjourned convention of Royal and Select Masters at Buffalo.

Companion JEDD P. C. COTTRILL was received as the Representative of the Grand Council of New York near the Grand Council of Wisconsin.

The report of the Committee on Jurisprudence says:

"They note with pleasure the increased attention which this Rite is receiving throughout the country, and the rapid approach of the time when Cryptic Masonry will hold its proper position among the different grades. They see in the partial success of the Memorial to the Grand Commandery, strong grounds for encouragement, in that it demonstrates a desire on the part of that body, to see that justice is done to a co-ordinate branch of our institution, which will not be without its effect on the deliberations of the Grand Encampment. They are of the opinion that an earnest and vigorous effort, on the part of the Delegates from this and the other Grand Councils of the Union, will secure the desired result at the coming session of the Grand Encampment, in August, and recommend that this body instruct the Delegates to be appointed, to spare no pains to that end."

Companion JOHN W. WOODHULL presented a very interesting report on Foreign Correspondence, which we read with pleasure, and the best things of which we will share with you. He makes this excellent remark in introduction:

"If any differ with us upon the many subjects now agitating the Masonic world, we shall not be offended at criticism, but rather court the strictures of the Brotherhood of the Guild, believing that a comparison of views can do us no harm, and may do us good. If, by our remarks, we offend any Companion, we beg his pardon in advance, and shall always hold ourselves in readiness to bow, with humble submission, to the majority, knowing that in time the present agitation will result in the most to be desired of all things, an amicable settlement of these vexed questions."

He gives Arkansas a long and scathing review. He says:

"A man may be so mean that lightning will not strike him, and so malignant as to attempt to bite his own ears, but he is a bright and shining light when compared to the members of a Council who will neither pay their dues nor render a reasonable excuse for their delinquency. God in his mercy *may* forgive a man for murder, but how can he forgive a man who is so contemptible as to refuse to pay a debt of honor."

Under our own notice of Arkansas, we have given the report of the Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, refusing to co-operate with us in the matter of making the Cryptic Degrees a prerequisite, and we have preferred to give Companion WOODHULL's able answer in full, rather than attempt one ourselves. He says:

"We do not propose to attempt to controvert the position taken by these justly celebrated Companions, and will only call attention to a few thoughts which very naturally arise after a perusal of these sweeping propositions:

"1st. 'The present requirements by Templar Masonry we deem amply sufficient.' What are these requirements? That a man should have regularly received the degrees of E.A., F.C., M.M., M.M.M., P.M., M.E.M., and R.A.M., and also be possessed of the *unwritten* requisites. What is the principal object of these requirements? Is it that we may judge of the qualifications of the applicants? This is only a matter of convenience, for we can just as well judge of a man's qualifications for the Orders of Knighthood, who never saw the inside of a lodge room, as we can of one who has received all the preceding degrees. True it is easier and far more convenient to judge of the latter than of the former, but it is not essential to our conclusions in regard to his qualifications, that he should have received any of these degrees. Neither is a knowledge of those degrees at all essential to an understanding of his duties as a Templar. Is it

then, to limit our numbers that we require these prerequisites? Certainly not, in the opinion of this Committee, for they fear an abridgment of the usefulness of the Commanderies. Then why these requirements? Simply this, that we may have an orderly system of advancement; that when we meet a Sir Knight we may know him to be a Royal Arch Mason, and when we meet a Royal Arch Mason we may know him to be a Master Mason, etc. And why not, if this proposition is true, complete our system by placing the Cryptic Degrees in their proper place, whatever or wherever that may be? Because by a slip of the pen they were omitted by our predecessors, is no reason why the error should not be corrected. A wise man will, if possible, correct the error he has committed in his youth, but the fool changeth not at all.

"2d. That to make Chivalric Masonry (?) in anywise dependent upon the Cryptic branch of the Order, would, in our opinion, seriously abridge the field of usefulness of the Commanderies.

"They here make an admission (perhaps unintended) that Cryptic Masonry is a branch of Free Masonry, or rather that in grading the whole it can no more be properly left out than can Capitular Masonry. We think this deduction is fair, for this reason: If it is a branch of Masonry, it should have its place, the same as any other branch of Masonry, and acknowledged to be a branch of the Order, which historically precedes the Templar Order, it should without doubt precede that Order in our system of advancement.

"So far as abridging the field of usefulness of the Commanderies is concerned, this Committee will, upon reflection, admit that such a plea is a mere subterfuge, without any foundation in fact. What do they mean by abridging the usefulness of the Commanderies? They can mean but one thing, viz: It will lessen the number of applicants. Even if this was true, we cannot see how the usefulness of the Commanderies is abridged, for the fact is that our usefulness is retarded by too rapid growth, and the popularity of Templarism is, to-day, its greatest danger. But will it not lessen the number of applicants? We think not. Look at it. A Companion has received the Degree of Royal Arch Mason, and is desirous of receiving the Templar Orders; the Council Degrees stand between him and the Commandery; they will cost him ten dollars; will he hesitate to receive these degrees? By no means. There is not such a case known in the history of Masonry. Then in what sense can the Cryptic Degrees, if made a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, abridge the usefulness of the Commanderies?

"3d. The Grand Encampment of the United States has repeatedly and wisely declined to entertain any proposition looking to a change in this particular.

"It is very true that the Grand Encampment has repeatedly declined to entertain any proposition looking to a change in this particular, but whether wisely or not, is a disputed question, and the assumption by this Committee, that the Grand Encampment has acted wisely in this matter, proves nothing, only that they think so. The death-like condition of the Councils in their own jurisdiction, is very good evidence, to our mind, that the Grand Encampment has acted very unwisely.

"4th. To renew an appeal at this time so hopeless, we deem, would exhibit a senseless pertinacity, in our opinion beneath our honor and dignity.

"How does this learned Committee know it would be hopeless to renew the appeal? Are they possessed of prophetic vision sufficiently acute to foretell the opinions of an hundred men, whom they never saw and never heard upon this subject? Are they so positive in this matter because of any knowledge they may possess, or is it an assertion merely for the foundation of the opinion expressed by them, when they state that an appeal at this time would exhibit a senseless pertinacity?

"It appears to us that when we have an object to attain we should persevere in our labor, and knowing we are right continue on. The Government of Great Britain accused the Colonists of senseless pertinacity, but the result was all, and far more even, than the Colonists asked for.

"Ever since Christ's time ministers of the Gospel have been laboring to convert the world; why not accuse them of senseless pertinacity? Why not make this same charge against all who try to accomplish a great good in the face of what unbelievers call insurmountable obstacles? In our own opinion, it is an uncalled for and senseless slur upon those who happen to differ from these learned Companions.

"Further, they claim it would be beneath their honor or dignity to renew the appeal to the Grand Encampment at this time. It seems to us it would be no more dishonorable or undignified to make another appeal to the Grand Encampment upon this subject, than it is for the Grand Council of Arkansas to carry upon her rolls fifteen Councils in arrearage for dues from one to three years. Honor and dignity are good things to possess, but industry and common sense are of far more value to the Companion who endeavors to perform his duty. To be honorable we need not be mulish. To be dignified we need not imagine ourselves nor our opinions as infallible."

Our Proceedings for 1876 receive a fraternal and extended notice. He says the address of G.M. SACKETT is able, interesting, and contains

much valuable information. Companion SACKETT spoke of a monument to the memory of certain defunct Councils, whereupon Companion WOODHULL:

"Query. What would be a suitable monument? We would suggest the following: A large slab of bass wood, laid flat-wise, and surmounted by the corpse of a dead jackass. Underneath the belly of his brayship we would place the epitaph,

Here lies a thing, a homely mass,
Born a man, but died an ass."

Now Companion CARSON, if you don't arouse yourself from your lethargy, Companion WOODHULL will surpass you in your own field.

He quotes freely from our address to you at the last Annual Assembly, of which he is pleased to say:

"It contains some of the soundest and best reasoning upon the subject of Cryptic Masonry, it has ever been our pleasure to read."

We have already dwelt so long upon the interesting Proceedings of Wisconsin that we must hasten, and will make but one more extract, which is from the conclusion of Companion WOODHULL:

"We can see many reasons why we should be encouraged, and none for being despondent. In some of the states the Councils are flourishing, in others sick enough to die. The question is often asked, why is it that in some states, and even in different portions of the same state, there is so much difference in the character and standing of the Councils? We think the question is easy of solution. Wherever you find a flourishing Council, you may rest assured that the workmen are tried and true, that they are men and Masons, that they love and appreciate the institution for its worth, for the beauty there is in it; for the beautiful moral lessons taught, and are trying to live what they profess; they do not begrudge a few moments at the Lodge-room, although there may be no "work;" they have intellects to think, and find plenty of food for conversation among their intelligent associates; they are full of that spirit which actuates every good man who is seeking for knowledge; to them the world is but the symbolism of the glory beyond, and to this end they enjoy the work, but knowing the symbolism still lives, though no work be done, they can appreciate a few leisure moments with kindred spirits, and go to their homes better and wiser men. To them the institution is a reality; it enters into their every day life; it purifies from the grossness which surrounds us, and enables us to live above the slums of wickedness which infest our path at every step. To them Masonry is for more than outward show; it goes down into the hearts of men; it forms connecting links between men which cannot be broken; it makes brothers of those who otherwise might be strangers, and thus becomes a source of good to mankind, the results of which cannot be measured; neither do they end with the span of this life. Upon the other hand, Companions, wherever you find a sickly Council, depend upon it, the above characteristics are not applicable to its members. They are not Masons, they are simply drones, undeserving to be members of an institution which they disgrace by their apathy.

"We must, therefore, conclude that the welfare of a Council depends wholly upon the intelligence and industry of its members. If they are deserving of the title of Royal and Select Masters, they are not afraid to do a little needful labor. They will call to mind the fact that our Vault is not yet completed, nor our treasures safely deposited; that it requires a life's labor to prepare our S.'S.', and that the treasures we are expected to deposit must be laid away in the Holy of Holies and not on this earth."

Subordinate Councils.....	9
Membership.....	298
Promoted	25
Dues	\$172.50

JAMES L. BRIDGE, of Berlin, G.:M.:

JOHN W. WOODHULL, Milwaukee, G.:R.:

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

We have prepared the following table of statistics, which is as accurate as we can make it. Some items we have been obliged to estimate, which are marked with a star. For others we are indebted to Companion DRUMMOND, of Maine.

	Subordi- nate Councils.	Member- ship.
ALABAMA,	14	413
ARKANSAS,	11	*300
CALIFORNIA, 1873,	11	542
CONNECTICUT,	24	2460
FLORIDA,	4	*75
GEORGIA,	13	364
ILLINOIS,	53	2201
INDIANA,	47	1792
IOWA,	18	509
KANSAS,	5	133
KENTUCKY,	40	2000
LOUISIANA,	9	431
MAINE,	12	980
MARYLAND,	6	274
MASSACHUSETTS,	23	2720
MICHIGAN,	49	2087
MINNESOTA,	4	169
MISSOURI,	20	682
MISSISSIPPI,	32	789
NEBRASKA,	5	170
NEW BRUNSWICK, 1871,	5	109
NEW HAMPSHIRE,	8	708
NEW JERSEY,	9	477
NEW YORK, 1875,	57	2225
NORTH CAROLINA,	4	160
OHIO,	58	2613
ONTARIO, 1875,	13	298
PENNSYLVANIA,	25	1825
RHODE ISLAND,	5	714
SOUTH CAROLINA, 1875,	14	275
TENNESSEE,	45	1345
VERMONT,	14	686
WISCONSIN,	9	298
Total,	661	30,825

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, we think the general outlook is as good as can be expected for the times. We are all aware that these are hard times, money is not plenty with many of the Craft, and few are taking degrees. All branches of

the Order are complaining of little work. But we think the Cryptic Rite is holding its relative position with the other bodies.

Of course we cannot expect to be as large as the Chapter, or the Lodge, nor shall we ever rival them. But we are doing as well as they are, and we have no cause to be discouraged. These are the times that try our material.

Those who are true Masons, who have entered into the spirit of the teachings of the Fraternity, will hold fast and be as zealous and enthusiastic as ever. The poor material will fail and show its worthlessness. We think we have nearly passed through this period of depression, and a reaction will soon set in. Some Councils may yet expire, and even some Grand Councils may become defunct. But we trust not. Very much will depend upon the energy of the presiding officers.

Our future must depend upon ourselves. It is useless to look for help to other bodies. It will do no good to pass resolutions, or present memorials. We must put our own shoulders to the wheel, and develop ourselves. If we do this, there need be no fear as to the result. We now number over thirty thousand Cryptic Masons. We can support ourselves and live alone. We think there is an end of the expedient of being taken under the protecting wing of the Chapter. We think the action of the General Grand Chapter settles that.

We attended the Grand Encampment as one of your Committee on prærequisite. Companions from other Grand Councils co-operated with us, and a memorial was prepared. But before it could be presented, a resolution was presented in the Grand Encampment, that the degrees of R. & S. M. should not be prerequisites for the Orders. The Committee on Jurisprudence, Sir J. H. DRUMMOND, Chairman, reported in favor of striking out the word "not," but their report was rejected, and the original motion adopted by an overwhelming majority, and the result received with cheers. It was a rare and knightly courtesy. We left convinced that it was no use to present any memorial, and believing that seven-eighths of the Knights Templar care nothing whatever for the unity of American Masonry.

We think the Cryptic Rite better quit begging and maintain itself. Let us stand on our dignity, if we have any, and if the Companions of any Council or Grand Council cannot maintain their organization, let them disband. We think our Rite can go on as well as before. The Grand Council of New York has managed to exist since 1809, and we presume she can live a few years longer. For her we are not at all concerned.

We are concerned, however, for fear that we shall have a flood' of new suggestions, and that Companions all over the land will waste their energy and expend their labor in inventing new expedients. If they will be as earnest in labor at home, and in promoting the attendance and interest of their own Councils, Cryptic Masonry will flourish.

We fear we shall read many wails of discouragement in Annual Addresses, and laments over apathy. We are sick of reading them.

Companien LEE, of Connecticut, gives good advice. Read and act upon it. Many Commanderies have it fully understood that every candidate must be a Council Mason.

Let each Cryptic Mason go forth in the future with a willing hand, a zealous heart, and

"Learn to labor and to wait."

CHARLES G. HUDSON,

Chairman of the Committee.

The Special Committee, to whom was referred the Grand Master's Address for subdivision and reference, offered the following report, which was, on motion, received, and its recommendations adopted:

TO THE M.·P.· GRAND COUNCIL OF R.· AND S.·M'S.·
OF THE STATE OF N. Y.:

Your Special Committee respectfully report that the said Address has received due consideration, and we recommend as follows: That so much as relates to the Fraternal Dead, be referred to a Special Committee.

That so much as relates to the condition of Cryptic Masonry and Dormant Councils, be referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

With regard to so much as relates to prerequisite of the Cryptic Degrees to the Order of Knighthood, your Committee see much that is encouraging since the last report, and recommend that the efforts to attain that end be continued, and that this Grand Council take such action as may best conduce to that result.

That having carefully considered the valuable information and statistics contained in the Address of the M.·III.· Grand Master, your Committee recommend that 500 copies of the transactions of this Grand Body be printed together with an additional 1000 copies of the M.·III.· Grand Master's Address, for distribution.

Respectfully submitted,

H. F. L. BUNTING,
R. C. CHRISTIANE, } Committee.
JOHN OMBONY,

On motion of Companion H. F. L. BUNTING, a Standing Committee was appointed (as recommended in the Grand Master's Address) to further, by their labors, the interests of Cryptic Masonry, consisting of Companions

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, JOHN B. SACKETT,
R. C. CHRISTIANCE.

The standard work of this jurisdiction was exemplified by the Grand Officers, under the direction of the Grand Lecturer.

The Committee on Warrants and Dispensations 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 N. Y.:

Your Committee on Warrants and Dispensations respectfully report, that no Dispensations having been granted during the past year, their labors have been correspondingly light; and while they are willing to perform the duties assigned them, they have no material on which to exhibit such willingness.

Respectfully submitted,

H. F. L. BUNTING,
JAMES T. SOUTHARD,
T. E. HASLEHURST, } Committee.

The Grand Master appointed the following Special Committee:

On the Fraternal Dead.

Comps. JOHN F. BALDWIN, M. A. LEWIS, RICHARD KIDNEY.

M.'.Ill.: Companion JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Maine, favored this Grand Council with his presence, and was greeted accordingly, after which he made an eloquent address in the interests of Cryptic Masonry.

The Grand Council was then called from Labor until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 12th, 1877, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Grand Council resumed its session.

Officers and Representatives as before.

The Grand Council then proceeded to the election of Officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

GEO. M. OSGOODBY, elected M. I. Grand Master.

CHARLES W. BROWN, " R. I. Dep. Grand Master.

A. B. KING, " " Grand P. C. of W.

DAVID B. HOWELL, " " Grand Treasurer.

GEO. VAN VLIET, " " Grand Recorder.

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

TO THE M. I. GRAND COUNCIL OF R. I. AND S. M.'S.
OF THE STATE OF N. Y.:

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of unfinished business, respectfully report that *no* unfinished business remains to be disposed of.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. BROTHERS,
ROBERT M. LAWRENCE,
GEO. McGOWN, } Committee.

The Representatives of the following Grand Councils were announced, received and greeted accordingly:

M. I. Ill. : GEO. M. OSGOODBY,	Rep. of Wisconsin.
" H. F. L. BUNTING,	" Iowa.
" G. FRED. WILTSIE,	" Maine.
" "	" New Brunswick.
" "	" New Jersey.
" "	" Connecticut.
" "	" Pennsylvania.
" JOHN HOOLE,	" Michigan.
R. I. : CHARLES W. BROWN.....	" Rhode Island.
" A. B. KING,	" Minnesota.
" DAIRWIN E. MORGAN,	" Ohio.
" P. VERHOEVEN,	" Georgia.
" THOS. H. FLOYD,	" Alabama.

R. I.: JOHN F. BALDWIN,.....Rep. of Florida.
 " JOHN J. MARTIN,....." Massachusetts.
 " GEO. VAN VLIET,....." New Hampshire.

On motion of Companion OWEN WILLIAMS, the Grand Master, with such assistance as he may require, was authorized to present, in the name of the Grand Council, the jewel procured for that purpose, to Past Grand Master JOHN B. SACKETT, at his home in Buffalo.

The Committee "On the Fraternal Dead" 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 N. Y.:

Your Special Committee, to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as relates to the Fraternal Dead, respectfully report that the eloquent eulogy of our M. I. Grand Master alluding to the death of R. I. GEORGE FRANK GOULEY, of Missouri, T. Ill. WILLIAM EDWARD LATHROP, of our own State, and M. I. CHARLES J. DANFORTH, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, conveys in peculiar chasteness and appropriate expression, a fitting tribute to the memory of the Illustrious Dead, which your Committee deem it improper to mar by any addition thereto, and to which they give fraternal, sympathetic commendation.

Your Committee respectfully submit the following resolutions for your adoption:

Resolved, That in the death of R. I. GEORGE FRANK GOULEY, the Representative of this Grand Council near the Grand Council of Missouri, Free Masonry has lost a workman of unmeasured usefulness, of exalted character and rare ability. Grown to the graceful statue of Masonic manhood, full of honor, refinement and love, though death has opened to him a better life, we will revere his memory and emulate his virtues.

Resolved, That the action of our M. I. Grand Master in addressing a letter of condolence to the widow of R. I. Companion GOULEY, has the unqualified approval of this Grand Council.

Resolved, That in the death of T. Ill. WILLIAM EDWARD LATHROP, P. M. of Doric Council, No. 19, located at Rochester, a member of this Grand Council, the Fraternity in this jurisdiction have lost an earnest, able and faithful laborer, who for more than sixty years exemplified in his life, and by his conduct, the exalted character of a Free and Accepted Mason.

His memory remains enshrined in the hearts of those who "knew him but to love." May the reward from the Grand Master above be as precious to him as his life has been useful here below.

Resolved, That we are saddened to learn of the death of M.:I.: CHARLES J. DANFORTH, Grand Master of the Grand Council of R.: & S.: M.:S.: of Massachusetts. A cultivated gentleman, a devoted Mason—zealous for the welfare and success of the Cryptic Rite—the Grand Council of Massachusetts has indeed met with a severe loss in his death, and this Grand Council fraternally sympathizes with that of Massachusetts in this afflictive dispensation.

Resolved, That suitable memorial pages, in honor of our illustrious dead, be set apart in our Proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. BALDWIN,
M. A. LEWIS,
RICHARD KIDNEY, } Committee.

The following letter from GEO. W. COOLEY, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Minnesota, was received and read before the Grand Council:

SEPTEMBER 12th, 1877.

M.:ILL.: GEO. M. OSGOODBY,

GRAND MASTER GRAND COUNCIL R.: AND S.:M.:.

I desire to express to yourself and the members of the Grand Council, the pleasure and gratification I have felt at the courteous and fraternal greeting I have received from you.

But as I am suddenly called away from the city, I respectfully ask that you accept in this manner my heartfelt thanks for your hospitable reception.

Fraternally yours,

GEO. W. COOLEY.

The Grand Master announced that in making his appointments, he desired such Companions as may be named for the several positions, to understand, that in accepting said positions, he should consider it a pledge on their part that they would perform diligently all the labors assigned them by virtue of such office. He then announced the following appointments:

CLAUDIUS F. BEATTY.....	Grand C. of the G.
THOMAS H. FLOYD.....	" C. of the C.
JOHN G. WEBSTER.....	Chaplain.

DARWIN E. MORGAN.....	Grand Marshal.
OWEN WILLIAMS.....	" Steward.
JOHNSON FOUNTAIN.....	" Sentinel.
JOHN J. MARTIN.....	" Lecturer..

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 N. Y.:**

Your Committee with pleasure report that peace and harmony still holds sway within our borders, as no alleged grievance has been presented for our consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN G. BARKER,
GEO. F. BENTON, }
W. H. WYMAN, } Committee.

The Grand Master appointed the following Companions as a Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the ensuing year:

CHARLES G. HUDSON, JOHN G. BARKER, THOS. GLIDDON.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws 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 N. Y.:**

Your Committee beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the matter referred to them, and recommend the adoption of the following relative to the Cryptic Rite: That we congratulate this Grand Council upon our continued prosperity as evinced at this Annual Assembly, the favorable reports received from its subordinates, and feel assured that the Companions of the Cryptic Rite in the Empire State will ever hold their position in the foremost rank of Grand Bodies of sister jurisdictions.

Relative to Dormant Councils. That the matter be referred to the Grand Master, feeling satisfied that he will exercise authority on the revoking of warrants, in accordance with Section 19 of the Constitution, which provides that "any Council" neglecting or refusing to make returns and pay dues for two years, may be punished by the forfeiture of its warrant, and can only be

restored by paying all back dues, and offering sufficient apology for violation of the Constitution to the Grand Council.

Respectfully submitted,

G. FRED. WILTSIE,
JOHN HODGE,
S. D. WADHAM,
Committee.

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

**TO THE M.P.'S GRAND COUNCIL OF R. AND S. M'S.
OF THE STATE OF N. Y.**

Your Committee respectfully report that they have carefully examined the Reports, Books and Vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, and find them correct.

The Committee have audited the following bills, and recommend their payment:

Grand Recorder's Salary.....	\$250.00
" for expenses (postage, etc.).....	33.45
Geo. M. Osgoodby, for expenses.....	14.79
Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.....	50.00
Grand Sentinel for services at this Assembly.....	10.00
Rent of Room and Safe.....	35.00
Jewel for P.G. Master Sackett.....	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$493.24

Your Committee further report that there is now on hand about \$960.00, and several Councils have made returns but have not sent their dues, but have promised to do so; and they recommend that each Grand Officer, Past Grand Masters and Representatives in attendance, receive compensation for two days attendance at \$3.00 per day, together with the actual fare paid by them in coming to and returning from this Assembly, except the sum exceeds the amount of dues paid.

D. E. MORGAN,
C. F. BEATTY,
PHILANDER REED,
Committee.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution was then taken up for action, and after amendment, was adopted, so that Section 31 of Article II of the Constitution shall read as follows:

"No Council under this jurisdiction shall confer the degrees for a less sum than ten dollars (except as hereinafter provided), nor upon any one who shall not have received in a regular manner, the several Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason. The fee for the reception of the Council Degrees by Royal Arch Masons, who may have received the Order of Knights Templar prior to September 1st, 1877, may, until September 1st, 1879, be a sum not less than three (\$3) dollars."

On motion, it was decided that the next Annual Assembly of this Grand Council should be held in the city of New York, on the first Tuesday in September, 1878, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

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

The following resolution, offered by Companion GEO. McGOWN, was adopted:

Resolved, That the presiding officers of the several Subordinate Councils in this jurisdiction be required to report at once to the Grand Recorder the time and place of meeting of their respective Councils.

The Officers elected and appointed were installed by Past Grand Master G. FRED. WILTSIE, assisted by Past Grand Master HOOLE.

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

GEO. VAN VLIET,
Grand Recorder.

GEO. FRANK GOULEY,

REPRESENTATIVE

OF

GRAND COUNCIL OF NEW YORK,

NEAR

GRAND COUNCIL OF MISSOURI.

DIED APRIL 11, 1877.

W.M. E. LATHROP,

PAST T. L. M.

OF

DORIC COUNCIL, NO. 19,

DIED APRIL 22, 1877.

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTERS AND GRAND RECORDERS
OF THE SEVERAL GRAND COUNCILS.

STATE.	ORGANIZED.	DATE OF LAST REPORT.	GRAND MASTER.	ADDRESS.	GRAND RECORDER.	ADDRESS.
ALABAMA.....	1888	Dec. 6, 1876	James Milton.	Eufaula.	Daniel Sayre.	Montgomery.
ARKANSAS.....	1860	Oct. 7, 1876	C. W. Millerd.	.....	L. E. Barber.	Little Rock.
CALIFORNIA.....	1859	.....	H. S. Orme.	.....	Chas. L. Wiggin.	San Francisco.
CONNECTICUT.....	1819	May 7, 1877	Dwight Phelps.	West Winsted.	Joseph K. Wheeler.	Hartford.
FLORIDA.....	1858	.....	A. N. Calkins.	Milton.	Geo. S. Hallmark.	Warrington.
GEORGIA.....	1825	Apl. 26, 1877	Wm. A. Graham.	Fort Gaines.	Chas. R. Armstrong.	Macon.
ILLINOIS.....	1858	Oct. 25, 1877	Levi L. Jerome.	Princeton.	James R. Miles.	Chicago.
INDIANA.....	1855	Oct. 17, 1876	Saml. B. Richardson.	Logansport.	John M. Bramwell.	Indianapolis.
IOWA.....	1857	.....	Paul C. Daum.	Ottumwa.	Wm. B. Langridge.	Muscatine.
KANSAS.....	1867	Oct. 18, 1876	D. Brockway.	Topeka.	J. Lee Knight.	Topeka.
KENTUCKY.....	1827	Oct. 18, 1876	L. D. Croninger.	Covington.	Albert G. Hodges.	Louisville.
LOUISIANA.....	1856	Feb. 15, 1877	Geo. J. Pinckard.	New Orleans.	Richard Lambert.	New Orleans—box 872.
MAINE.....	1855	May, 1877	Fessenden I. Day.	Lewiston.	Ira Berry.	Portland.
MARYLAND.....	1874	.....	James W. Bowers.	.....	William A. Wentz.	Baltimore.
MASSACHUSETTS.....	1826	Dec. 13, 1876	Philander Nutter (Dep.)	East Boston.	John Haigh.	Somerville.
MICHIGAN.....	1858	Jan. 15, 1877	J. R. Everard.	Jackson.	G. R. Noble.	Detroit.
MINNESOTA.....	1870	.....	.....	.....	Theo. Burkhard.	St. Paul.
MISSISSIPPI.....	1856	Feb. 6, 1877	Wm. G. Paxton.	Vicksburg.	J. L. Power.	Jackson.
MISSOURI.....	1864	Oct. 6, 1876	Wm. R. Stubblefield.	St. Louis.	John W. Luke.	St. Louis.
NEBRASKA.....	1872	Dec. 21, 1876	Chas. F. Goodman.	Omaha.	Wm. R. Bowen.	Omaha.
NEW BRUNSWICK (CANADA).....	1867	.....	.....	.....	A. D. Goodwin.	St. Johns.
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	1862	.....	.....	.....	John A. Harris.	Concord.
NEW JERSEY.....	1860	Jan. 19, 1877	Cornelius Vreeland.	Jersey City.	Thomas J. Corson.	Trenton.
NEW YORK.....	1809	.....	Geo. M. Osgoodby.	Nunda.	Geo. Van Vliet.	N. York (Mas'ic Temple)
NORTH CAROLINA.....	1860	June 6, 1877	C. M. Van Orsdell.	Wilmington.	Donald W. Bain.	Raleigh.
OHIO.....	1839	.....	Saml. W. Courtright.	Circleville.	John D. Caldwell.	Cincinnati.
ONTARIO (CANADA).....	1871	.....	.....	.....	James B. Nixon.	Toronto.
PENNSYLVANIA.....	1847	Feb. 21, 1877	Geter Crosby Shidle.	Pittsburgh.	Charles E. Meyer.	Phila. (Mas'ic Temple)
RHODE ISLAND.....	1860	M'ch 12, 1877	John F. Adams.	Pawtucket.	William R. Greene.	Providence.
SOUTH CAROLINA.....	1860	.....	.....	.....	A. Lindstrom.	Charleston.
TENNESSEE.....	1847	Nov. 16, 1876	B. F. Haller.	Memphis.	John Frizzell.	Nashville.
VERMONT.....	1845	June 15, 1876	Albert C. Hubbell.	Bennington.	Wm. H. S. Whitcomb.	Burlington.
WISCONSIN.....	1857	Feb. 19, 1877	James L. Bridge.	Berlin.	John W. Woodhull.	Milwaukee.

OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE COUNCILS.

NAME.	N ^o .	MASTER.	DEPUTY MASTER.	P. C. OF W.	RECORDER.	WHERE LOCATED.	COUNTY.	DATE OF MEETING.
COLUMBIAN	1	John G. Barker.	W. A. Pearce.	J. Baskerville.	P. Verhoeven.	New York.	New York.	
UNION	2	Philander Reed.	J. M. Layman.	J. V. B. Greene.	T. Pyterman.	New York.	New York.	
BROOKLYN	4	C. F. Beatty.	H. J. Smith.	A. E. Leach.	C. J. Baldwin.	Brooklyn.	Kings.	
ADELPHIC	7	Horace Metcalt.	R. E. Deane.	Henry A. Guild.	E. W. Tuthill.	New York.	New York.	
BLOSS	14	T. E. Haslehurst.	P. F. V'nd'rheyd'n	H. T. Smith.	Wm. Pettis.	Troy.	Rensselaer.	2d & 4th Saturday.
BRUCE	15	Charles Craig.	Jason Collier.	Perry Stowell.	V. N. Douglas.	Lockport.	Niagara.	1st Friday.
SOUTHERN TIER	16	S. D. Wadham.	C. H. Richards.	F. E. Cleveland.	W. H. Browne.	Elmira.	Chemung.	1st & 3d Wednesday.
BUFFALO	17	Henry Waters.	Hawley Klein.	C. H. Rathbun.	S. M. Evry.	Buffalo.	Erie.	3d Monday.
DORIC	19	Jas. T. Southard.	Thos. Gliddon.	Chas. Norman.	J. Alexander.	Rochester.	Monroe.	2d Thursday.
KEYSTONE	20	John L. Brothers.	J. M. Henderson.	Chris. G. Fox.	J. H. Boshier.	Buffalo.	Erie.	1st & 3d Wednesday.
DEWITT CLINTON	22	John J. Martin.	Wm. H. Whish.	W. J. Herschberg'r	J. E. Allanson.	Albany.	Albany.	3d Saturday.
DUNKIRK	25	Elijah Harris.	E. C. Williams.	J. N. Edmondston.	R. J. Gross.	Dunkirk.	Chautauqua.	3d Thursday.
PALMYRA	26	Geo. McGown.	Josiah J. White.	Isaac F. Taber.	E. W. Cummings.	Palmyra.	Wayne.	1st Wednesday.
BATAVIA	27	H. M. Warren.	D. W. Tomlinson.	Geo. W. Griffis.	A. N. Cowdin.	Batavia.	Genesee.	2d Monday.
UTICA	28	M. A. Lewis.	H. C. Welton.	Edward B. Cash.	Geo. D. Dimon.	Utica.	Oneida.	1st & 3d Friday.
OWEGO	30	Geo. F. Benton.	D. M. Goodrich.	B. J. Davis.	G. W. Buffum.	Owego.	Tioga.	{ 1st & 3d Thursday after 1st Monday.
KING SOLOMON	31	Chas. Estabrook.	John D. Mailer.	James E. Horton.	C. H. Halstead.	Newburgh.	Orange.	2d Monday.
PENTALPHA	36	Thos. Darling.	A. J. Wilkinson.	Chas. W. Brown.	W. L. Seaman.	Flushing.	Queens.	2d Friday.
CRYPTIC	37	Chas. H. Sturges.	John L. Perry.	Geo. H. Gillis.	L. R. Cushing.	Saratoga Spgs.	Saratoga.	2d & 4th Friday.
KONHOOTON	40	Byron A. Todd.	Wm. H. Shepard.	Edwin S. Smead.	V. Brother.	Bath.	Steuben.	4th Friday.
GENESEE VALLEY	41	O. H. Cook.	B. S. Coffin.	L. H. Bruce.	A. C. Scott.	Nunda.	Livingston.	1st & 3d Friday.
PEEKSKILL	55	David Griffin.	John Ombody.	Robt. J. Post.	TJ Hodgkins, Jr.	Peekskill.	Westchester.	2d Monday.
HUDSON	62	Wm. Scovill.	Henry Kertz.	E. P. Magoun.	Henry Miller.	Hudson.	Columbia.	
SING SING	64	R. M. Lawrence.	Isaac Terwilliger.	Jas. H. Coleman.	G. Williamson.	Sing Sing.	Westchester.	1st & 3d Friday.
NORWICH	67	Isaac W. Baker.	B. Gage Berry.	Jas. K. Benway.	C. L. Ferry.	Norwich.	Chenango.	
ITHACA	68	R. C. Christiance	F. C. Sherman.	P. G. Ellsworth.	A. B. Wood.	Ithaca.	Tompkins.	2d Monday.

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REPRESENTATIVES

OF OTHER

GRAND COUNCILS NEAR THE GRAND COUNCIL OF NEW YORK.

ALABAMA,.....	Thomas H. Floyd,.....	Utica.
CALIFORNIA,.....	Charles Roomer,.....	New York.
CONNECTICUT,.....	G. Fred Wiltsie,.....	Newburgh.
FLORIDA,.....	John F. Baldwin,.....	New York.
GEORGIA,.....	P. Verhoeven.....	"
INDIANA,	Hawley Klein,.....	Buffalo.
ILLINOIS,.....	Frank L. Stowell,.....	Olean.
IOWA,.....	H. F. L. Bunting,.....	New York.
KANSAS,.....	John D. Williams,.....	Elmira.
LOUISIANA,.....	Seymour H. Stone,.....	Syracuse.
MAINE,	G. Fred Wiltsie,.....	Newburgh.
MASSACHUSETTS,.....	John J. Martin,.....	Albany.
MICHIGAN,.....	John Hoole,.....	New York.
MINNESOTA,.....	A. B. King,.....	Troy.
MISSOURI,.....	John Shieville,	
NEW HAMPSHIRE,.....	Geo. Van Vliet,.....	New York.
NEW BRUNSWICK,.....	G. Fred Wiltsie,.....	Newburgh.
NEW JERSEY,.....	"	"
OHIO,	Darwin E. Morgan,.....	Buffalo.
ONTARIO,	James McCredie,.....	"
PENNSYLVANIA,.....	G. Fred Wiltsie,.....	Newburgh.
RHODE ISLAND,.....	Charles W. Brown,.....	Flushing.
SOUTH CAROLINA,.....	John R. Wiltsie,.....	Newburgh.
VERMONT,	Charles Craig,.....	Lockport.
WISCONSIN,.....	Geo. M. Osgoodby,.....	Nunda.

REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
NEAR OTHER GRAND BODIES.

ALABAMA,.....	Benjamin F. Pope,.....	Mobile.
CONNECTICUT,.....	James S. Gould,.....	Bridgeport.
FLORIDA,.....	William Morrill,.....	Milton.
GEORGIA,.....	R. W. Smith,.....	Athens.
INDIANA,.....	Lucien A. Foote,.....	Crawfordsville.
ILLINOIS,.....	Jerome B. Gorin,.....	Mound City.
IOWA,.....		
KANSAS,.....	David Brockway,.....	Topeka.
LOUISIANA,.....	Rev. Thos. D. Lawson,.....	Bastross.
MAINE,.....	Josiah H. Drummond,.....	Portland.
MASSACHUSETTS,.....	Wm. Porter Anderson,.....	Boston.
MICHIGAN,.....	Rev. Levi H. Corson,.....	Jonesville.
MINNESOTA,.....	Geo. W. Cooley,.....	Minneapolis.
NEW BRUNSWICK,.....	D. R. Munro,.....	St. Johns.
NEW JERSEY,.....	Marcus Higginbotham,.....	Jersey City.
OHIO,.....	Henry Newbegin,.....	Circleville.
ONTARIO,.....	Daniel Spry,.....	Toronto.
RHODE ISLAND,.....	A. H. Cushman,.....	Providence.
SOUTH CAROLINA,.....	Wilmot G. De Saussure,.....	Charleston.
VERMONT,.....	Geo. H. Bigelow,.....	Burlington.
WISCONSIN,.....	J. P. C. Cottrill,.....	Milwaukee.

RECEIPTS AT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, 1877.

From Columbian Council,.....	No. 1,.....	\$ 38.50
Union	" " 2,.....	63.00
Brooklyn	" " 4,.....	49.50
Bloss	" " 14,.....	137.50
Bruce	" " 15,.....	22.50
Southern Tier	" " 16,.....	49.00
Buffalo	" " 17,.....	65.50
Doric	" " 19,.....	101.00
Keystone	" " 20,.....	74.50
DeWitt Clinton	" " 22,.....	111.50
Dunkirk	" " 25,.....	35.50
Palmyra	" " 26,.....	24.50
Utica	" " 28,.....	66.50
Owego	" " 30,.....	26.50
Pentalpha	" " 36,.....	13.00
Cryptic	" " 37, (2 years).....	48.00
Konhocton	" " 40,.....	12.50
Peekskill	" " 55,.....	19.00
Hudson	" " 62,.....	29.50
Sing Sing	" " 64,.....	16.00
Ithaca	" " 68,.....	16.50
Total, .....	.....	\$1,020.00

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

Elected Sept. 12, 1877.

M. I. : GEO. M. OSGOODBY, of NUNDA,	Grand Master.
R. I. : CHARLES W. BROWN, of FLUSHING,	Dep. Grand Master.
" " A. B. KING, of TROY,	Grand P. C. of W.
" " DAVID B. HOWELL, of NEW YORK,	" Treasurer.
" " GEO. VAN VLIET, of NEW YORK,	" Recorder.
" " CLAUDIUS F. BEATTY, of BROOKLYN,	" C. of the G.
" " THOMAS H. FLOYD, of UTICA,	" C. of the C.
" " AND REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, of PALMYRA,	" Chaplain.
" " DARWIN E. MORGAN, of BUFFALO,	" Marshal.
" " JOHN J. MARTIN, of ALBANY,	" Lecturer.
" " OWEN WILLIAMS, of ROCHESTER,	" Steward.
" " JOHNSON FOUNTAIN, of NEW YORK,	" Sentinel.

Grand Master's address—Nunda (Livingston Co.), N. Y.

" Recorder's " Masonic Temple (cor. 6th Ave. & 23d St.), N. Y. City.

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

Elected Sept. 12, 1877.

M. I.:	GEO. M. OSGOODBY, of NUNDA,	Grand Master.
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" "	DAVID B. HOWELL, of NEW YORK,	" Treasurer.
" "	GEO. VAN VLIET, of NEW YORK,	" Recorder.
" "	CLAUDIUS F. BEATTY, of BROOKLYN,	" C. of the G.
" "	THOMAS H. FLOYD, of UTICA,	" C. of the C.
" "	AND REV. JOHN G. WEBSTER, of PALMYRA,	" Chaplain.
" "	DARWIN E. MORGAN, of BUFFALO,	" Marshal.
" "	JOHN J. MARTIN, of ALBANY,	" Lecturer.
" "	OWEN WILLIAMS, of ROCHESTER,	" Steward.
" "	JOHNSON FOUNTAIN, of NEW YORK,	" Sentinel.

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